

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN  
TRIBUNAL  
WESTERN BENCH AT PUNE  
(APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 18(1) READ  
WITH SECTION 14 & 15 OF THE NATIONAL GREEN  
TRIBUNAL ACT, 2010)  
APPLICATION No. 49 OF 2016**

**In the matter of:**

1. Rohit Prajapati

37, Patrakar Colony, Tandalja, Road,

Vadodara – 390 020

2. Nakul Pradhan

A.S. Pradhan Marg,

Off Shivaji Road, Dandia Bazar,

Vadodara – 390 001

3. Pratik Lakdawala

21, Muktanand Society, Karelibaug,

Vadodara -390 018

## 4. Surekha Sule

203, Shri Raj Apartment,

Pratap Road, Vadodara – 390 001

## 5. Sanjay Soni

Dayalbhao's Lane, Rajmahal Road,

Vadodara – 390 001

## 6. Trupti Shah

37, Patrakar Colony, Tandalja Road,

Vadodara – 390 020

**... Applicants**

**Versus**

## 1. The Secretary

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate

Change, Union of India

Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,

Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003

## 2. The Chief Secretary

State of Gujarat

1st Block, 5th Floor, Sachivalaya

Gandhinagar – 382 010

3. The Principal Secretary

Urban Development and Urban Housing

Department, State of Gujarat

14th Block, 9th Floor, Sachivalaya,

Gandhinagar – 382 010

4. The Member Secretary

State Environment Impact Assessment Authority

Paryavaran Bhavanm Sector-10 A,

Gandhinagar – 382 010

5. The Collector, Vadodara

Kothi Kacheri Building, Raopura,

Vadodara – 390 001

6. The Municipal Commissioner

Vadodara Municipal Corporation

Khanderao Market, Vadodara - 390 209

7. The Chairman

Vadodara Urban Development Authority

“VUDA BHAVAN” L&T Circle, V. I.P. Road,  
Karelibaug,

Vadodara – 390 018

.... **Respondents**

- I.** The addresses of the Applicants are as given above for service of notices of this Application and that of their representatives through their Advocate Shri Asim Sarode having office at Flat No. 1 Prathamesh CHS, (Dabke Nursing Home Building) Lane no. 5 Prabhat Road, Pune – 411 004. The addresses of the Respondents are given as above for service of notices of the Application.
  
- II.** The Applicants above named present the Memorandum of Application against the illegal commencement of work/activities related to the ‘Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project’ (VRDP) including the illegal demolition, dredging, digging, filling, levelling, construction, announcement of projects etc. in and along the Vishwamitri River and the river banks pending completion of the due process of ‘Environment

Impact Assessment' (EIA) and 'Environmental Clearance' (EC).

### **III. Facts in brief**

1. Applicant No. 1 is an engineer, researcher, and activist working on environment and occupational health issues since 1990. He is also a member of Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti working on the environment.
2. The Applicant No. 2 is a lawyer. He has provided pro-bono services to charitable organisations working on issues related to education, development and clean environment. He is working actively on land related cases.
3. The Applicant No. 3 is a Civil Engineer and Wildlife Activist. He is providing his services to the Gujarat State Forest Department as a Motivator on creating environmental awareness amongst the Urban and Rural students. He also

serves as a trustee in 'Beauty without Brutality', a Surat based NGO.

4. The Applicant No. 4 is an independent development journalist-researcher for over a decade and till 2000, she was working as a journalist in 'The Economic Times' and 'The Financial Express' in Mumbai. Among many developmental issues, she has worked on solid waste issues as researcher, writer and activist. She prepared MSW practices compendium in 2005 for Directorate of Municipal Administration, Maharashtra. She also applied Advanced Locality Management (ALM) concept for clean environment in Thane.
5. The Applicant No. 5 is involved in the rescue team for saving crocodiles, snakes and other fauna in and around Vishwamitri River. He is also working for the conservation of archaeological sites and remains as a volunteer for the last 10 years.

6. The Applicant No. 6 is an economist, researcher, and social activist working on developmental issues related to women's rights, environment and human rights of marginalised communities since 1984 in Gujarat. She is also member of several social organisations based in Gujarat.
7. The present application is being filed under Section 18(1) read with Section 14 and 15 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 (for the sake of brevity hereinafter referred to as the NGT Act). It involves substantial questions relating to activities within the area of 'Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project' (VRDP) including demolition, dredging, digging, filling, levelling, construction, announcement of projects etc., by Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) that are illegal in nature, since these are undertaken before the completion of due process of 'Environment

Impact Assessment' (EIA) and 'Environmental Clearance' (EC) as per EIA Notification 2006.

8. The VMC is using the public monies and allowing activities within the area of VRDP including demolition, dredging, digging, filling, levelling, construction, etc., in blatant violation of several Laws of the Land, including under the provisions of the following environmental statutes:

(1) The Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

(2) Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986.

(3) The Environment (Protection) Act 1986.

(4) The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2010.

(5) The Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules 2000.

(6) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

9. Respondent No. 1 is the Secretary of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. Respondent No. 2 is the Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat, who heads the high-powered Executive Committee, comprising of other senior secretaries, responsible for the various executive and project-related decisions. Respondent No. 3 is the Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Urban Housing Department, State of Gujarat. Respondent No. 4 is the Member Secretary of State Environment Impact Assessment Authority of Gujarat. Respondent No. 5 is the Collector of Vadodara District of Gujarat. Respondent No. 6 is the Municipal Commissioner of VMC, the executive and implementing authority for the VRDP. Respondent No. 7 is the Chairman of 'Vadodara Urban Development Authority'.

10. The above named Applicants present the Memorandum of Application for raising the following issues:

- a.** In the VMC meeting dated 19.09.2015, the VMC officials informed those of the Applicants present that the VMC had in November 2014 issued an 'Expression of Interest' to appoint a consultant for conducting the 'Environmental Impact Assessment' for the VRDP. It was also stated that no activities and/or construction work in respect of the Riverfront Project will be carried out / commenced in the VRDP area before EIA is prepared, Environmental Public Hearing (EPH) is conducted, and before getting the Environment Clearance. After this meeting, a letter dated 29.10.2015 was sent to the Applicant No. 1 by the Executive

Engineer of VRDP. A copy of the letter dated 29.10.2015 is at

**Annexure 1.**

- b.** Vide a letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015-16 addressed by the Special Projects Department of the VMC to the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee, GPCB, the VMC requested the authority to initiate further course of action for environment clearance under the EIA Notification, 2006 for the VRDP at Vadodara. In the said letter, the VMC has stated that the Final Feasibility Report for VRDP was completed in December 2014 and the works for Environmental Impact Assessment and Environment clearance were also started. VMC also submitted form 1A and form 1B along with Annexure under cover of the said letter. As per the current status of the

application it appears that the proposal has been accepted by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee on 16.12.2015. A copy of the said letter dated 17.11.2015-16 is annexed herewith at **Annexure 2**. A copy of '**Expression of Interest**' to conduct the 'Environmental Impact Assessment' for the VRDP is at **Annexure 3**. A copy of the Proposed Terms of Reference is annexed herewith at **Annexure 4**. A copy of the Appendix I along with the supporting documents as uploaded on the authority's website is annexed herewith at **Annexure 5**. A print out of the timelines and details of the current status as available from the authority's website is annexed herewith at **Annexure 6**. The aforesaid information is obtained from

the website having URL ***http://environmentclearance.nic.in/onlinesearch\_state.aspx?type=TOR&status=17&statename=Gujarat.***

- c.** As per the information of the Applicants, the process of assigning the contract for the EIA was accomplished in late 2015. However, on or about 25.10.2015 and pursuant thereto, through several news reports, it came to the notice of the Applicants that despite all the assurances at the meeting held on 19.09.2015 and despite the process of Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Clearance being pending, the work related to the 'Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project' has commenced in VRDP area hastily and negligently without having conducted the mandatory

'Environment Impact Assessment' (EIA) and 'Social Impact Assessment' (SIA) and before obtaining 'Environmental Clearance' (EC) for the project, that is in complete disregard and violation of EIA Notification 2006. A copy of the photographs of VRDP area taken on 05.04.2016, just before filing of the present application, is annexed herewith at **Annexure 7**. The photographs clearly show the extent of the violation and the ongoing work.

- d.** The proposed VRDP completely ignores the important characteristics of the River, its wetlands, ravines, inter-connectivity with other water bodies, floodplains, flora and fauna, biodiversity, etc. Many times jargons, images, and concepts are used in the feasibility report of the VRDP and its

propaganda, but if one closely examines the said report, it becomes abundantly clear that those words and ideas are intentionally misleading and not designed in their true letter and spirit. A copy of some of the relevant pages of the VRDP Feasibility Report Master Plan dated 16.12.2014, is at **Annexure 8**.

- e. The VMC fails to understand the fact that the first step in any effort for the revival of the Vishwamitri River must acknowledge that a river is more than a channel carrying water; it is also a transporter of sediment; it consists of catchments, floodplains, tributaries, ponds, river-bed, and adjoining ravines, which along with the soils and vegetation on both sides, is the river's natural mechanism to retain the additional water, prevent floods

and provide habitat for various species. A river harbours and interacts with innumerable organisms like microbes, plants, and animals. It is a natural, living, organic part of a larger ecological system. A river is also a network of tributaries, floodplains, and ponds spread over its basin and the estuary.

- f.** The Vishwamitri River originating from the Pavagadh Hill, north-east of Vadodara city, has a unique ecosystem bearing a plethora of beautiful ravines right from its beginning till its end. Of paramount importance in its ecology is the presence of the highly protected species, the Indian crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris* – Mugger Crocodile) and Turtles. The crocodiles, turtles and other species

have been inhabiting and breeding in stretches of the Vishwamitri River for many years. This species is categorized as nationally 'Vulnerable' subsequent to an assessment following IUCN criteria for threatened species (Molur & Walker 1998) and has the highest legal protection in India as it is listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. The importance of this species is illustrated by the multiple legal and policy efforts which have been developed by the Government of India to protect the crocodile population. 'Indian Crocodile Conservation Project' was launched as early as the late 1960's. Subsequently the crocodile and Turtle have been included in Appendix-I of Convention of International Trade in

Endangered Species (CITES) and brought under Schedule-I of 'The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972', meaning that any activity which is against the survival of the highly protected species without having been approved by the State Wildlife Board / National Wildlife Board and the Government of India is patently illegal.

- g.** This brings one to the glaring fact that the activities carried out by the VMC in the name of VRDP especially proposed construction activities vis-a-vis the use of JCB dumper, etc. have the potential to destroy the natural ecosystem and habitat; its breeding grounds and nests of the crocodile, turtle, and other species.
- h.** The VMC also invokes the "Public Private Partnership (PPP)

Development Model” to justify its illicit activities. All projects, including those sanctioned by the government require ‘Environmental Clearance’ for execution, even PPP projects undertaken by VMC in VRDP area. Hence, any planned construction activity or any other activities by VMC or sanctioned / approved by VMC in VRDP area also need to be stopped immediately because these violate the EIA Notification 2006 and other environmental laws.

- i.** It becomes abundantly clear that commencement of work before the completion of the EIA on the potential impacts to the protected and threatened crocodile, turtle and other scheduled species, and without the mandatory approval from the appropriate authorities, is in blatant

violation of 'The Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972'. This will not only completely lead to destruction of the natural ecosystem and habitat of the crocodiles, turtles, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish species but also their breeding grounds and nests who survive in and around Vishwamitri River. In fact, the breeding period of the crocodiles is from January to May. It is pertinent to note here that accordingly being protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, VRDP ought to be considered as a Category B project, and accordingly the application for Environment Clearance ought to have been filed before the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), as per the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006.

Thus, there is a clear violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as the said activity would amount to "hunting" as defined in Sec. 2 (16) of the said Act as follows:

*"(16) "Hunting" with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, includes:*

*(a) Killing or poisoning of any wild animal or captive animal and every attempt to do so;*

*(b) Capturing, coursing, snaring, trapping, driving or baiting any wild or captive animal and every attempt to do so;*

*(c) Injuring or destroying or taking any part of the body or any such animal or in the case of wild birds or reptiles, damaging the eggs or such birds or reptiles, or disturbing the*

*eggs or nests of such birds or reptiles."*

Thus, by doing such illegal construction activities through JCB / dumper etc. will definitely destroy the eggs of crocodiles and turtles too apart from their natural habitat and ecosystem. In fact, before doing any such activity against the survival of the highly protected species of Schedule-I of the Wildlife Protection Act can never be done without it being approved by the State Wildlife Board / National Wildlife Board and the Govt. of India.

- j.** Now, there is no dispute about the fact with the concerned authorities that the 'Environmental Clearance' is required under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification dated 14th September 2006 and it is

applicable to VRDP. Accordingly the VMC had, on 1.12.2014, issued an 'Expression of Interest' for appointing a consultant to conduct the 'Environmental Impact Assessment' for the same.

- k.** In spite of the same, construction activities were commenced in the VRDP area on or about 25.10.2015. A letter dated 28.12.2015 by concerned citizens and experts was sent to all the concerned authorities stating all the necessary information and issues. The letter clearly stated that "Thus we call on you to cease all 'Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project' and related activities in Vishwamitri River, around river banks and not commence any further works / activity / construction work until due process of Environmental

Clearance is undertaken. If 'Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project' and related activities are not immediately stopped, you will invite legal action and be liable for the expenses incurred for the same." The water bodies are in a crisis in Vadodara city, especially the Vishwamitri River passing through Vadodara along with its catchment areas including the Sama and Bhimnath ponds ('talav') that are a part of the VRDP project. A copy of this letter dated 28.12.2015 is at **Annexure 9.**

- I. Vide a letter dated 20.01.2016, VMC replied to the aforesaid letter dated 28.12.2015 of the Applicants. However VMC did not deal with the contentions of the letter dated 28.12.2015 and also did not provide

any clarifications. The letter dated 20.01.2016 received from VMC is vague and sketchy. A copy of this letter is at **Annexure 10**.

**m.** Despite our letter dated 28.12.2015 the following work / works / acts and activities are still ongoing and continuing in the VRDP project area and the same are in violation of the EIA Notification dated 14 September 2006:

- (1)** Construction of bridge from Sama area to Harni area.
- (2)** Construction of retaining wall along the Sama – Savli road on the edge of Sama Talav.
- (3)** Construction activity near Sanjay Nagar - Mangal Pandey Road including retention wall

work / works / acts and activities are continuing.

- (4)** Demolition of Historical Sites and features in Sanjay Nagar area.
- (5)** Untreated Sewer water is being continuously discharged behind the Ratri bazaar, opposite VUDA office.
- (6)** Levelling and preparing land for construction project near Narhari hospital is continuing.
- (7)** Dumping of solid waste, including construction debris, near Kala Ghoda area and sewer discharge near Kala Ghoda is continuing.
- (8)** Construction work / works / acts and activities are

continuing near and besides Bhimnath Bridge.

**(9)** Bhimnath Talav filling work / works / acts and activities are continuing.

**(10)** Debris dumping along the river bank near Vadsar and bridge construction work / works / acts and activities are continuing.

**(11)** Declaration of work for the proposed 'Crocodile Park' within the VRDP area. A copy of the local news paper clipping dated 24.02.2016 is at

**Annexure 11.**

**n.** Nonetheless, project proponents have gone ahead with construction and other activities despite the fact

that Section 6 of the EIA Notification of 2006 explicitly states:

**“An application seeking prior environmental clearance in all cases shall be made in the prescribed Form 1 annexed herewith and Supplementary Form 1A, if applicable, as given in Appendix II, after the identification of prospective site(s) for the project and/or activities to which the application relates, before commencing any construction activity, or preparation of land, at the site by the applicant.”**

- o. Again, letter dated 19.02.2016 was sent to all the concerned authorities stating, “All the above mentioned locations are part and parcel of the VRDP project. Therefore, these work /

works / acts and activities are in complete violation of Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2006, The Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and also in complete violation of Expression of Interest for EIA published in Local Newspaper of Vadodara dated 1 December 2014.

Now, with all these and many such area/areas in which such work / works / acts and activities are still continuing and ongoing in VRDP area, we urge the Municipal Commissioner of VMC and you in connection and in continuation to our letter dated 28th December 2015 issued to you all that, to immediately direct any/all concerned departments /authorities / parties that come within the purview of the VRDP Project area, whether VMC or Private or Public or

Contractual as per various tenders including projects being undertaken in the name of PPP model, to stop all ongoing activities including demolition, dredging, digging, filling, levelling, construction, etc. within the project area of VRDP with immediate effect, until due process of 'Environment Impact Assessment' (EIA) and 'Environmental Clearance' is accomplished." A copy of this letter is at **Annexure 12.**

- p.** Vide a letter dated 01.03.2016, VMC replied to the aforesaid letter dated 19.02.2016 of the Applicants. However VMC did not deal with the contentions of the letter dated 19.02.2016 and also did not provide any clarifications. The letter dated 01.03.2016 received from VMC is

vague and sketchy. A copy of this letter is at **Annexure 13**.

- q.** Pursuant to the same, a Letter dated 15.03.2016 was sent to the respondents with demand that immediately stop all activities within the area of 'Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project' (VRDP) including demolition, dredging, digging, filling, levelling, construction, etc., until due process of 'Environment Impact Assessment' (EIA) and 'Environmental Clearance' is accomplished. A copy of this letter is at **Annexure 14**. However no reply has been received to the same to date and accordingly the Applicants are filing the present Application.
- r.** The highly meandering and slowly flowing Vishwamitri River system consists of the main river corridor and

its associated tributaries, ravines, nalas / kaans (small streams/creeks), wetlands, ox-bows, and human-made ponds. Historically, this system as a whole provided ecosystem (environmental) services such as natural flood water control, ground water recharge, habitats for different flora and fauna, promoting biodiversity, and ameliorating adverse climatic conditions. They also served various communities as alternative sources for irrigation, water supply, food, recreation, and livelihood. Vishwamitri River and its associated water bodies are also unique because they are home to threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna (ravan taad, crocodile, turtles etc.). Having crocodile and turtles in the river

habitat in the middle of Vadodara city is also a unique asset. Instead of taking pride in protecting this unique habitat, VMC seems to be bent on destroying it.

- s.** Years of encroachment and dumping, effectively sanctioned by local and state authorities (VMC and Vadodara Urban Development Authority to be precise), exhibits poor governance and threatens this interconnected watershed level system. This is evident in the way these water bodies are encroached upon and/or contaminated with all kinds of dumped waste materials, including construction debris, municipal and industrial waste, dead carcasses, untreated and inadequately treated sewer water. Even buildings are constructed on ravines and nalas.

Due to such “sanctioned” or illicit activities, not only the banks and ravines of Vishwamitri River but also many other water bodies have disappeared, despoiled and diminished.

- t.** The much drummed up “flood” stories from Vadodara are also actually less about natural floods and more about human follies and official negligence. Vadodara city’s terrain has less than five percent slope on average (i.e., almost flat) and it is interspersed with natural water bodies mentioned above, with many ponds that are interconnected by natural courses of nalas and kaans.
- u.** Since 1994 (in the last 22 years), the Vishwamitri River’s level at the Kala Ghoda bridge gauging station breached the “Red Signal” flood alert

level, above 26' for eight times in the years 1994 (35'), 1998 (27.3'), 2003 (28.3'), 2005 (35.6'), 2006 (30.7'), 2008 (28.5'), 2013 (29.9') and 2014 (34.9').

- v.** During these years, flood waters inundated low-lying parts of Vadodara city resulting in severe misery for the underprivileged people living there. Newspaper reports and some studies have shown that many of these so-called floods were the result of mismanagement in operations of flood gates at the Ajwa reservoir dam during heavy rainfall days and reliance on outdated calculations for the storage capacity of this dam. This is especially true for the 2014 floods when there was less rain fall (116mm) than the 2005 (315mm) and when the Kalaghoda gauge level

of water reached 34.9' nine feet above the "Red Signal" level.

- w.** A more hidden and far less publicized reason is that over the past several decades, the VMC has itself filled up the ravines of the river in Vadodara city with solid waste and has turned blind eyes towards those who do so illicitly. If these river ravines were not filled in with various kinds of solid waste and were left in their natural state as seasonal wetlands, heavy rain fall waters would have natural space to drain out and cause less damage to the city. Vadodara city must learn lessons from the December 2015 '**Chennai Floods**' otherwise it is likely to face similar calamitous situation.
- x.** In this terrain, indiscriminate acts of demolition, dumping, dredging,

and/or construction (e.g., raised roads and building plots with inadequate culverts or bridges) is going on for decades, often by the local government authorities and agencies as well as unscrupulous private parties. These have choked up the river ravines and wetlands and blocked the natural channels (nalas / kaans). The net result is severe water-logging in many parts of the city.

- y.** In fact, the authorities do not have any contour plans of Vadodara City. Instead of protecting the natural water bodies and managing the reservoirs and flows, the local governments also contribute to this onerous and avoidable situation by allowing all kinds of city and neighbourhood level development

(roads, bridges, buildings, etc.) and proposed town planning (TP) schemes without the use of contour plans. As a result, the situation gets exacerbated during heavy rains in the upper catchments and authorities don't manage the water flows out of the dams (mainly the Ajwa reservoir dam) that are built on the tributaries of Vishwamitri River.

- z.** Unless well thought-out, well-coordinated, and multi-pronged strategies with teeth are adopted soon, a day is not far when Vadodara, like many other cities, will face disaster similar to what Chennai has faced in the first half of December 2015. In the face of unpredictable climate change patterns, such disasters are likely to increase in frequency and intensity. If such

rampant and haphazard urban growth continues it will result in many more disasters. This will demonstrate a failure of urban planning and urban governance at local and state levels. Vadodara must be protected from such costly and avoidable disasters.

- aa.** The river experiences frequent flooding which is due to water logging and human induced activities. The time to act is now, well before the VRDP and many other projects affecting the natural water bodies and flows of the Vadodara city and eco-regions are planned and implemented. Or else it will be too late and too costly to amend our follies later.
- bb.** The riparian vegetation along the banks of the Vishwamitri River, not only nurtures a rich biodiversity but

also plays a crucial role in retaining water during heavy rainfall and in ground water recharge, particularly the ox-bows. This also plays an important role in regulating the micro climate of the city. Engineering the banks as per the Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project plans would convert the river into an open 'channel' which may exacerbate flooding and erosion as well as negatively affect ground water recharge and biodiversity.

- cc.** Further, it is a well known fact that both municipal waste and untreated municipal sewage is routinely being dumped into the Vishwamitri River in contravention of 'The Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules 2000' and 'The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution)

Act, 1974'. The impugned project should not be allowed to progress in the absence of a comprehensive plan to stop the dumping of untreated sewage and solid waste which cause health and environmental hazards. In order to restore the banks, it is imperative that all kinds of waste dumped in the ravines be systematically removed. We have also come to know that demolition of the slums was part of the impugned project. Further, the impugned project and related activities had already displaced more than 5,000 people, and many more are expected to be displaced by the impugned project without EIA. If we are not wrong, the slums - Sama - Sanjay Nagar, Indira Nagar, Jamwadi - Sayajiganj, Fatehganj - Kalyan

Nagar, etc. - were demolished as part of VRDP. Lastly, the creation of real estate to 'mitigate' or offset the cost of the project as proposed by VMC has to be validated by the 'need' of land for development. There is enough public and private land in Vadodara that is lying vacant for "investment" or "development" purposes. Hence, there is no need of "creating" more land for "investment" or "development" by taking the land from the river corridor (that includes its ravines and connected ponds). A thorough market analysis must be carried out to justify the creation of land for commercial development as mentioned in VRDP as CBD. The residents of Vadodara are paying the costs of such dead investment. Further, clearing the vegetation and

channelizing of the river with concrete structures would only add the heat island effect and degrade micro-climate of the city.

#### IV. Chronology of Dates and Events.

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Particulars of Events</b>
01	01.12.2014	<p>In the local newspaper 'Indian Express' (Vadodara Edition) an Advertisement published by Municipal Commissioner of V.M.S.S. Vadodara, wherein it was mentioned "VADODARA MAHANAGAR SEVA SADAN "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST".</p> <p>Through this Advertisement of V.M.S.S. had invited "Interested Consultants for doing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Related</p>

		<p>Clearance for Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project in Vadodara.”</p> <p>This shows that the intention of doing these studies was of V.M.S.S. only, who had invited Consultants for doing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Related Clearance for Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project in Vadodara. Copy of the advertisement is at <b>Annexure 3. (Page No. )</b></p>
02	16.12.2014	<p>Presentation by Respondent No. 6 of 'Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project' which the Applicants have downloaded from website of VMC., i.e., <a href="http://www.vmc.gov.in">www.vmc.gov.in</a></p>

		<p>It is all the above named respondents who themselves have from time to time restricted and prohibited any type of construction activity near and besides river Vishwamitri and near and besides natural water bodies like Sama and Bhimnath which come under the ambit of VRDP. Copy of the relevant pages is at <b>Annexure 8. (Page No. )</b></p>
03	05.10.2015	<p>RTI Application was filed by Applicant No. 2 to Public Information Officer of VUDA, Vadodara, Respondent No. 7 to have "the copy of VUDA GDCR latest laws and would like to know under which VUDA Law construction on River Bank in</p>

		<p>Vadodara City till which and how many sq. mtrs./feet is such construction not allowed." To the said RTI Application a reply was then received by the Applicant No. 2 by letter dated 12.10.2015 from Public Information Officer VUDA, Vadodara.</p> <p>The Point No. 14. A DISTANCE FROM WATER COURSE as shown at Page No. 61 of GDCR of VUDA is given. This shows the area according to VUDA which keeps a bar on construction near a water bodies i.e., a river and a lake. Thus, an admission by Respondent No. 7 keeping a bar on construction near a water bodies. The information clearly states that "<b>14. A DISTANCE</b></p>
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		<p><b>FROM WATER COURSE:</b> <i>No development whatsoever, whether by filling or otherwise shall be carried out within 30 Mts. from the boundary of the bank of the river and where there is no river embankment and within 15 Mts. such distance as may be prescribed under any other general or specific orders of Government and appropriate Authority whichever is more, from river where there is river embankment but in case of kans, canal, talav, lake, water-bodies etc. it shall be 9.00 mts."</i></p> <p>Copy of the RTI application and information received is at <b>Annexure 15. (Page No. )</b></p>
04	13.10.2015	A Letter was received by

		<p>Applicant No. 1 from Special Projects Department of V.M.S.S. Vadodara wherein the said Letter of Respondent No. 6 has admitted the fact that "the works for Environmental Impact Assessment and Environment Clearance is also started". This is adequate to state that EIA and related studies are required, so it becomes the legal and statutory responsibility of V.M.S.S. i.e., Respondent No. 6 to adhere to strict guidelines of carrying out these studies and further not to allow any work to be carried out in the study area of EIA of the 'Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project'. Copy of letter dated 14.05.2015 sent by Applicant No. 1 &amp; 5 and</p>
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		reply of the Respondent No. 6 dated 13.10.2015 are at <b>Annexure 16(A&amp;B). (Page No. )</b>
05	15.10.2015	<p>The Applicant No. 2 had filed RTI Application to Public Information Officer VUDA, Vadodara, Respondent No. 7 to know whether "is T.P. Scheme No. 66 Preliminary or Final T.P. Scheme as regards to VADODARA".</p> <p>By Letter dated 21.11.2015 the Applicant No. 2 was informed by Public Information Officer T.D.O., Town Planning Department, Vadodara stating "T.P. Scheme No. 66 which is in Vadodara is a Preliminary Sanctioned T.P. Scheme." This shows that the said T.P. Scheme</p>

		<p>is not Final yet. The said T.P. Scheme is unconstitutional as it is floated on Bhimnath Talav a "Lake" i.e., Water Body. Copy of the RTI application and information received is at <b>Annexure 17. (Page No. )</b></p>
06	21.10.2015	<p>The Applicant No. 2 filed RTI Application to Public Information Officer, The Collector, Vadodara wherein had asked to know and have "the map showing River embankment near Kala Ghoda bridge, Bhimnath bridge and Lake embankment and lake and River line in the said map from where River and lake embankment can be seen".</p> <p>Information was provided by Public Information Officer, DLR</p>

		<p>Vadodara through their Letter dated 27.11.2015 wherein the Public Information Officer has given a Letter stating Mouje Village Vadodara Kasba of Year 1912 on Scale 1 Cm = 38.40 mtr. In the said Map, the Boundary of Original Bhimnath Talav is seen and Original Vishwamitri River line is seen. This Map shows the talav and river is having a very huge boundary which now the Municipal Corporation, Respondent No. 6 has illegally changed. Copy of the RTI application and information received is at <b>Annexure 18.</b></p> <p><b>(Page No. )</b></p>
07	21.10.2015	The Applicant No. 2 filed RTI

	<p>Application to the Public Information Officer VUDA, Vadodara, Respondent No. 7 wherein the Applicant No. 2 had asked to know and have "the Map showing River embankment near Kala Ghoda Bridge, Bhimnath Bridge and Lake embankment and lake and river line in the said map from where River and lake embankment can be seen".</p> <p>Thereafter, on 31.12.2015 on payment of necessary fees Site Plan and 'B Form' of T.P. Scheme No. 66 (Preliminary Scheme) showing F.P. No. 19 as lake and F.P. No. 43 as Vishwamitri River was given by the Public Information Officer.</p>
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		<p>This Site Plan clearly shows what the Respondent No. 6 indicating a lake and river line is quite different from what the Respondent No. 5 in their same RTI reply term as lake and river embankment. Copy of the RTI application and information received is at <b>Annexure 19.</b></p> <p><b>(Page No. )</b></p>
08	25.10.2015	<p>An Article was published in local newspaper 'Gujarat Samachar' (Vadodara Edition) wherein it can be seen dumping been done near Sama - Sanjay Nagar in Vishwamitri River of Vadodara. On the same date i.e., on 25.10.2015 another Article was published in local newspaper 'Sandesh' (Vadodara Edition)</p>

		<p>wherein it can be seen Vishwamitri River bed been dumped and filled with debris from Sanjay Nagar. This is a clear proof of the illegal act continuing. Copies of News Paper clippings are at <b>Annexure 20(A&amp;B). (Page No. )</b></p>
09	29.10.2015	<p>A letter dated 29.10.2015 was sent by Special Projects Department of V.M.S.S., Vadodara, which was received by Applicant No. 1. The said letter was written in connection with the meeting dated 19.09.2015 with the VMC and points discussed in Meeting dated 19.09.2015. The letter states, "With reference to the above mentioned subject we</p>

		<p>have informed to the PMC HCP Design, Planning &amp; Management Pvt. Ltd. for necessary opinion.”</p> <p>This is also an admission on part of Respondent No. 6 that they had promised to take care of the Ravines of Vishwamitri River. But, looking at the articles published in the last few months it is seen that Respondent No. 6 is not following what they had promised Applicant No. 1. Copy of letter dated 29.10.2015 is at <b>Annexure 1. (Page No. )</b></p>
10	03.12.2015	<p>Applicant No. 2 received a Map of Mouje Village Sama, located in Registration District Sub - District Vadodara. In this Map of the area of Sama Lake, which is huge, can be seen and the area</p>

		<p>which today exists because of the filling is quite less. Copy of the map is at <b>Annexure 21. (Page No. )</b></p>
11	11.12.2015	<p>An Article was published in local newspaper 'Gujarat Samachar' (Vadodara Edition) wherein it can be seen an "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LAKES IN VADODARA CITY ON PPP BASIS". The said Tender Point No. 2 reads "Development of Other Various Lake in Vadodara City". These Lakes also include Bhimnath &amp; Sama which are a part and parcel of VRDP project area. When already development of Bhimnath Lake was taken within the study area</p>

		of VRDP Project without EIA, the question arises why there a need for a New Tender again for development of the said Bhimnath Lake again under a new project head. Copy of News Paper clipping is at <b>Annexure 22. (Page No. )</b>
12	15.12.2015	RTI Application was filed by Applicant No. 2 to Public Information Officer Gujarat Forest Department (Deputy Conservator of Forests) Social Forestry Division, Vadodara wherein the Applicant No. 2 had asked to "have the Census Report showing Where and in How many Numbers Crocodiles are seen from Census done by Gujarat Forest Department in

		<p>Year 2015 in and around Vishwamitri River and connected Water Bodies”.</p> <p>A reply dated 27.01.2016 was received by Applicant No. 2 from Public Information Officer, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Forest Department, Vadodara, Gujarat stating, “During Year 2014 – 2015 on 20-21.01.2015 the Number of Crocodiles counted in Vishwamitri River in Vadodara City and lakes / water bodies besides the said River are 248 in numbers.” Thus it is admitted facts that an endangered species i.e., crocodiles exist in this study area of VRDP. Copy of the RTI application and information</p>
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		received is at <b>Annexure 23.</b> <b>(Page No. )</b>
13	28.12.2015	Notice was sent by Applicants amongst many others to all the above named Respondents, wherein the Applicants had Prayed to the concerned authorities to "Immediately stop all activities of the 'Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project' including the illegal demolition, filling, dumping, dredging and any kind of construction activities in and along the Vishwamitri River and the river banks until due process of 'Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and 'Environmental Clearance' is accomplished".

		<p>That on except Respondent No. 6 none of the other Respondents have replied. Thus, this shows that the Respondents are not bothered about such an important issue i.e., environment and its destruction. Copy of the letter dated 28.10.2015 and reply received from Respondent No. 6 is at <b>Annexure 9. (Page No. )</b></p>
14	01.01.2016	<p>An Article was published in local newspaper 'Gujarat Samachar' (Vadodara Edition) wherein it can be seen the news which reads "Has Sayajirao given in succession this Vadodara City y to the Vadodara Municipal Corporation" and also the news which reads "Dumping in</p>

		<p>Vishwamitri River behind Sama Sanjay Nagar". This is all clear proof that the Respondents are not bothered to stop the illegal activities which is hampering and destroying the environment. A copy of news paper clipping is at <b>Annexure 24. (Page No. )</b></p>
15	02.01.2016	<p>An Article was published in local newspaper 'Gujarat Samachar' (Vadodara Edition) wherein it can be seen the news which firstly shows "the Map of Bhimnath Lake". From this Map it is crystal clear that, VMSS has carved T.P. Scheme No. 66 on Bhimnath Lake which is a water body. According to Respondent No. 6 F.P. No. 19 is Bhimnath Lake. According to Respondent</p>

		<p>No. 5, F.P. No. 18, 19, part of 20 &amp; part of 21 is Bhimnath Lake. Thus, the T.P. is unconstitutional and void and against Environmental Laws.</p> <p>Another news can be seen on the same page which reads "According to Governments Land Record's 80 % of Preliminary T.P. Scheme No. 66 area is in Bhimnath Lake". When, the T.P. Scheme is itself having so many errors and is floated on water body such T.P. Scheme No. 66 needs to be quashed and set aside and it is illegal and against environmental laws. Copies of News Paper clippings are at <b>Annexure 26(A). (Page No. )</b></p>
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16	02.01.2016	An Article was published in local newspaper Sandesh (Vadodara Edition) wherein it can be seen the news which shows "Vishwamitri River Dumping: Balaji Group of Ahmedabad given Notice". Copy of News Paper clipping is at <b>Annexure 26(B). (Page No. )</b>
17	02.01.2016	On 02.01.2016 in Local news paper, The Times of India Vadodara Edition states that a housing scheme for the poor near by has created a major controversy with the environmentalists saying that it violates Gujarat high court directives to project waterbodies." The Times of India, Vadodara further states,

		<p>“The Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) has issued notices to two contractors. [...] after it came to light recently that a part of Bhimnath pond in Sayajigunj area was filled to develop a housing scheme there.” Copy of these news paper clippings are at <b>Annexure 27. (Page No. )</b></p>
18	02.01.2016	<p>A letter was sent by Applicant No. 4 to Director General Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at New Delhi stating “Information regarding location of Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites located on the Bank of Vishwamitri River near Bhimnath Bridge, Sayajigunj, Vadodara,</p>

		<p>Gujarat". In the letter it was very clearly stated, "Please take immediate stringent steps to preserve these Old Monuments from the illegal acts going on without due permission from Your Office near these sites. We are happy to give You more inputs when contacted. Looking ahead to hear from You."</p> <p>As no reply to the said letter was received by Applicant No. 4 from the ASI that would let him know the status of the letter sent by him on 02.01.2016, Applicant No. 4 had preferred an RTI Application on 20.02.2016 to Director General ASI, New Delhi.</p> <p>This clearly reveals that none of the respondents above are</p>
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		<p>aware of the damage to the heritage of our country that is caused by their illogical act of going ahead with a faulty project before doing EIA. Other countries too with which India has signed treaties to protect and maintain such monuments, artifacts, and sites are going to find fault with the above named Respondents. Copy of letter dated 02.01.2016 of Applicant No. 4 and RTI application are at <b>Annexure 28. (Page No. )</b></p>
19	05.01.2016	<p>Since contour maps are vital for planning of any land development project, an RTI Application was filed by Applicant No. 2 to Public Information Officer of VMC to</p>

		<p>“have the Contour Maps along with Any Spot Elevations and Any Other Features marked on those Maps for the area in and around Vishwamitri River and in and around Bhimnath Lake located in Vadodara City, Gujarat”.</p> <p>Thereafter, wide letter dated 20.01.2016 a reply was received from Public Information Officer Town Planning Department, VMC, Vadodara through Point no. 3 of the letter the Applicant No. 2 was informed “The Contour Map as asked by You is not available with Us”.</p> <p>Thus, this is a clear admission on the part of Respondent No. 6 that their studies till date and</p>
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		<p>their public presentation and/or the report kept on www.vmc.gov.in website are done without the contour maps and, thus, are highly questionable. Copy of the RTI application and information received is at <b>Annexure 29 (Page No. )</b></p>
20	08.01.2016	<p>On 08.01.2016 in Local news paper, Indian Express Vadodara Edition a clipping with a photograph states, "VMC claims to be unaware of builder's commercial project; row also over retention wall construction. ... Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC), which cleared construction of the EWS flats, claimed that it was</p>

		<p>unaware that a mall is also coming up adjacent to MSY site.”</p> <p>Copy of news paper clipping is at <b>Annexure 30. (Page No. )</b></p>
21	20.01.2016	<p>By way of letter dated 20.01.2016 Applicant No. 1 was informed by Special Project Department of VMC, Vadodara that before starting work based on Feasibility Report, the work of getting Environment Impact Assessment and Environment Clearance has started. Copy of the letter dated 20.01.2016 is at <b>Annexure 10. (Page No. )</b></p>
22	17.02.2016	<p>An article was published in local newspaper Gujarat Samachar (Vadodara Edition), the news item states, “Sama – Sanjay</p>

		<p>Nagar, Indira Nagar Slums debris after demolition are dumped in Vishwamitri River – The said Report given by two departments of VMC is having differences”.</p> <p>Another article was published on 17.02.2016 in local newspaper Sandesh (Vadodara Edition) wherein it states, “VMC says Vishwamitri River bed has not been filled”.</p> <p>Copy of the news paper clippings are at <b>Annexure 31(A&amp;B). (Page No. )</b></p>
23	18.02.2016	<p>An Article was published in local newspaper Sandesh (Vadodara Edition) wherein it is stated, “The news of Crocodile Park in and around Vishwamitri River</p>

		<p>Bank on Navlakhi Grounds Vadodara". Thus, a clear admission by Respondent No. 6 that, they area touching crocodiles which is an endangered species according to Environmental Laws of the land. Copies of the News Paper Clippings are at <b>Annexure 32. (Page No. )</b></p>
24	19.02.2016	<p>A further reminder and reply to the reply received from V.M.C was sent by the Applicants to all the above named Respondents. Except Respondent No. 6 no reply of whatsoever manner has been received by the Applicants and so the Cause of Action to file this Petition has aroused. Copy of the letter dated 19.02.2016</p>

		sent by the Applicant is at <b>Annexure 12. (Page No. )</b>
25	11.03.2016	<p>An article was published in local newspaper Gujarat Samachar (Vadodara Edition) wherein the news was published "Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Scheme lands which are coming under Restricted Zone - 1, no changes made to that Zone yet" AND "Sama and Vadsar thousands of sq. mtrs. of lands issue still kept pending in VUDA meeting".</p> <p>Another article was published in local newspaper Divya Bhaskar (Vadodara edition) wherein the news stating "VUDA keeps Zone Change Issue pending".</p> <p>This clearly shows when Respondent No. 7 had already</p>

		<p>fixed Restrictions of any type of development in such areas then, why such a hasty decision to go with VRDP project has been taken by the above named Respondents. Copies of the News Paper Clippings are at <b>Annexure 33(A&amp;B). (Page No. )</b></p>
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26	15.03.2016	<p>Letter dated 15.03.2016 was sent to respondents, now including The Member Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority of Gujarat with demand that immediately stop all activities within the area of 'Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project' (VRDP) including demolition, dredging, digging, filling, levelling, construction, etc., until due process of 'Environment Impact Assessment' (EIA) and 'Environmental Clearance' is accomplished. The copy of this letter dated 15.03.2016 is at <b>Annexure 14.</b></p>
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**V.** The Applicants submit as under:

- (A)** All the above mentioned locations are part and parcel of VRDP. Therefore, these work / works / acts and activities are in complete violation of Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2006 and The Environment (Protection) Act 1986.
- (B)** Now, with all these and many such area/areas in which such work / works / acts and activities are still continuing and ongoing in VRDP area, we urged the Municipal Commissioner of VMC and other concerned authorities to immediately direct any/all concerned departments / authorities / parties that come within the purview of the VRDP area, whether VMC or Private or Public or Contractual as per various tenders including projects being undertaken in the name of PPP model, to stop all

ongoing activities including demolition, dredging, digging, filling, levelling, construction, etc. within the project area of VRDP with immediate effect, until due process of 'Environment Impact Assessment' (EIA) and 'Environmental Clearance' (EC) is accomplished. Replies received from the VMC are vague and sketchy and, at the same time, despite our reminders the VMC has failed to stop all illegal activities in the VRDP area and this action is in violation of EIA Notification 2006.

- (C)** Therefore, it is clear from the above that the impugned project is being undertaken in an illegal manner without Environmental Clearance, in violation of EIA Notification 2006 and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

**(D)** Rivers such as Vishwamitri must be saved from “development model” like VRDP. An alternative paradigm that is ecologically sensitive, socially inclusive, and that builds on local knowledge and expertise in a continuous and consistent manner, is also imperative.

## **VI. Grounds:**

Being aggrieved by the aforesaid the Applicants are approaching this Hon’ble Tribunal on the following amongst other grounds which are without prejudice to one another:

- (A)** The work has been started in the area of VRDP area without the Environmental Clearance as required under the EIA Notification 2006.
- (B)** The VRDP Project entails construction on a massive scale in and around of river bed of River Vishwamitri. The VRDP

Project is being constructed on the wetlands of Vishwamitri River. Allowing the project to continue will result in irreversible damage to the wetlands of Vishwamitri River which are sought to be protected by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010.

- (C)** There has been neither Environment Impact Assessment nor Social Impact Assessment done in respect of the VRDP, even though the VMC has agreed for EIA, EPH and Environment Clearance for the project. The construction activities are bound to damage the river, riverbed, downstream river, flora and fauna, its biodiversity, its associated water bodies, the people living downstream and their livelihoods and are in blatant violation of 'The Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972' amongst

other environment laws. However, it is admitted fact that no Environmental Impact Assessment, Social Impact Assessment, public consultation, nor any steps in preparing a environmental management plan, including appraisal, monitoring and compliance mechanism have been undertaken by the Respondents. Furthermore aspects of rehabilitation, restoration and preservation have not even been considered by the VMC, as is apparent from the documents on record.

**VII.** The Applicants have not filed any proceedings before any other court, tribunal or authority to stop the illicit activities / construction in VRDP area without the required Environmental Clearance.

**VIII.** That the applicants crave leave to file additional applications / affidavit along with other evidence.

**IX.** That the applicants are left with no efficacious remedy but to approach this Honourable Tribunal to challenge the action of the respondents as set out in the application.

**X. Limitation:**

The Applicants herein are seeking stoppage of all activities within the area of 'Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project' (VRDP) including demolition, dredging, digging, filling, levelling, construction, etc., in the absence of Environment Clearance and until due process of 'Environment Impact Assessment' (EIA) and 'Environmental Clearance' is completed. Public knowledge of such construction activities was made available vide the newspaper report published on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and thereafter from time to time, and the construction activities have continued inspite of the proposal being accepted on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 by SEAC, and which process of Environment Clearance is pending. The Applicants are, thus,

approaching this Honourable Tribunal within the limitation period of 6 months as provided under Section 14 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

**XI. Interim Relief:**

(A) Pending hearing and final disposal of this application, to direct the Respondents to stop all or any construction activities being carried out either directly by the Respondent No. 6 or indirectly through third parties, within the project area of VRDP;

(B) Pending hearing and final disposal of this application, to direct the Respondents to ensure that no construction activities whatsoever within the project area of VRDP are resumed, commenced or carried out either by them or any third parties, without valid Environment Clearance and until further orders from this Hon'ble Court;

(C) Pending hearing and final disposal of this application to appoint a team having the requisite expertise to holistically study the Vishwamitri river system for the purpose of reviewing the feasibility report as submitted by the consultant (HCPDPM Pvt. Ltd) to Respondent No. 6, and to investigate the illegal construction activities carried out by the Respondent No. 6 and/or any third parties within the project area of VRDP.

## **XII. PRAYERS:**

Under these circumstances this Honourable Tribunal may be pleased to:

**A.** Direct the Respondents to stop all or any construction activities within the project area of VRDP including demolition, dredging, digging, filling, levelling, construction, etc. being conducted by the Respondent No. 6, either directly or indirectly through

third parties, Private or Public or Contractual as per various expression of interests, including projects being undertaken in the name of Private Public Partnership (PPP), with immediate effect until due process of 'Environment Impact Assessment' (EIA) and 'Environmental Clearance' (EC) is accomplished.

**B.** Direct the Respondents to ensure that no construction activities whatsoever within the project area of VRDP are resumed, commenced or carried out either by them or any third parties, without valid Environment Clearance and until further orders from this Hon'ble Court.

**C.** Direct the Respondent No. 6, Vadodara Municipal Corporation to

stop the untreated municipal sewage from being dumped into the river.

**D.** Direct the Respondent No. 6, Vadodara Municipal Corporation to immediately remove the municipal waste which has been dumped into the ravines of Vishwamitri River over last decades and take steps to prevent further dumping of the same.

**E.** Direct the Respondent No. 6, Vadodara Municipal Corporation to immediately stop any new dumping activities—their own and those of other private entities—that fill up ponds (particularly Bhimnath, Motnath, Harni, and Sama ponds) and any other associated water bodies.

**F.** Initiate legal action under Sections 15 and 16 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 against the

concerned individuals, partnership firms, companies, etc., whoever has started any sort of work or activities in and around the bank of the Vishwamitri River without conducting proper Environmental and Social Impact Assessments and without obtaining Environment Clearance.

**G.** Initiate legal action under Section 17 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 against the concerned officers who have failed to ensure complete compliance of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 before commencement of the work in respect of 'Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project'.

**H.** Direct the Vadodara Municipal Corporation to submit the status report of present 'Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project',

including a transparent reporting of the money spent for the project and activities on the site carried out by them up till now.

**I.** Direct the Vadodara Municipal Corporation to take all necessary steps for restitution of the project area to its status quo ante;

**J.** For such further and other orders that this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit in the cause of justice.

Applicant No. 1

Applicant No. 2

Applicant No. 3

Applicant No. 4

Applicant No. 5

Applicant No. 6

Advocate for the Applicants

## V E R I F I C A T I O N

I, Rohit Prajapati, the Applicant No. 1 herein do hereby state and solemnly declare that what is stated in the above application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and I believe the same to be true.

Pune

07 April 2016

Applicant No. 1