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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 248/2022

IN THE MATTER OF:

**NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED IN THE HINDU DATED 27.03.2022 TITLED
“DIGGING UP THE CHAMBAL”**

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Date:08.10.2025

Place: New Delhi

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 248/2022



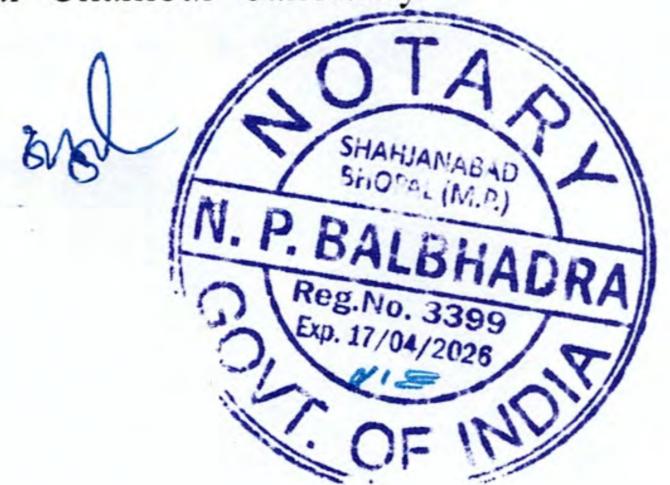
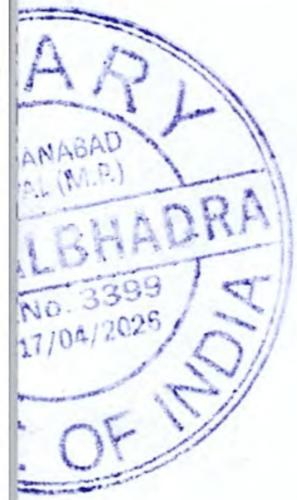
IN THE MATTER OF:

NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED IN THE HINDU DATED 27.03.2022 TITLED
"DIGGING UP THE CHAMBAL"

REVISED AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1 - STATE
OF MADHYA PRADESH PURSUANT TO ORDER DATED 27.05.2025

I, Ashok Barnwal, s/o Late Shri R. P. Barnwal, aged about 58 years, presently working as Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department, State of Madhya Pradesh, office at Mantralaya, Vallabh Bhawan, Bhopal, 462004 do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under: -

1. That I am the Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department, State of Madhya Pradesh, and as such, I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of this case.
2. The present original application was registered by this Hon'ble Tribunal in exercise of its suo-moto jurisdiction. The present application is concerning the illegal mining near the National Chambal Sanctuary



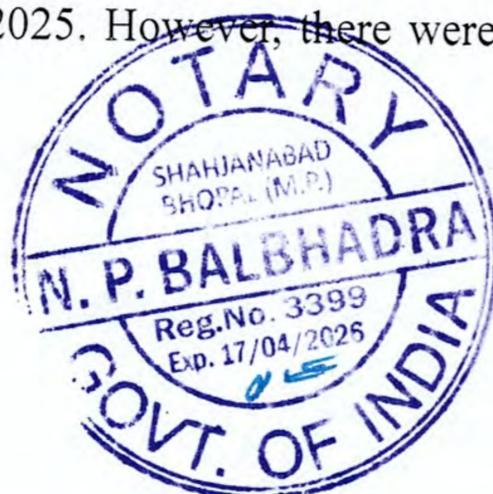
which is resulting in pollution in the area, adversely affecting the environment and public health.

3. That this Hon'ble Tribunal *vide* order dated 27.05.2025 had directed me to file an affidavit disclosing as follows:

"1. *In the last one year, how many CCTV cameras have been installed and working at Gharial Centre in Deori and forest produce inspection check point at Morena Depot and using these CCTV cameras, how many cases of illegal mining have been detected and where the recordings of these CCTV cameras have been stored.*

2. *How many drones have been deployed in the control and prevention of illegal sand mining and transportation within the National Chambal Sanctuary within last one year and how many cases of illegal sand mining have been detected by use of drones the manner in which the drone recording is saved and the manner in which the immediate action on detection of the sand mining through the drone is taken."*

4. That pursuant to the abovementioned directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal *vide* the order dated 27.05.2025, I had submitted affidavit dated 27.08.2025. However, there were some typographical errors. In view of



3/8/25



the same, I am filing this revised affidavit. That I am deposing the present affidavit on the basis of records which have been provided by the Department of Forest, State of Madhya Pradesh.

5. It is submitted that at present there are two CCTV cameras operational in the area. These CCTV cameras are located in the following sites:
- i. Forest Produce Check Post - N 26° 31' 29" | E 77° 57' 58"
(Installed on January 2020)
 - ii. Eco Centre Devri - N 26° 32' 35" | E 77° 57' 35" (Installed on January 2020)

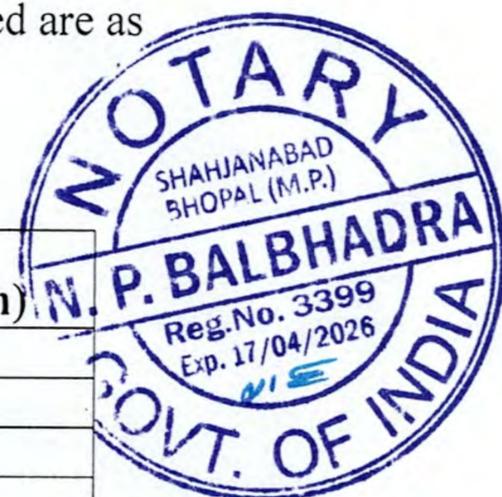
Photos of the two CCTV cameras are annexed herewith and marked as

Annexure R-1.

6. It is submitted that the total number of cases registered using CCTV cameras are 6. The total vehicles seized are 3 trucks, 1 dumper and 2 tractor-trolleys. The investigation is ongoing in all cases by the Range Officer, Game Range Deori. Table showing the cases registered are as follows:

Date of registration	POR No.	Type of vehicle seized	Seized Sand quantity(cum)
01-09-2023	9882/13	Tractor trolley	2
20-02-2024	8853/14	Truck	10
04-03-2024	8853/18	Truck	16
10-04-2024	9884/02	Tractor trolley	2
08-03-2025	9916/07	Truck	5
28-03-2025	9916/18	Dumper	14

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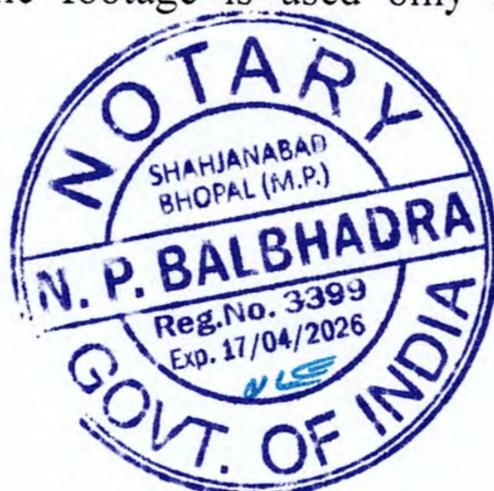
7. It is submitted that as of now there is one drone used for surveillance.

Proposal for the procurement of a new drone has been submitted to the higher authorities on 28.02.2025. The photo of the drone has been annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure R-2**.

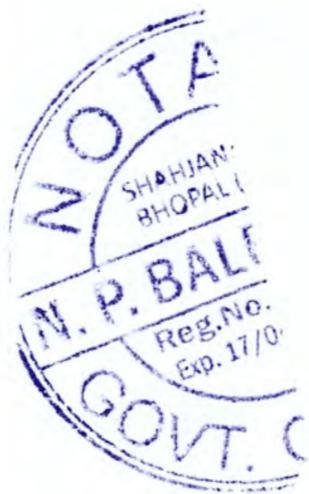
8. It is also submitted that the list of cases which have been registered using the drone is as follows:

Date of registration	POR No.	Seized Sand quantity (cum)
10-01-2024	9883/24	500
08-02-2024	8853/16	780
28-04-2024	9886/02	600
12-05-2024	9886/03	980
30-05-2024	9884/13	560
30-05-2024	9884/14	540
30-05-2024	9884/15	552
30-05-2024	9884/16	630
05-06-2024	9884/17	900
02-04-2025	9916/19	2960

9. With respect to the recording and monitoring, it is submitted that the CCTV footage is retained in the monitoring room for approximately 7 days. The drone footage is used only for real-time surveillance and security



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10. It is also submitted that all the offences are registered under the following

Acts:

- i. Indian Forests Act, 1927: Sections 41 and 52
- ii. Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Sections 27, 29, 50, 51 and 52

11. A brief overview of the procedure for presenting a complaint in the Court after registration of a forest offence is as follows:

- i. After patrolling and capturing vehicles involved in illegal sand excavation/transportation, seizure memo is prepared, followed by a Panchnama, registration of Preliminary Offence Report and a sight map. Then the seized vehicle is kept in the nearest police station or forest depot, forest range office premises etc.
- ii. On arrest of the accused along with the vehicle, frisking and medical tests are done, followed by presentation of the accused in a nearby JMFC court and after the court approves the judicial remand, the accused is shifted to the concerned jail.
- iii. Information regarding confiscation of the seized vehicle is given by the authorized officer to the concerned court.
- iv. A sample of sand taken from the seized vehicle is matched with the sand from nearby ghat area (Chambal River) and a panchnama is made.

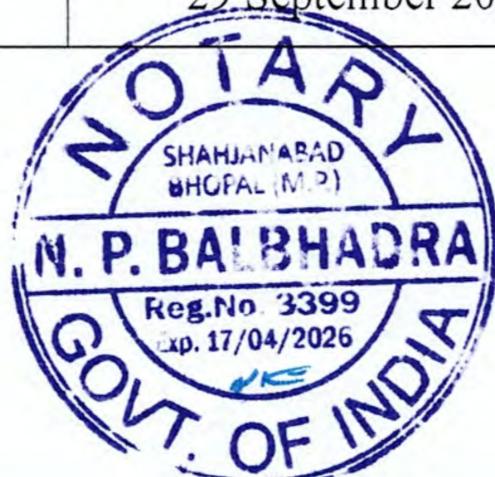


- v. Investigation of the case includes obtaining information regarding the name and address of the vehicle owner from the District Transport Officer on the basis of the registration number, chassis number and engine number mentioned on the seized vehicle.
- vi. The owner of the confiscated vehicle is contacted and is asked to present his case. Statements of prosecution witnesses are recorded.
- vii. If the vehicle owner is not known, a press release is published through the Director, Public Relations Directorate, Ban Ganga Road, Madhya Pradesh mentioning the information of the vehicle and the vehicle owner is given time to appear and present his case.
- viii. In cases where the accused is identified, a complaint is filed in the concerned JMFC.
- ix. In cases where the accused is not known, the seized vehicle is confiscated and proceedings for dismissal of the case against the unknown accused is initiated.

12. It is also submitted that convictions have been achieved in the following

cases:

Sr. no	Date of registration of case	POR No.
1.	25 May 2016	9862/25
2.	29 August 2019	9876/22
3.	29 September 2007	8862/14



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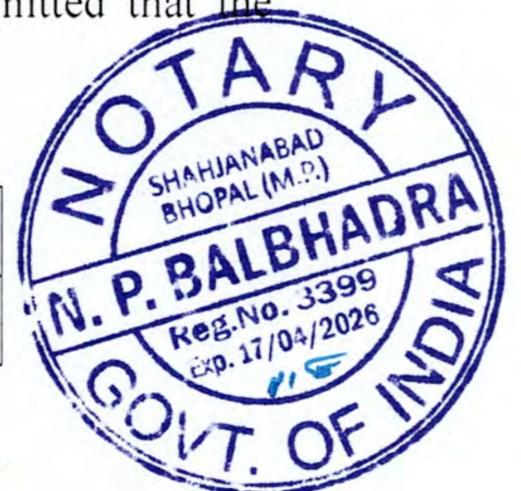
4.	7 June 2014	9823/25
5.	16 June 2017	9867/19
6.	23 June 2015	9823/14
7.	14 January 2018	22486/05
8.	23 October 2018	22485/16

13. The updated status of cases registered under the National Chambal Sanctuary is as follows:

Year	Cases Registered	Complaints submitted in JMFC Court
2020	93	68
2021	193	149
2022	77	28
2023	138	48
2024	186	01
2025	92	00

14. There have also been numerous vehicles seized in the National Chambal Sanctuary. These vehicles are seized under Section 52 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Once the final confiscation is done, the vehicles are auctioned through a tendering process. 12 vehicles were auctioned between September-October 2024 and 40 vehicles were auctioned in May 2025. With respect to the seizure of vehicles, it is submitted that the details are as follows:

Year	Number of vehicles seized
2022	58



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2023	95
2024	112
February 2025	26



Details of vehicles which were auctioned are as follows:

Vehicles auctioned in May 2025

Ser.	Types of Vehicles	Registration Number	Manufacturing year	Case no. and date
.1	Dumper	MP07-GA-2900	-	9873/24/ 02-03-2019
2.	Truck	RJ11-GB-4576	2019	9876/20/ 22-08-2019
3.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-0807	2014	9871/05/ 11-04-2019
4.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-4987	-	9657/21/ 25-05-2019
5.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-9139	-	9871/03/ 26-01-2019
6.	Tractor loader	MP06-AB-6979	2017	9664/07/ 13-08-2019
7.	Tractor trolley	MP33-AB-6704	2018	9869/06/ 21-10-2019
8.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-5359	2017	9657/23/ 08-10-2023
9.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-9269	2018	9876/25/ 11-10-2019
10.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-3642	2016	9871/11/ 13-11-2019
11.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AA-9620	2014	9871/06/ 13-11-2019
12.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AC-2163	2019	9875/16/ 13-11-2019
13.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-6916	2018	9871/12/ 13-11-2019
14.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-6424	2017	9871/07/ 13-11-2019
15.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AC-0948	2019	9875/15/ 13-11-2019
16.	Ajax Fury Mixer Machine	MP07-DA-0706	-	22534/01/ 17-05-2017
17.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AC-1999	2019	9874/24/ 27-03-2020
18.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-2573	2016	9663/25/ 07-03-2020
19.	Tractor trolley	MP06-JA-8159	2002	9869/10/ 15-03-2020
20.	Matador	MP07-GA-7439	2019	9869/08/ 20-12-2019
21.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-5594	2014	9872/20/ 09-01-2021
22.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AC-3630	2018	9880/03/ 06-02-2021
23.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-1622	2016	9872/25/ 26-02-2021
24.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AC-4196	2018	9885/04/ 28-02-2021
25.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AC-5144	2018	8852/04/ 31-03-2021
26.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AC-2077	2013	9885/25/ 23-03-2021
27.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-8581	2013	9885/23/ 08-03-2021
28.	Tractor trolley	MP49-AA-1791	2018	8852/14/ 16-05-2021
29.	Tractor trolley	MP30-AA-5520	2013	8852/20/ 22-05-2021
30.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AC-2676	2019	8852/18/ 16-05-2021
31.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-3574	2016	8852/22/ 23-05-2021
32.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AC-0312	2019	8852/05/ 08-04-2021
33.	Tractor trolley	MP06-JA-3837	2000	9877/13/ 09-06-2021
34.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-9567	2018	9877/12/ 09-06-2021
35.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-9647	2019	8852/16/ 16-05-2021
36.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AC-5303	2020	8852/19/ 22-05-2021
37.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-4361	2017	8852/23/ 23-05-2021
38.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AC-5759	2019	9877/15/ 14-06-2021
39.	Tractor trolley	MP06-AB-9214	2012	9877/16/ 17-06-2021
40.	Matador	MP07-GA-4833	2014	9869/08/ 20-12-2019



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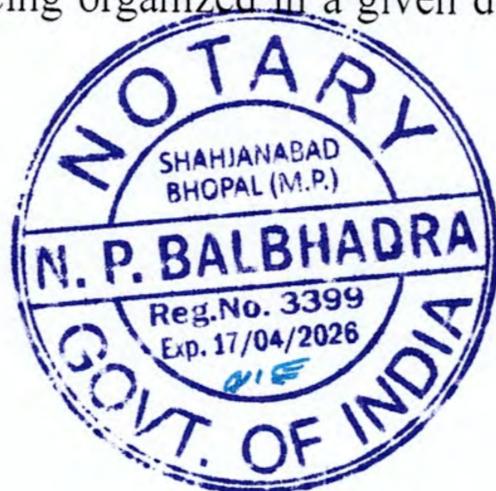
15. The sand which are seized from these vehicles are mixed with soil to render it unusable. The details of seizure of illegally mined sand are as follows:

Year	Sand quantity seized (cubic metres)
2020	3610.75
2021	19012.5
2022	694.25
2023	11131.6
2024	46118.55
February 2025	4171

16. The details of destruction of sand stockpiles are as follows:

Year	Sand quantity destroyed (cubic metres)
2020	3675
2021	17828
2022	564
2023	10898
2024	45799
February 2025	40969

17. It is also submitted that task force meetings have been organized in all levels for formulating strategies for combating illegal sand mining. The task force being organized in a given district comprises of the respective

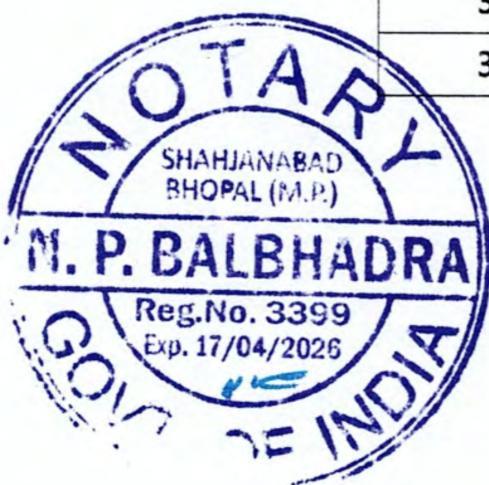
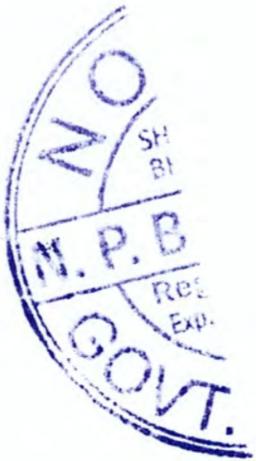


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District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and Divisional Forest Officer. The dates of the meetings are as follows:

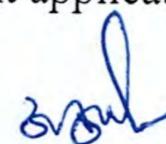
Ser.	Type of meeting	Date
1	Inter-State	31-08-23
2	District	04-09-23
3	District	25-09-23
4	Inter-State	25-09-23
5	District	06-10-23
6	Inter-State	06-10-23
7	District	25-10-23
8	District	07-11-23
9	District	23-11-23
10	District	13-12-23
11	District	26-12-23
12	District	04-01-2024
13	Divisional Level	08-01-24
14	State Level	08-01-24
15	District	30-01-24
16	District	14-02-24
17	District	04-03-24
18	District	15-03-24
19	Inter-State	02-04-24
20	District	18-04-24
21	District	13-05-24
22	District	30-05-24
23	Inter-State	31-05-24
24	District	18-06-24
25	District	08-07-24
26	District	23-07-24
27	District	12-08-24
28	District	11-09-24
29	District	24-09-24
30	District	22-10-24
31	District	22-11-24
32	District	30-12-24



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33	District	14-01-25
34	District	23-01-25
35	District	10-02-25
36	District	27-02-25
37	District	10-03-2025
38	District	25-03-2025
39	District	15-04-2025
40	District	05-05-2025
41	District	27-05-2025
42	District	10-06-2025
43	District	27-06-2025
44	District	24-07-2025

18. That the answering Respondent humbly craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to adduce additional facts by way of additional affidavit as may be deemed necessary for the proper adjudication of the instant application by this Hon'ble Tribunal.



DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

I, the deponent named above, do hereby verify that the contents of the above affidavit are believed to be true and correct on the basis of the information derived from the record of the case and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified on this 23 day of September, 2025 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Notary Registration No. 3399
Register Sr. No. <u>2640</u>
Date <u>23/09/2025</u>
Book No. <u>27</u> - Receipt No. <u>2640</u>



DEPONENT

SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED BEFORE
ME BY THE WITHIN NAMED

23/09/2025

N. P. BALBHADRA
NOTARY-ADVOCATE
SHAHJANABAD, BHOPAL (M.P.)

IDENTIFIED BY ME

SIGNATURE Pranjal
NAME PRANJAL PANDEY, ADVOCATE
ADDRESS F-3, VIDHYA VIHAR,
BHOPAL

23 SEP 2025



1. There are currently two CCTV Cameras operational. Both are of brand called, "CP-PLUS". They are located at the following sites:

- Forest Produce Check Post – N 26° 31' 29" | E 77° 57' 58" (Installed on January 2020)



- Eco Centre Devri – N 26° 32' 35" | E 77° 57' 35" (Installed on January 2020)



3. There is only one drone used for surveillance. Proposal for the procurement of a new drone has been submitted to the higher authorities on 28 February 2025.

