BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 420/2025

News Item titled "Gurgaon a groundwater 'dark zone', but extraction over 2 times the limit" appearing in Times of India dated 05.08.2025

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Place: Gurugram.
Date: 07-11-2025

Government pleader, Haryana.

Rahul Khurana Adv
9811894060
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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 420/2025

News Item titled "Gurgaon a groundwater 'dark zone', but extraction over 2 times the limit" appearing in Times of India dated 05.08.2025

Report by way of affidavit in compliance of the order dated 20.08.2025 of this Hon'ble Tribunal by Respondent No. 4

I, Ramesh Chander Bidhan, IAS, Commissioner, Gurugram Division, Gurugram, do hereby submit the following compliance report for kind consideration of this Hon'ble Tribunal:

1. That the above mentioned Original Application is pending for adjudication before this Hon'ble Tribunal and is now fixed for 10.11.2025.
2. That before proceeding further, it is appropriate to submit here that on the last date of hearing this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue directions to the answering respondent to file a report by way of affidavit in the present matter. Relevant portion of the order dated 20.08.2025 is reproduced here:

> *"1. This original application is registered suo-motu on the basis of the news item titled "Gurgaon a groundwater 'dark zone', but extraction over 2 times the limit" appearing in Times of India dated 05.08.2025.*
>
> *2 to 4...xxx...xxx...xxx...xxx....*
>
> *5. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter suo-motu has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors." reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.*

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6. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in the matter:

i. Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and management) Authority, Through it's Engineer in Chief Rear Building, 3rd Floor, HSVP, Sector-6, Panchkula, Haryana 134109

ii. Central Ground Water Board, Through it's Chairman Central Ground Water Board, Bhujal Bhawan, NH -IV, Faridabad, 21001

iii. Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Through it's Member Secretary C-11, Sector-6, Panchkula, Haryana - 134109, Haryana.

iv. Commissioner, Gurgaon Commissioner Office, Civil Lines, Gurugram

7. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the Tribunal."

3. That keeping in view of the gravity of the subject matter and the spirit of the order of this Hon'ble Tribunal, meetings were convened on 01.10.2025, 08.10.2025, 29.10.2025, 31.10.2025 and 04.11.2025 under the chairmanship of the undersigned & Deputy Commissioner, Gurugram with all the concerned departments. During the meetings, all concerned departments, namely, Respondent No. 1 and Respondent No. 3, Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG); Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA); District Town Planner (Planning/ Enforcement), Gurugram; and Irrigation & Water Resources Department, Gurugram were directed to

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coordinate and work towards implementation of this Hon'ble Tribunal orders and to prepare and submit a detailed Action Plan on the following terms:

i. Current status and actions taken against illegal groundwater extraction;
ii. Preventive measures and timelines for enforcement;
iii. Steps to ensure compliance with the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; and Haryana Groundwater Management & Regulation Act, 2020; and
iv. Proposals for groundwater recharge within District Gurugram.

In addition to the above, all concerned departments were also directed categorically in the meeting dated 04.11.2025 to submit the Action Plan within three days to the Regional Officer, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Gurugram for compilation and further, for submission to this Hon'ble Tribunal before the next date of hearing.

The Minutes of the Meeting are attached herewith as **Annexure R-4/1**, and the Directions issued to all concerned departments are attached as **Annexure R-4/2**.

4. It is also worthwhile to mention here that Government of Haryana, Irrigation & Water Resources Department order dated 06.12.2021, appointed officers from the Departments of Irrigation & Water Resources, Town & Country Planning, and Haryana State Pollution control Board as Enquiry, Enforcement, and Compliance Officers under Sections 19 and 20 of the Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation & Management) Authority Act, 2020. These officers are authorized to conduct field inspections, summon individuals and request records, enter premises for verification, and submit reports or interim reports to the Haryana Water Resources Authority. Consequently, the Department of Town & Country Planning, Respondent No. 3 and the Irrigation & Water Resources

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Department carry out inspections, with their reports forwarded to Respondent No. 1 for penal actions, such as sealing illegal borewells and imposing environmental compensation.

Further, these inspection reports are compiled and submitted regularly to the Deputy Commissioner, Gurugram, for onward transmission to the Haryana Water Resources Authority, Panchkula. The ongoing inspections ensure that all industries and establishments operating within Gurugram District adhere to prescribed norms for groundwater extraction and obtain due permission from HWRA to promote sustainable and judicious use of groundwater resources. Copy of order dated 06.12.2021 is attached as **Annexure R-4/3.**

5. That keeping in view of the submission made in the preceding Para, it is appropriate to submit here that the principle authority for taking enforcement and penal action against unauthorized groundwater extraction lies with Respondent No. 1, i.e., the Haryana Water Resources Authority on the report of Deputy Commissioner, Gurugram and in view of this fact the concerned authority has already been suggested to submit a comprehensive Action Taken Report to this Hon'ble Tribunal.

6. That in view of the above mentioned submission, it is apparently clear that in view of the spirit of the order of this Hon'ble Tribunal, answering respondent has taken all necessary steps for coordination, supervision, and inter-departmental compliance to ensure implementation of the order dated 20.08.2025 of this Hon'ble Tribunal.

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7. It is worthwhile to submit here that if all the fact, circumstances and the statutory provisions governing the subject matter are analyzed in a right perspective then it can be said that no further direct action is required to be taken by Respondent No. 4 in this matter. It is therefore humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may consider for deletion of Respondent No. 4 from the array of respondents, as the role of this office is limited to coordination and supervision only, which has already been done in the present matter.

8. That this compliance report by way of affidavit is submitted for kind consideration of this Hon'ble Tribunal in light of the directions issued on 20.08.2025. The undersigned undertakes to comply with any further directions that may be passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

Date: 07 NOV 2025
Place: GURUGRAM

Deponent

Verification:-

Verified that the contents of Para Nos. 1 to 8 of the affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge, based on information derived from official record, which I believe to be true and correct. No part of it is false and nothing has been concealed therein.

Date: 07 NOV 2025
Place: GURUGRAM

Deponent

NOTARY GOVT. OF INDIA
07 NOV 2025
RAM NIWAS, GGN. (Reg. No. 8224)

ATTESTED
RAM NIWAS MALIK, ADVOCATE
NOTARY, GURUGRAM (HR.) INDIA

"Annexure R-4/1"

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आयुक्त, गुरूग्राम मण्डल, गुरूग्राम
सिविल लाईन, गुरूग्राम–122001
commgrg@hry.nic.in
#0124-2324023
#0124-2324033

बैठक की कार्यवाही दिनांक 04–11–2025

दिनांक 04–11–2025 प्रातः 10–30 बजे आयुक्त, गुरूग्राम मण्डल गुरूग्राम की अध्यक्षता में एक बैठक का आयोजन किया गया था। उक्त बैठक में निम्नलिखित अधिकारी एनैक्चर ए में उपस्थित हुए। पूर्व बैठक में की गई कार्यवाही के बारे में अध्यक्ष महोदय ने सभी अधिकारियों से जानकारी प्राप्त की जिसमें किसी भी अधिकारी का कार्य प्रगति रिपोर्ट संतोषजनक नही था जिस बारे आयुक्त महोदय ने तीन दिन के अन्दर–2 अपनी प्रगति रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने बारे निर्देश देते हुए बैठक का समापन किया गया।

कृतेः आयुक्त, गुरूग्राम मण्डल,
गुरूग्राम।

Prem Lata Superintendent
For Commissioner, Gurugram Division

Annexure R4-2

To

1. Deputy Commissioner, Gurugram.
2. Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Gurugram
3. Administrator, Haryana Sahri Vikas, Pradhikaran, Gurugram.
4. Regional Officer, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Gurugram
5. Executive Engineer, Irrigation and water resources department Gurugram
6. Hydrologist Gurugram.

Memo No. 9465-70
Dated: 04-11-2025

Subject: **Submission of Action Plan in Compliance with NGT Order dated 20.08.2025 in O.A. No. 420/2025 titled** ***"News Item titled 'Gurgaon a groundwater 'dark zone', but extraction over 2 times the limit' appearing in Times of India dated 05.08.2025"***

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In reference to the subject cited above, attention is invited to the order dated 20.08.2025 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in O.A. No. 420/2025, wherein various authorities, including your offices, have been impleaded as respondents regarding the issue of illegal and excessive groundwater extraction in Gurugram.

To deliberate upon and coordinate appropriate remedial measures, several meetings were held by undersigned on 01.10.2025, 08.10.2025, 29.10.2025, 31.10.2025, and 04.11.2025. During these meetings, it was emphasized that all concerned departments must submit a consolidated Action Plan outlining the status of enforcement, preventive actions taken, and proposals for sustainable groundwater management.

Accordingly, you are hereby directed to:

1. Prepare and submit a detailed Action Plan covering the current status, actions taken, and proposed measures to prevent illegal extraction of groundwater and ensure compliance with the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; and Haryana Groundwater Management and Regulation Act, 2020.
2. The Action Plan shall include:
   i. Specific timelines and milestones for implementation.
   ii. Identification of responsible officers/agencies.
   iii. Enforcement actions taken up to date (including sanction granted and sealing of borewells and penalties imposed).

07/11/25
Private Secretary
For Commissioner, Gurugram Division

iv. Measures for inter-departmental coordination and data sharing.

v. Accessed the capacity, functioning and recharge of water harvesting systems by MCG.

The finalized Action Plan shall be submitted to the Haryana State Pollution Control Board within three (03) days, for compilation and onward submission to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal before the next date of hearing on 10.11.2025.

Commissioner Gurugram Division,
Gurugram.

Dated 7/11/25

Prem Lata Superintendent
For Commissioner, Gurugram Division

Annexure R4/3"

HARYANA GOVERNMENT
IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
ORDER

In exercise with the power conferred under Section 19 and 20 of 'The Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority Act, 2020. The Governor of Haryana is pleased to designate the officer of the department i.e. Irrigation & Water Resources (Executive Engineer), Town and Country Planning (Not below the rank of District Town Planner), Haryana State Pollution Control Board(Not below the rank of Regional Officer) as Enquiry officer/Enforcement officer/Compliance Officer in addition to their present duties, in "The Haryana Water Resources Authority (HWRA)", Panchkula. The functions of the officers shall be as per the provisions of the Section 19 and 20 or as may be directed by the Authority, including discovery & production of documents, summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person, to conduct field inspection, enter into any premises for inspection and inquiry, submit report/interim report to the Authority..

Sr. No.	District/Block	Irrigation and Water Resources Deptt.	Town and Country Planning Deptt.	Haryana State Pollution Control Board	Jurisdiction
1.	Ambala	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. Ambala	Concerned District Town Planner	Concerned Regional Officer	Ambala
2.	Kurukshetra	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. Kurukshetra	-Do-	-Do-	Kurukshetra
3.	Panchkula	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div., Panchkula	-Do-	-Do-	Panchkula
4.	Kaithal	Executive Engineer, Pundri W.S. Div. Kaithal	-Do-	-Do-	Kaithal
5.	Narwana	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div.,Narwana	-Do-	-Do-	Narwana
6.	Hisar	Executive Engineer, Adampur W.S. Div., Hisar	-Do-	-Do-	Hisar
7.	Fatehabad	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. Fatehabad	-Do-	-Do-	Fatehabad
8.	Sirsa	Executive Engineer, Nehrana W.S. Div. Sirsa	-Do-	-Do-	Sirsa
9.	Jagadhri	Executive Engineer, Jagadhari W.S. Div. Jagadhari	-Do-	-Do-	Yamunanagar
10.	Karnal	Executive Engineer, Karnal W.S. Div. Karnal	-Do-	-Do-	Kamal
11.	Panipat	Executive Engineer, Panipat W.S. Div. Panipat	-Do-	-Do-	Panipat
12.	Jind	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. Jind	-Do-	-Do-	Jind
13.	Bhiwani	Executive Engineer, Bhiwani W.S. Div. Bhiwani	-Do-	-Do-	Bhiwani
14.	Ch. Dadri	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. LWS (Mech) Divn. Ch.Dadri	-Do-	-Do-	Ch. Dadri
15.	Rohtak	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. W.S. Feeder Divn. Rohtak	-Do-	-Do-	Rohtak
16.	Sonipat	Executive Engineer, Rai W.S. Div. Sonipat	-Do-	-Do-	Sonipat
17.	Gurugram	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. G.W.S. Divn. Gurugram	-Do-	-Do-	Gurugram
18.	Jhajjar	Executive Engineer, Jhajjar W.S. Div. Jhajjar	-Do-	-Do-	Jhajjar
19.	Faridabad	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. Faridabad	-Do-	-Do-	Faridabad

20.	Nuh	Executive Engineer, Mewat W.S. Divn. Nuh	-Do-	-Do-	Nuh
21.	Rewari	Executive Engineer, W.S. (Elect) Divn. Rewari	-Do-	-Do-	Rewari
22.	Mahendergarh	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. M/garh canal W.S. (Mech) Divn. Namaul	-Do-	-Do-	Mahendergarh
23.	Gohana	Executive Engineer, Gohana W.S. Divn. Gohana	-Do-	-Do-	Gohana
24.	Bahadurgarh	Executive Engineer,W.S. Divn, Bahadurgarh	-Do-	-Do-	Bahadurgarh

Devender Singh
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana
Irrigation & W.R. Department

Dated Chandigarh, the 30 November, 2021

Dated: - 06.12.2021

Endstt. No. 1IW-030001/19/2021

A copy, each is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action.

1. The Chairperson, Haryana Water Resources Authority, Sinchai Bhawan, Sector-5,Panchkula.
2. Principal Secretary to Govt. of Haryana,Town & Country Planning Department with request to issue necessary direction to the concerned officer.
3. The Chairman, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Sector- 6,Panchkula with request to issue necessary direction to the concerned officer.
4. Engineer-in-Chief, Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Sinchai Bhawan, Sector- 5, Panchkula.
5. PS/ACSI&WRD

~~6.~~ PS/SIWRD

Superintendent, Irrigation (Works),
for Additional Chief Secretary to Government,Haryana
Irrigation and Water Resources Department

Prem Lata Superintendent
For Commissioner, Gurugram Division

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 420/2025

NEWS ITEM TITLED "GURGAON A GROUNDWATER 'DARK ZONE', BUT EXTRACTION OVER 2 TIMES THE LIMIT" APPEARING IN TIMES OF INDIA DATED 05.08.2025

AFFIDAVIT

I, RAMESH CHAND BIDHAN, IAS, COMMISSIONER, GURUGRAM DIVISION, GURUGRAM, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:-

1. That in the aforesaid official capacity, I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case, therefore, I am competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That I have gone through the contents of accompanying reply which has been drafted under my instructions.

Deponent

Verification:

Verified that the contents of affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and on the basis of information derived from the official record which I believe to be true and no material fact has been concealed therein.

NOTARY Mahender S. Punia Gurugram Regn. No. 3999 GOVT. OF INDIA

ATTESTED
MAHENDER S. PUNIA
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
Distt. Gurugram (Haryana) India

Deponent

07 NOV 2025