

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

WRIT PETITION(S)(CIVIL) NO(S). 202/1995

IN RE : T.N. GODAVARMAN THIRUMULPAD

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

RESPONDENT(S)

INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATION FOR 19.03.2025 "ONLY"

I.A. NO. 55806 OF 2025 [Application for Impleadment filed by Ms. Shilpa Singh, Advocate] AND I.A. NO. 55814 OF 2025 [Application for Directions/Modification filed by Ms. Shilpa Singh, Advocate] IN RE : RAJINDER SINGH & ORS. IN WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 171 OF 1996 AND

I.A. NOS. 269550, 269552 AND 269553 OF 2024 [Application for Impleadment, Directions and O.T. filed by Ms. Rani Mishra, Advocate] IN RE : JUMMA & ORS. AND

I.A. NOS. 85332 AND 85124 OF 2023 [Applications For Intervention And Directions] WITH I.A. NOS. 60136 AND 60352 OF 2024 (Applications For Intervention Filed By Mr. Anurag Tandon, Advocate In I.A. No. 85332/2023) WITH I.A. NOS. 64180 AND 64434 OF 2024 [(Applications For Interventions Filed By Mr. Anurag Tandon, Advocate On Behalf Of "Bilibar Patar" And "Harichandra Boro", Applicants Respectively In I.A. No. 85332/2023) WITH I.A. NO. 67379 OF 2024 (Application For Permission To Bring On Record Additional Documents Filed By Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, Advocate In I.A. No. 85124/2023) IN RE : ROHIT CHOUDHARY IN RE : PITSING KONWAR & APURBA KUMAR DEKA IN RE : BILIBAR PATAR & HARICHANDRA BORO AND

I.A. NO. 212089 OF 2024 [Application for Impleadment in I.A. Nos. 58031 & 58032 of 2024 filed by Ms. Aruna Gupta, Advocate] AND I.A. NOS. 212084 & 212086 OF 2024 [Application for Directions & Exemption from filing O.T. in I.A. Nos. 58031 & 58032 of 2024 filed by Ms. Aruna Gupta, Advocate] AND [4 a] CIVIL APPEAL DIARY NO. 12516 OF 2019 AND [4 b] SUO-MOTU WRIT PETITION (C) NO. 1 OF 2023 IN RE : SARISKA TIGER RESERVE IN RE : PAVAN SINGH IN RE : CHAND KANWAR AND

I.A. NO. 5891 OF 2019 [Application For Directions] AND I.A. NOS. 259426, 259429 & 259431 OF 2024 (Applications for Impleadment, Directions and Exemption from filing O.T. filed by Ms. Rani Mishra, Advocate) IN RE : COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING AUTHORITY (CAMPA) FUNDS ALONGWITH IN RE: STATUS OF FUNDS IN RE: VAISHALI RANA AND

I.A. NOS. 99457 AND 99462 OF 2024 [Applications for Intervention and Clarifications filed by Ms. Shalini Kaul, Advocate] WITH I.A.

NO. 211469 OF 2024 [Applications for Intervention filed by Mr. Tarun Gupta, Advocate in I.A. 99457/2024] WITH I.A. NO. 256515 OF 2024 [Applications for permission to place Additional documents on record filed by Mr. Tarun Gupta, Advocate in I.A. 211469/2024] IN RE : SUMITRA NEGI & ORS.

IN RE : LIEUTENANT GENERAL SARVJIT SINGH CHAHAL (RETD.) & ORS. AND

I.A. NO. 263809 OF 2023 [Application for Intervention] WITH I.A. NOS. 263810, 263811 AND 263812 OF 2023 [Applications seeking permission to file application for Directions, Directions and Exemption from filing O.T.] AND I.A. NO. 92980 OF 2024 [Applications for placing on record Additional Documents in I.A. No. 263809/2023 filed by Dr. Surender Singh Hooda, Advocate for the Applicant] AND I.A. NO. 141598 OF 2024 [Applications for placing on record Additional Documents in I.A. No. 263809/2023 filed by Mr. Dinesh C. Pandey, Advocate for the Applicant No. 2]

IN RE : ANUJ KAUSHAN & ANR.

IN RE : SUKHNA LAKE AND

I.A. NO. 268213 AND 268214 OF 20234 [Application for Impleadment and Directions filed by Mr. Rajeev Singh, Advocate]

IN RE : ALL INDIAN KISAN SABHA ANDAMAN & NICOBAR STATE COMMITTEE AND GOURANGA CHANDRA MAJHI AND

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION(C) NO. 26642 OF 2024 AND

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION(C) No. 25047 OF 2018 AND

I.A. NOS. 1424-1425 OF 2005 AND 2749 OF 2009 (Applications for Directions and Stay)

IN RE : ALLEGED NON-FORESTRY ACTIVITIES AND ENCROACHMENT BY BALCO AND [ii] I.A. NOS. 2211 OF 2008 (Applications for Clarification of Court's Order dated 29.02.2008) In Re : BALCO AND [iii] I.A. NO. 3427 OF 2012 (Applications for Directions) WITH I.A. NOS. 167802 AND 167804 OF 2019 (Applications For Directions And Exemption From Filing O.T.) WITH I.A. NOS. 187590 AND 187591 OF 2019 (Applications For Directions And Exemption From Filing O.T.) IN RE : BALCO, RESPONDENT NO. 7 IN I.A.NO. 1424-1425 WITH [iv] CONTEMPT PETITION (C) No. 388 OF 2009 IN I.A. NOS. 1424-1425 IN WRIT PETITION(C) NO. 202 OF 1995 WITH SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION(C) NO. 37511 OF 2013 AND WRIT PETITION (C) NO. 469 OF 2005 AND

I.A. NO. 41723 OF 2022 (DISPOSED OF ON 18.12.2024) [APPLICATION FOR DIRECTIONS] IN RE : AMAN SINGH, RAJASTHAN IN RE : ORANS IN RAJASTHAN TO BE LISTED ONLY FOR RECEIVING THE COMPLIANCE REPORT AND

I.A. NO. 20650 OF 2023 (CEC REPORT NO. 3/2023 - REPORT OF CEC IN APPLN. NO. 1558/2021 FILED BEFORE IT BY GAURAV KUMAR BANSAL) WITH I.A. NO. 75033 OF 2023 (Application For Exemption From Filing O.T.) AND I.A. NO. 199355 OF 2024 (CEC REPORT NO. 16/2024 - INTERIM REPORT OF THE CEC ON APPLN. NO. 1578/2024 FILED BY SHRI ABHIJAY NEGI IN I.A. NO. 20650/2023) IN RE : GAURAV KUMAR BANSAL AND

CONTEMPT PETITION (C) DIARY NO. 39857 OF 2024

IN RE : K. MRUTYUNJAYA RAO AND

I. A. NO. 37210 OF 2025 [Application for Directions] WITH I.A. NOS. 44311 & 44314 OF 2025 (Applications for permission to take on record Additional Documents and Exemption from filing O.T.) IN RE : MOHSINA C/O. MOHD IRFAN

I. A. NOS. 79569 AND 79576 OF 2019 [Applications for Intervention and Directions] WITH I. A. NOS. 159670 AND 159677 OF 2019 [Application for Exemption from filing Official Translation] WITH I. A. D. NOS. 14261 AND 14262 OF 2021 [Applications for Urgent Listing of I.A. Nos. 79569 and 79576/2019 and Exemption from filing duly Attested Affidavit] AND I. A. NOS. 40599 AND 40624 OF 2023 [Applications for Intervention and Modification of Court's order dated 12.05.2022] AND I. A. NO. 220675 OF 2023 [Application for Direction in I.A. No. 79576/2019]

IN RE : SHRAMIK RICKSHAW CHALAK-MALAK SEVASANSTHA AND

I.A. NOS. 44500 & 44502 OF 2025 [Application for permission to file application for Impleadment and Application for Impleadment] AND I.A. NOS. 44507 & 44504 OF 2025 [Application for Directions and Exemption from filing O.T.] IN RE : M/S. JOINT STOCK COMPANY INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION 'VOZROZHDENIE' AND

I.A. NO. 285881 OF 2024 (Application for Impleadment as Co-petitioners filed by Mr. Arun K. Sinha, Advocate) WITH I.A. NOS. 285829 & 285830 OF 2024 (Applications for Directions and Exemption from filing O.T. filed by Mr. Arun K. Sinha, Advocate) AND I.A. NO. 300603 OF 2024 (Application seeking Impleadment of the owner of the Land as Party Respondent filed by Mr. Arun K. Sinha, Advocate)

IN RE : UDIT NARAYAN SONAKIYA & ANR. AND

I.A. NO. 12465 OF 2019 [Application for Directions] WITH I. A. NO. 98194 OF 2019 [Application for permission to file Additional Documents In I.A. No. 12465/2019] AND I. A. NO. 127871 AND 127874 OF 2020 [Application for Intervention and Directions] AND I.A. NO. 44602 OF 2025 (CEC REPORT NO. 08/2025 - Report in I.A. No. 12465/2019 filed by the Divisional Commissioner, Nagpur Division, State of Maharashtra (ZUDPI Land) IN RE : ZUDPI LANDS, STATE OF MAHARASHTRA IN WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 202/1995 "ONLY" ARE LISTED IN W.P.(C) No. 202/1995 "ONLY" ON 19.03.2025

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 171/1996 (PIL-W)

ONLY I.A. NOS. 55806 & 55814 OF 2025 IS TO BE LISTED.

IA No. 55806/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

IA No. 55814/2025 - MODIFICATION OF COURT ORDER

W.P.(C) No. 469/2005 (X)

FOR ON IA 10308/2006 FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. ON IA 2/2006

FOR ON IA 16560/2007 FOR STAY APPLICATION ON IA 3/2007 FOR ON

IA 32804/2008 FOR ON IA 89843/2008

IA No. 2/2006 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 3/2007 - STAY APPLICATION

CONMT.PET.(C) No. 388/2009 In W.P.(C) No. 202/1995 (PIL-W)
FOR ON IA 1/2017

SLP(C) No. 37511/2013 (IV-C)
(IA No. 68210/2018 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 90909/2018 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS
/FACTS/ANNEXURES IA No. 68208/2018 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

SLP(C) No. 25047/2018 (XVI)

Diary No(s). 12516/2019 (XVII)

[FOR PERMISSION TO FILE APPEAL ON IA 68527/2019 FOR CONDONATION OF
DELAY IN FILING ON IA 68530/2019 FOR EX-PARTE STAY ON IA
68535/2019 FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT
ON IA 68538/2019 FOR impleading party ON IA 220462/2024 FOR
INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT ON IA 220462/2024
IA No. 68530/2019 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING
IA No. 68535/2019 - EX-PARTE STAY
IA No. 68538/2019 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED
JUDGMENT IA No. 220462/2024 - INTERVENTION/ IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 68527/2019 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPEAL]

SMW(C) No. 1/2023 (PIL-W)
[TO FOR impleading party ON IA 227339/2024 FOR
INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT ON IA 227339/2024 FOR APPROPRIATE
ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 282482/2024 FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
ON IA 285430/2024
IA No. 282482/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 285430/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 227339/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

Diary No(s). 39857/2024 (PIL-W)

SLP(C) No. 26642/2024 (IV-B)
IA FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT ON IA
257198/2024 FOR PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION ON IA
33258/2025, IA No. 257198/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE
IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No. 33258/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE
APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION

Date : 19-03-2025 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH

Mr. Harish N. Salve, Sr. Adv. [A.C.] (Not Present)

Mr. A.D.N. Rao, Sr. Advocate [A.C.] (Not Present)
Ms. Aparajita Singh, Sr. Advocate [A.C.] (Not Present)
Mr. Siddhartha Chowdhury, Advocate [A.C.]

Mr. K. Parameshwar, Sr. Advocate [A.C.]
Ms. Kanti, Adv.
Mr. M.V. Mukunda, Adv.
Ms. Raji Gururaj, Adv.
Mr. Shreenivas Patil, Adv.
Ms. Chaitransha Singh Sikarwar, Adv.

Mr. Tushar Mehta, S.G.
Ms. Ankita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Arjun D. Singh, Adv.

Mr. Gurminder Singh, A.G. (Punjab)
Mr. Vivek Jain, D.A.G.
Mr. Mohd. Irshad, D.A.G.
Mr. Karan Sharma, AOR

Ms. Meenakshi Arora, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Nina Nariman, Adv.
Mr. Venkata Raghuvamsy D., Adv.

Mr. Nalin Kohli, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, Adv.
Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Adv.
Mr. Deepayn Dutta, Adv.
Mr. Anshul Malik, Adv.
Ms. Shruti Agrawal, Adv.

Ms. Madhavi Divan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Srishti Agnihotrai, Adv.
Ms. Sanjana Grace Thomas, Adv.
Aishani Nariin, Adv.

Ms. Meenakshi Arora, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Nina Nariman, Adv.
Ms. Aruna Gupta, Adv.

Mr. Shyam Divan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Nina Nariman, Adv.
Ms. Tahira Karanjawala, Adv.
Mr. Arjun Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Shreyas Maheshwari, Adv.
Ms. Sarah Ayreen Mir, Adv.
Ms. Sharanya Ghosh, Adv.
For M/s. Karanjawala & Co.

Mr. Narender Hooda, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Shiv Bhatnagar, Adv.
Mrs. Pallvi Hooda, Adv.
Mr. Yuvraj Nandal, Adv.

Mrs. Seema Sindhu, Adv.
Ms. Tannu, Adv.
Dr. Surender Singh Hooda, AOR

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mr. K. M. Nataraj Ld. Asg, A.S.G.
Mr. Shyam Gopal, Adv.
Mr. Salvador Santosh Rebello, Adv.
Ms. Suhasini Sen, Adv.
Mr. Raghav Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Adv.
Mr. Harish Pandey, Adv.
Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.
Mr. Anuj Srinivas Udupa, Adv.
Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Piyush Beriwal, Adv.
Mr. Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Mrinal Elker Mazumdar, Adv.
Mr. Shashwat Parihar, Adv.
Mr. Mukesh K Verma, Adv.
Mr. Vinayak Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.
Mr. Saurabh Rajpal, Adv.
Mr. Amogh Bansal, Adv.
Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR

Ms. Shilpa Singh, AOR

Ms. Rani Mishra, AOR

Ms. Shibani Ghosh, AOR
Mr. Anurag Tandon, AOR
Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR

Ms. Parul Shukla, AOR
Mr. Milind Kumar, AOR
Mr. Shrey Kapoor, AOR
Ms. Aruna Gupta, AOR
Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR
MR. Shyam D. Nandan, Adv.

Mr. G.S. Makker, AOR
Mr. Aravind S., AOR
Mr. Samir Ali Khan, AOR
Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, AOR
Ms. Purnima Krishna, AOR
Mr. Prashant Kumar, AOR
Mr. S.N. Terdal, AOR

Mr. V.N. Raghupathy, AOR

Mr. Karan Sharma, AOR
Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR
Mr. Sudeep Kumar, AOR
Mr. Shovan Mishra, AOR
Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR
Ms. Sugandha Anand, AOR
Mr. Abhishek Atrey, AOR
Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR
Mr. Aaditya A. Pande, AOR
Mr. K. Enatoli Sema, AOR
Mr. Pashupati Nath Razdan, AOR
Mr. Anando Mukherjee, AOR
Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AOR
Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR
Mr. Chirag M. Shroff, AOR
Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AOR
Ms. Mrinal Gopal Elker, AOR
Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR
Mr. Shishir Deshpande, AOR
Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR
Mr. Sravan Kumar Karanam, AOR
Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
Ms. Rani Mishra, AOR

Ms. Shalini Kaul, AOR
Mr. Tarun Gupta, AOR
Mr. Dinesh C. Pandey, AOR
Dr. Surender Singh Hooda, AOR
Mr. Rajeev Singh, AOR

Mr. Surender Singh Hooda, AOR
Mr. S.N. Terdal, AOR
Mr. Apoorva Singhal, AOR

Mr. Kunal Chatterji, AOR
Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR
Mr. Naresh Kumar, AOR
Mr. G.S. Makker, AOR
Mr. Anando Mukherjee, AOR
Ms. Pooja Dhar, AOR
Mr. S.N. Terdal, AOR
Mr. Mohit D. Ram, AOR

Mr. Pranav Sachdeva, AOR
Mr. P.S. Sudheer, AOR
Mr. Nishant Patil, AOR
Mr. Aswathi M.K., AOR
Ms. Prathibah Jain, AOR
Mr. Sunil Kumar Jain, AOR
Mr. Satish Kumar, AOR
Mr. Shankar Divate, AOR
Ms. Binu Tamta, AOR
Mr. Rohit K. Singh, AOR

Mr. Rajesh Srivastava, AOR
Mr. Radha Shyam Jena, AOR
Mr. Nishanth Patil, AOR
Mr. E.C. Agrawala, AOR
Mr. Farukh Rasheed, AOR

Mr. Siddharatha Jha, AOR
Mr. Sandeep Kumar Jha, AOR
Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR

Dr. Abhishek Atrey, AOR
Mr. G.S. Makker, , AOR
Mr. M.K. Maroria, AOR

Mr. Akshay Mann, Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar, AOR

Mr. Venkata Raghuvamsy D., AOR

Ms. Misha Rohatgi Mohta, AOR
M/S. Karanjawala & Co., AOR
Mr. Krishna Ballabh Thakur, AOR
Mr. T.R.B. Sivakumar, AOR
Mr. Aaditya A . Pande, AOR

Mr. Deeptakirti Verma, AOR

Mr. Arun K. Sinha, AOR
Mr. Ashutosh Kumar Sharma, AOR

Mr. Nishant R. Katneshwarkar, AOR
Mr. Aaditya A. Pande, AOR

Mr. Puneet Jain, Sr. Adv.
Mrs. Christi Jain, Adv.
Mr. Mann Arora, Adv.
Ms. Akriti Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Harsh Jain, Adv.
Mr. Om Sudhir Vidyarthi, Adv.

Mr. Rohit Bohra, Adv.
Ms. Nandana Menon, Adv.
Mr. Shyam D. Nandan, AOR

By Courts Motion, AOR

Ms. Purnima Bhat, AOR

Mr. Mukesh Kumar, AOR

Mr. Kunal Chatterji, AOR
Ms. Maitrayee Banerjee, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Bansal, Adv.

Mr. Sudiep Shrivastava, Adv.
Mr. Pranav Sachdeva, AOR
Mr. Jatin Bhardwaj, Adv.
Ms. Neha Rathi, Adv.
Mr. Abhay Nair, Adv.
Mr. P Rohit Ram, Adv.

Mr. Chanchal Kumar Ganguli, AOR
M/S. Plr Chambers And Co., AOR
Mr. Syed Mehdi Imam, AOR
Mr. T. Harish Kumar, AOR
M/S. Mitter & Mitter Co., AOR
M/S. Lawyer S Knit & Co, AOR

Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR
Mr. Gaichangpou Gangmei, AOR
Mrs. Anil Katiyar, AOR
Mr. Raj Kishor Choudhary, AOR

Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR
Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Adv.
Mr. Deepayan Dutta, Adv.

Mrs. B. Sunita Rao, AOR
Mr. Gunmaya S Mann, Adv.

Mr. Kamal Mohan Gupta, AOR

Mr. Sudarsh Menon, AOR
Mrs. Nimisha Sudarsh Menon, Adv.

Mr. Ramesh Babu M. R., AOR
Mr. Vikrant Singh Bais, AOR
Mr. Shiva Pujan Singh, AOR
Mrs. Manik Karanjawala, AOR

Mr. Bhavanishankar V.gadnis, Adv.
Mr. A. Venayagam Balan, AOR
Mr. Vishwanath Gadnis, Adv.
Mr. Yashodeep P Deshmukh, Adv.

Mr. Ejaz Maqbool, AOR
Mr. Rajesh, AOR
M/S. Corporate Law Group, AOR
Mr. Lakshmi Raman Singh, AOR
Ms. Charu Mathur, AOR
Mr. Rajiv Mehta, AOR
Mr. C. L. Sahu, AOR
Ms. Sumita Hazarika, AOR
Ms. Abha R. Sharma, AOR
Mr. Abhishek Chaudhary, AOR

Mr. Parth Awasthi, Adv.
Mr. Pashupathi Nath Razdan, AOR

Ms. K. V. Bharathi Upadhyaya, AOR
Mr. T. N. Singh, AOR
Mr. T. V. George, AOR
Mr. Krishnanand Pandeya, AOR

Mr. Neeraj Shekhar, AOR
Mrs. Kshama Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Rajesh Kumar Maurya, Adv.
Mr. Ujjwal Ashutosh, Adv.
Mr. Anand Krishna, Adv.
Mr. Sarfraz Ahmed, Adv.

Ms. Asha Gopalan Nair, AOR
Mr. Shashikant Pralhad Chaudhari, Adv.

Mr. Rajesh Singh, AOR
Mr. B V Deepak, AOR
Mr. Gopal Singh, AOR
Mr. Punit Dutt Tyagi, AOR
Mr. Rathin Das, AOR
Mr. Ratan Kumar Choudhuri, AOR
Mr. Sudhir Kulshreshtha, AOR

Mr. Himanshu Shekhar, AOR
Mr. Parth Shekhar, Adv.
Mr. Shubham Singh, Adv.
Mr. Mheshwaram Yadava Reddy, Adv.
Mr. Rajat Sinha Roy, Adv.
Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, Adv.
Mr. Anand Kumar Chaudhary, Adv.
Ms. Ambali Vedasen, Adv.
Mr. Prakhar Garg, Adv.
Mr. Vishal Prasad, Adv.
Mr. Mahabir Singh, Adv.
Mr. Vivek Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Mohan Dattatraya Armakar, Adv.
Mr. Youkteshwari Prasad, Adv.
Mr. Gyanesh Kumar Maheshwari, Adv.
Mr. Ritesh Kumar Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Verma, Adv.
Mr. Mata Prasad Pathak, Adv.

Mrs. Rekha Pandey, AOR
Ms. Gauri Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Raghav Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Ritesh Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Mohd. Irshad Hanif, AOR
Ms. Rifat Ara Butt, Adv.

Mr. Sudhir Kumar Gupta, AOR
Mr. A. N. Arora, AOR
Mr. Irshad Ahmad, AOR
Mr. G. Prakash, AOR
Mr. E. M. S. Anam, AOR
Ms. Hemantika Wahi, AOR
Mr. Pradeep Kumar Bakshi, AOR
Mr. P. V. Yogeswaran, AOR
Mr. Jitendra Mohan Sharma, AOR
Ms. Malini Poduval, AOR
Ms. C. K. Sucharita, AOR
Ms. Binu Tamta, AOR

Ms. Yogmaya Agnihotri, Adv.
Mr. Rohit K. Singh, AOR

Ms. Sushma Suri, AOR
Mr. K. L. Janjani, AOR
Mr. Naresh K. Sharma, AOR
Ms. A. Sumathi, AOR
Mr. Jai Prakash Pandey, AOR
Mrs. Anjani Aiyagari, AOR

Mr. Rajesh Srivastava, AOR
Mr. Gaurav Verma, Adv.

Mrs. Bina Gupta, AOR
Mrs. Rani Chhabra, AOR
Ms. Divya Roy, AOR
Mr. Tarun Johri, AOR
Mr. Radha Shyam Jena, AOR
Mr. Ajit Pudussery, AOR
Mr. Sunil Kumar Jain, AOR
Mr. Shibashish Misra, AOR
M/S. Parekh & Co., AOR

Ms. Surekha Raman, Adv.
Mr. Shreyash Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Imilikaba Jamir, Adv.
Mr. Harshit Singh, Adv.
Mr. Yashwant Sanjenbam, Adv.
M/S. K J John And Co, AOR

Mr. V. Balachandran, AOR
Mr. S. C. Birla, AOR
Mr. Ram Swarup Sharma, AOR

Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AOR
Mr. Dama Seshadri Naidu, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Prerna Singh, Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.

Mr. K. V. Vijayakumar, AOR

Mr. Umesh Bhagwat, AOR
Mrs. M. Qamaruddin, AOR
Mr. H. S. Parihar, AOR
Ms. Baby Krishnan, AOR
Mr. P. R. Ramasesh, AOR
Mr. Ashok Mathur, AOR
Mr. P. N. Gupta, AOR
Mr. Sarad Kumar Singhania, AOR
Mr. E. C. Agrawala, AOR
Mr. Kuldip Singh, AOR
Ms. Bina Madhavan, AOR
Mr. T. Mahipal, AOR
Mr. Rajat Joseph, AOR
Mr. Gopal Prasad, AOR
Ms. Jyoti Mendiratta, AOR
Mr. S.. Udaya Kumar Sagar, AOR
Mr. Ranjan Mukherjee, AOR
Mr. Rakesh K. Sharma, AOR
Ms. S. Janani, AOR
M/S. Arputham Aruna And Co, AOR
Mrs. Nandini Gore, AOR
Mr. Raj Kumar Mehta, AOR
Ms. Madhu Moolchandani, AOR
Ms. Pratibha Jain, AOR
Mr. Tejaswi Kumar Pradhan, AOR
Mrs. Kanchan Kaur Dhodi, AOR
Mr. Surya Kant, AOR
Mr. E. C. Vidya Sagar, AOR
M/S. M. V. Kini & Associates, AOR
Ms. Sharmila Upadhyay, AOR
Mr. Rajeev Singh, AOR
Mr. Prashant Kumar, AOR

Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Sinha, AOR

Mr. P. Parmeswaran, AOR
Ms. Sujata Kurdukar, AOR
Ms. Ankita Sharma, AOR
Nishanth Patil, AOR
Mr. M. Yogesh Kanna, AOR

Mr. Naresh Kumar, AOR

Mr. Kunal Mimani, AOR
Mr. Prashant Alai, Adv.
Ms. Prashant Alai, Adv.

Mr. K. R. Sasiprabhu, AOR

Mr. Sanchar Anand, Adv.
Mr. Apoorva Singhal, AOR
Mr. Shiv Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Aman Kumar Thakur, Adv.

Mr. Abhishek Bhardwaj, Adv.

Ms. Vibha Datta Makhija, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay, Sr. Adv.

Mr. P. S. Sudheer, AOR

Mr. Rishi Maheshwari, Adv.

Ms. Anne Mathew, Adv.

Mr. Bharat Sood, Adv.

Mr. Jai Govind M J, Adv.

Mr. Jai Govind M J, Adv.

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.

Mr. K. M. Nataraj A.S.G.

Mr. Shyam Gopal, Adv.

Mr. Salvador Santosh Rebello, Adv.

Ms. Suhasini Sen, Adv.

Mr. Raghav Sharma, Adv.

Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Adv.

Mr. Harish Pandey, Adv.

Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.

Mr. Anuj Srinivas Udupa, Adv.

Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.

Mr. Piyush Beriwal, Adv.

Mr. Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Adv.

Ms. Mrinal Elker Mazumdar, Adv.

Mr. Shashwat Parihar, Adv.

Mr. Mukesh K Verma, Adv.

Mr. Vinayak Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Mr. Anupam Raina, Adv.

Mr. Deepak Goel, AOR

Mr. Vikash Singh, AOR

Mr. Shankar Divate, AOR

Mr. Satish Kumar, AOR

Ms. Anjana Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Abhaya Nath Das, Adv.

Ms. Swagoti Batchas, Adv.

Mr. Om Prakash, Adv.

Ms. Swati Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Hitesh C Soni, Adv.

Ms. Vaishali H Soni, Adv.

Mr. Boya Kranthi Naidu, Adv.

Mr. Kishor Kumar Mishra, Adv.

Mr. B C Bhatt, Adv.

Mr. N D Kaushik, Adv.

Mr. Naveen Kumar, AOR

Mr. P. K. Manohar, AOR

Mr. Vinod Sharma, AOR

Ms. Surbhi Mehta, AOR

Mr. Rajeev Singh, AOR

Ms. Parul Shukla, AOR

Ms. Shubhangi Pandey, Adv.

Mr. Saday Mondol, Adv.

Ms. Dr. Monika Gusain, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, AOR

Mr. Hariom Yaduvanshi, Adv.

Mr. Arjun Yaduvanshi, Adv.

Ms. S. Harini, Adv.

Mr. Avi Dhankar, Adv.

Mr. Vansmani Tripathi, Adv.

Ms. Drishti Saraf, Adv.

Ms. Pragya Upadhyay, Adv.

Mr. Ashok Gaur, Sr. Adv.

Ms. Megha Karnwal, AOR

Ms. Sakshi Singh, Adv.

Mr. Aaditya Thorat, Adv.

Ms. S Soorya Gayathry, Adv.

Mr. Avishal Singh, Adv.

Mr. Balwant Singh Billwria, Adv.

Mr. Anirudh Ray, Adv.

Mr. Vivekanand Singh, Adv.

Mr. Rajinder Singh, Adv.

Mr. Akshay Singh, Adv.

Mr. Gurmeet Singh, Adv.

Ms. Shilpa Singh, AOR

Mr. B. K. Pal, AOR

Mr. James P. Thomas, AOR

Mr. S. Gowthaman, AOR

Mr. A. Karthik, AOR

Mr. Rajiv Kumar Choudhry , AOR

Ms. Vibha Datta Makhija, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Aastik Dhingra, Adv.

Mr. Anurag Tandon, AOR

Mr. Karan Mangain, Adv.

Mr. Samir Ali Khan, AOR

Mr. Pranjal Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Abhimanyu Jhamba, Adv.

Mr. Anil Kumar Verma, Adv.

Mr. Shishir Deshpande, AOR

Mr. Vishnu Kant, AOR

Ms. Shalini Kaul, AOR

Mr. K S Rupal, Adv.

Mr. Sunil Kumar Sharma, AOR

Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AOR
Ms. Devyani Bhatt, Adv.
Ms. Neha Singh, Adv.
Ms. Sneha Menon, Adv.

Mr. Siddharth Sharma, AOR

Mrs. Aishwrya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mrs. Archana Pathak Dave, A.S.G.
Mr. Raj Bahadur Yadav, AOR
Mrs. Ruchi Kohli, Adv.
Mr. Uday Prakash Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Suhasini Sen, Adv.
Mr. S S Rebello, Adv.
Mr. Raghav Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Sughosh Subramaniam, Adv.

Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, AOR
Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv.
Ms. Chubalemla Chang, Adv.
Mr. Prang Newmai, Adv.

Mr. Anant Mann, AOR
Mr. Shubhranshu Padhi, AOR

Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR
Mr. Alim Anvar, Adv.
Ms. Anu K Hoy, Adv.
Mr. Santhosh K, Adv.

Mr. Nishit Agrawal, AOR
Mr. Krishna Ballabh Thakur, AOR
Ms. Aruna Gupta, AOR
Applicant-in-person, AOR

Mr. S.P. Chaly, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Roy Abraham, Adv.
Ms. Reena Roy, Adv.
Mr. Adithya Koshy Roy, Adv.
Mr. Yaduinder Lal, Adv.
Ms. Rajni Ohri Lal, Adv.
Mr. Shrey Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Himinder Lal, AOR

Mrs. Pragya Baghel, AOR

Ms. Deepanwita Priyanka, AOR

Mr. Raghvendra Kumar, AOR

Mr. Sravan Kumar Karanam, AOR
Ms. Harshini Sharma, Adv.
Mr. P. Venkatraju, Adv.

Mr. Saurabh Rajpal, AOR

Ms. Anne Mathew, AOR
Mr. Gopal Balwant Sathe, AOR

Mr. Sarvam Ritam Khare, AOR
Ms. Shweta Chaurasia, Adv.
Mr. Kushagra Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Anuj Agarwal, Adv.
Mr. Akarsh Khare, Adv.

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mr. K. M. Nataraj, A.S.G.
Mr. Shyam Gopal, Adv.
Mr. Salvador Santosh Rebello, Adv.
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Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.
Mr. Anuj Srinivas Udupa, Adv.
Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Piyush Beriwal, Adv.
Mr. Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Mrinal Elker Mazumdar, Adv.
Mr. Shashwat Parihar, Adv.
Mr. Mukesh K Verma, Adv.
Mr. Vinayak Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Ms. Sunieta Ojha, AOR

Mr. Dinesh Chandra Pandey, AOR
Mr. Dushyant Dahiya, Adv.

Mr. Shrey Kapoor , AOR
Mr Rahul Jain, AOR
Mr. Kaushik Choudhury, AOR

Mr. Aravindh S., AOR
Mr. Akshay Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Aadithya Aravindh, Adv.

Mrs. Kirti Renu Mishra, AOR
Mr. Atul Sharma, AOR

Mr. Anirudh Sanganeria, AOR
Mr. Chinmay Deshpande, Adv.

Mr. Subhasish Mohanty, AOR
Ms. Pallavi Langar, AOR

Mr. Abhishek Atrey, AOR
Dr. Abhishek Atrey, Adv.
Ms. Ishita Bist, Adv.
Ms. Ambika Atrey, Adv.

Ms. Mrinal Gopal Elker, AOR
Mr. Chinmoy Chaitanya, Adv.

Mr. Dhaval Mehrotra, AOR

Mr. Ravindra Kumar, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Binay Kumar Das, AOR
Ms. Priyanka Das, Adv.
Ms. Neha Das, Adv.
Mr. Shivam Saxena, Adv.
Mr. Vikas Bharti, Adv.

Ms. Lakshmi N. Kaimal, AOR

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.
Mr. Saurabh Rajpal, Adv.
Mr. Amogh Bansal, Adv.
Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR

Ms. Ankita Sharma, AOR
Mr. Naveen Kumar, AOR

Mr. V. N. Raghupathy, AOR
Mr. Raghavendra M. Kulkarni, Adv.
Mr. Md. Apzal Ansari, Adv.

M/S. D.s.k. Legal, AOR

Ms. Shibani Ghosh, AOR
Mr. Rishad A Chowdhury, Adv.

Mr. Chandra Bhushan Prasad, AOR
Ms. Manika Tripathy, AOR

Mr. Sunil Kumar Verma, AOR
Mr. Desam Sudhakara Reddy, Adv.

M/S. Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas Aor, AOR

Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.
Mr. Sandeep Kumar Jha, AOR
Ms. Nidhi Jaswal Standing Counsel, Adv.

Mr. Milind Kumar, AOR

Mr. Mohit Paul, AOR
Ms. Rashmi Nandakumar, AOR

Mr. Rajeev Kumar Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Naveen Tripathi, Adv.
Ms. Saroj Tripathi, AOR

Mr. D.kumanan, AOR

Mr. Kunal Mimani, AOR
Mr. Prashant Alai, Adv.
Ms. Prashant Alai, Adv.

Ms. Adarsh Nain, AOR

Mr. Dama Seshadri Naidu, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AOR
Ms. Prerna Singh, Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Amrish Kumar, AOR

Ms. Purnima Krishna, AOR
Mr. M.f. Philip, Adv.
Mr. Karamveer Singh Yadav, Adv.

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mrs. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Ms. Suhasini Sen, Adv.
Mr. S.s. Rebello, Adv.
Mr. Raghav Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Gaurang Bhushan, Adv.
Mr. Jagdish Chandra Solanki, Adv.

Mr. Narender Hooda, Sr. Adv.
Mr. K.s.rupal, Adv.
Mr. Shiv Bhatnagar, Adv.
Mrs. Pallvi Hooda, Adv.
Mr. Yuvraj Nandal, Adv.
Ms. Tannu, Adv.
Mrs. Seema Sindhu, Adv.
Dr. Surender Singh Hooda, AOR

Mr. Aldanish Rein, AOR

Ms. Uttara Babbar, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Deeptakirti Verma, AOR
Ms. Neha Sharma, Adv.
Mr. N.k. Kantawala, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Dutta, Adv.
Mr. A.m. Nair, Adv.
Mr. Nishant Kantawala, Adv.

Ms. Seita Vaidyalingam, AOR

Mr. Kumar Anurag Singh, Adv.
Mr. Anando Mukherjee, AOR
Mr. Shwetank Singh, Adv.

Ms. Anzu. K. Varkey, AOR

Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR

Mr. Shreyas Gacche, Adv.
Mr. T. R. B. Sivakumar, AOR

Mr. Sujit Kumar Mishra , AOR

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
Mr. T.k. Nayak, Adv.
Mr. Daniel Lyngdoh, Adv.
Ms. Marbiang Khongwir, Adv.

Mr. Venkata Raghuvamsy D. , AOR
Ms. Pooja Dhar, AOR
Nishanth Patil, AOR
M/S. Venkat Palwai Law Associates, AOR
Mr. Ajay Marwah, AOR

Mr. Ravindra S. Garia, AOR
Mr. Shashank Singh, Adv.
Mr. Madan Chandra Karnatak, Adv.
Mr. G Sri Niwas Reddy, Adv.

Ms. Sugandha Anand , AOR

Mr. Lenin Singh Hijam, Adv. Gen, Adv.
Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR
Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv.
Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.
Ms. Lunita Hijam, Adv.

Ms. Ranjeeta Rohatgi, AOR

Ms. Vanshaja Shukla, AOR

Mr. Chirag M. Shroff, AOR

Ms. Mayuri Raghuvanshi, AOR
Mr. Vyom Raghuvanshi, Adv.
Ms. Akanksha Rathore, Adv.

Mr. Vivek Jain, AOR

Ms. Garima Prashad, Sr. A.A.G.
Mr. Sudeep Kumar, AOR
Ms. Manisha, Adv.
Ms. Rupali, Adv.

Mr. Gaurav Kumar Bansal, Adv.
Mr. Vishnu Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Nandita Bansal, Adv.
Ms. Rani Mishra, AOR

Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR
Mr. Rahul Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Aakash Thakur, Adv.
Ms. Ripul Swati Kumari, Adv.
Ms. Yachna Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mr. J K Sethi, D.A.G.
Mr. Ashutosh Kumar Sharma, AOR
Mr. Ajay Kumar Bahuguna, Adv.

Mr. Mohit D. Ram, AOR

Mr. Ajay Agarwal, A.A.G.
Mr. Rajeev Kumar Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Ashiwan Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Kamendra Mishra, AOR

Mr. Somesh Chandra Jha, AOR
Ms. Ruchira Goel, AOR

Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR
Mr. Bharat Bagla, Adv.
Ms. Aditya Krishna, Adv.
Mr. Adarsh Dubey, Adv.

Mr. Parth Awasthi, Adv.
Mr. Pashupathi Nath Razdan, AOR

Mr. Tarun Gupta, AOR
Mr. G.S. Dhillon, Adv.
Mr. Hirday Virdi, Adv.
Mr. Sidhant Ranta, Adv.
Mr. Sameer Chaudhary, Adv.

Mr. Shovan Mishra, AOR
Ms. Bipasa Tripathy, Adv.

Mr. Arun K. Sinha, AOR

Ms. Vibha Datta Makhija, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay, Sr. Adv.

Mr. P. S. Sudheer, AOR
Mr. Rishi Maheshwari, Adv.
Ms. Anne Mathew, Adv.
Mr. Bharat Sood, Adv.
Mr. Jai Govind M J, Adv.
Mr. Jai Govind M J, Adv.

Mr. Sunny Choudhary, AOR
Mr. Siddhartha Jha, AOR

Ms. Oshin Maggu, Adv.
Mr. Ayush Mittal, Adv.
Mr. S, Senthil Elangovan, Adv.
Mr. K Krishnamoorthy, Adv.
Mr. K Kummaravadivel, Adv.
Mr. C. Dinakaran, Adv.
M/S. V. Maheshwari & Co., AOR

Mr. Mayank Aggarwal, AOR

Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, AOR

Mr. Abhishek Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Prashant Kumar Umrao, AOR

Mr. Omanakuttan K. K., AOR

Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, AOR

Ms. Pratibha Jain, AOR
Mr. Sabarish Subramanian, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

[1] I.A. NO. 55806 OF 2025 AND I.A. NO. 55814 OF 2025 IN W.P.(C)
NO. 171/1996y

List on 26.03.2025.

[2] I.A. NOS. 269550, 269552 and 269553 of 2024

1. These applications have been filed by the applicants seeking the following reliefs:

a) Direct the Central Empowered Committee to investigate and submit a status report on the illegalities committed by various individuals, including government officials, in connection with the construction of the road.

b) Direct the State to take penal action against the individuals involved in the illegal construction of the road.

c) Order the restoration of the area affected by the illegal construction of the road.

d) Grant exemplary environmental compensation to the affected parties under the "polluter pays" principle.

2. It is the case of the applicants that certain persons are illegally, without approval of the competent authority, carrying on mining activities and construction of the road.

3. We, therefore, request the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to examine the matter and submit a report pertaining to the aforesaid within four weeks from today.

4. List on 16.04.2025.

[3] I.A.NOS.44500 & 44502 OF 2025 & I.A.NOS. 44507, 44504 OF 2025

List on 26.03.2025.

[4] I.A. NO. 41723 OF 2022 (DISPOSED OF ON 18.12.2024)

List on 16.04.2025.

[5] I.A. Nos. 1424-1425 of 2005 AND I.A. No. 2749 of 2009, I.A. No. 2211 of 2008, I.A. No. 3427 of 2012, I.A. Nos. 167802 AND 167804 of 2019 WITH I.A. Nos. 187590 AND 187591 of 2019 AND I.A. NO. 67672 OF 2025 (CEC REPORT NO. 09/2025 IN I.A. NOS. 1424-1425/2005) WITH CONTEMPT PETITION (C) No. 388 of 2009 IN I.A. Nos. 1424- 1425 of 2005 IN W.P.(C) No. 202 of 1995 WITH SLP(C)No. 37511 of 2013 AND W.P.(C) No. 469 of 2005

List on 16.04.2025.

1. In pursuance to the order dated 05.03.2025 passed by this Court, Ms. Radha Raturi, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun, Uttarakhand has filed an affidavit.
2. We had sought the response of the State Government since in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General certain issues with regard to the mis-utilization of the CAMPA fund were brought out.
3. The perusal of the affidavit would reveal that the amounts spent were on the activities which are directly or indirectly connected with afforestation and/or preservation of forest. The amount spent is about 1.8% of the total fund earmarked for utilization of CAMPA.
4. Insofar as the delayed deposit of interest is concerned, Mr. Tushar Mehta, learned Solicitor General for India submits that since the interest rates were not decided by the Central Government, the State Government could not deposit the same within the stipulated period. It is submitted that as soon as the Central Government notified the interest rates, the interest would be credited in the CAMPA fund.
5. In view of the averment made in the affidavit, we do not propose to proceed any further.
6. We find that the deviations, if any, are trivial in

nature, however, the State would ensure hereinafter that no deviations are made. The State would also ensure that the interest is deposited regularly at an approximate rate which can be subsequently adjusted, as and when the Central Government notifies the rate of interest.

7. In that view of the matter, the proceedings, insofar as the mis-utilization of the CAMPA fund is concerned, stand closed/disposed of.

Issue with regard to the ESZ notification for Rajaji National Park and Corbet National Park

1. Vide our order dated 05.03.2025, we had granted last opportunity for submitting the revised proposal for identification of the ESZ after taking into consideration the suggestions given by the Union of India.

2. Shri J.K. Sethi, learned Deputy Advocate General appearing for the State of Uttarakhand submits that in compliance of orders dated 20.02.2025 and 05.03.2025 the revised proposal has already been forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change ("MoEF&CC" for short) on 11.03.2025. He submits that two affidavits, one in respect of Rajaji National Park and the other in respect of Corbet National Park, have been filed by the State of Uttarakhand.

3. We, therefore, request the MoEF&CC to consider the revised proposal received from the State of Uttarakhand and to take steps for publication of final notification after

following the procedure as prescribed under the law.

4. Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General appearing for the MoEF&CC assures the Court that the procedure would be started forthwith and an attempt would be made to complete the same at the earliest.

5. List these applications after 12 weeks.

[7] IA No. 20650 of 2023 AND I.A. No. 75033 of 2023 AND I.A. No. 199355 of 2024

1. With regard to the departmental proceedings against the officers involved in illegal construction in the Corbet Tiger Reserve, an affidavit is filed by one Shri Dhirendra Kumar Singh, who is presently posted as Deputy Secretary, Forest Department, Government of Uttarakhand.

2. In the affidavit, the details of the departmental proceedings against the forest officers have been given.

3. In the said affidavit, two charts have been placed on record.

4. Insofar as the first chart is concerned, out of 17 officers, who are in the rank of Ranger, Deputy Ranger, Foresters and Forest Guards, the proceedings are completed insofar as 16 officers are concerned. Unfortunately one of them has died in the road accident.

5. However the second chart which pertains to the IFS officers is concerned, the charts would reveal that the

proceedings are moving at a snail's pace.

6. In one of the cases, though the reply to chargesheet is received as way back as on 22.05.2023, nothing has been done.

7. In case of officer at Sr. No.5, though the comments of delinquent officers has been received as early as on 27.01.2025, no further action has been taken.

8. We deprecate the practice of the State in proceeding at a great speed against the lower rank officers but proceeding against the IFS Officers at a snail's pace.

9. In respect of one of the officers, the matter has been pending with the MoEF&CC for a long time. The chart would show in spite of various reminders, the MoEF&CC has not responded.

10. We, therefore, direct the State to conclude all the departmental proceedings with respect to all the officers within the period of three months from today.

11. In case of the officer at serial No.4, the MoEF&CC shall send the information to the State Government as sought by it within a period of a fortnight from today.

12. We have also perused the report submitted by the Central Bureau of Investigation. We are satisfied with the progress of the investigation. The report would reveal that the investigation is complete and the final report under Section 173 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 would be filed before the Trial Court in due course.

13. List these applications after three months for further orders.

14. We expect the final report to be filed before the competent Court prior to the next date.

[8] I.A. NO. 12465 OF 2019 WITH I. A. NO. 98194 OF 2019 IN I.A. NO. 12465/2019] AND I. A. NO. 127871 AND 127874 OF 2020, AND I.A. NO. 44602 AND IA NO. 66986 OF 2025

List on 26.03.2025.

[9] I.A. NOS. 85332 AND 85124 OF 2023 WITH I.A. NOS. 60136 AND 60352 OF 2024 WITH I.A. NOS. 64180 AND 64434 OF 2024 WITH I.A. NO. 67379 OF 2024

1. Shri Nalin Kohli, learned senior counsel appearing for the State of Assam, submits that the process of re-demarcating the boundaries of the Pobitra Wildlife Sanctuary is under active consideration. The matter was referred to the State Board of Wildlife as well as the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). Learned senior counsel submits that something concrete would come up by the end of April, 2025 and therefore requests for an adjournment of the matter.

2. Adjourned to 21.05.2025.

[10] CONTEMPT PETITION (C) DIARY NO. 39857 OF 2024

List on 02.04.2025.

[11] I.A. NO. 5891 OF 2019 AND I.A. NOS. 259426, 259429 & 259431 OF 2024

1. Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General of

India, states that the report is at the stage of preparation and some time is required to finalize the same.

2. List on 16.04.2025.

[12] I.A. NO.212089 OF 2024 AND I.A. NOS. 212084 & 212086 OF 2024
AND CIVIL APPEAL DIARY NO. 12516 OF 2019
AND SUO-MOTU WRIT PETITION (C) NO. 1 OF 2023

List on 16.04.2025.

[13] I. A. NO. 37210 OF 2025 WITH I.A. NOS. 44311 & 44314 OF 2025

1. Application for directions has been filed by the applicant(s) with a grievance that though this Court has specifically banned mining activities within one kilometer of the Sariska Tiger Reserve, the mining activities are illegally being carried out.

2. In an affidavit filed by the State of Rajasthan, the same is specifically denied by the State. It is stated that the inspections are being conducted even at night times and on highways so as to prevent the illegal mining activities.

3. As against this, Ms. Meenakshi Arora, learned senior counsel appearing on behalf of the applicant(s), submits that in spite of the specific ban, mining activities are still going on illegally. Ms. Arora further submits that the equipments and machinery used for the purpose of mining activities are still lying within the area of one kilometer. It is submitted that unless the electricity connections are disconnected and those equipments and machinery are removed from the areas within one kilometer, the mining activities

in effect would not come to a standstill.

4. Shri K. Parameshwar, learned Amicus Curiae, submits that the better way to address the issue/concern would be that the State Government appoints a Nodal Officer for every district, wherein such grievances could be raised. Only upon non-consideration of the grievance by the aggrieved persons, such aggrieved persons can take recourse to the remedies available to them in law.

5. We, therefore, direct the State of Rajasthan to appoint/nominate a Nodal Officer in the office of District Mining Office, Alwar. Such officer, on receipt of the complaint would take a decision on the grievance of the person making it within a period of two weeks from the making the representation. If such a grievance is not entertained, the aggrieved person can approach the jurisdictional High Court for raising their grievance.

6. With these observations, these applications are disposed of.

[14] I.A. NOS. 99457 AND 99462 OF 2024 WITH
I.A. NO. 211469 OF 2024 WITH I.A. NO. 256515 OF 2024 AND

I.A. NO. 263809 OF 2023 WITH I.A. NOS. 263810, 263811 & 263812
OF 2023 AND I.A. NO. 92980 OF 2024 AND I.A. NO. 141598 OF 2024
& SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION(C) NO. 26642 OF 2024

1. Shri Gurminder Singh, learned Advocate General, appearing on behalf of the State of Punjab states that the border abutting Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Punjab is about 13.2 kilometers. He states that in the said area there are certain thickly populated areas and the concern of the people residing in such areas shall also be taken into consideration.

2. Learned Advocate General further submits that the State of Punjab proposes to have Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) ranging for 11.2 kilometers from the 13.2 kilometers area. Insofar as the remaining two kilometers is concerned the learned Advocate General states that the State Government proposes to have two 100 meters buffer zones where no activities would be permitted.
3. Learned Advocate General states that the proposal to that effect would be approved by the Cabinet and thereafter be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), within a period of four weeks from today.
4. Shri Narender Hooda, learned senior counsel, Ms. Shalini Kaul, learned counsel and Mr. Dinesh C. Pandey, appearing for the applicant(s) submit that the applicants have purchased residential plots in the proposed ESZ areas. It is submitted that though the residential activity is a permitted activity within the ESZ areas, the applications for grant of permission to carry out constructions are not being considered by the competent authority.
5. Shri Gurminder Singh, learned Advocate General for the State of Punjab, states that the respective Municipal Committees within whose jurisdiction such plots are situated would consider such applications in accordance with law and if the plans submitted are permissible with the requisite height restrictions there should be no impediment in granting the same.
6. We take the statement of learned Advocate General for the State of Punjab on record.
7. List after four weeks.

I.A. NO. 268213 AND 268214 OF 20234
IN RE : ALL INDIAN KISAN SABHA ANDAMAN & NICOBAR STATE COMMITTEE
AND GOURANGA CHANDRA MAJHI

List on 16.04.2025.

[15] SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION(C) No. 25047 OF 2018

List on 16.04.2025.

[16] I. A. NOS. 79569 AND 79576 OF 2019
WITH I. A. NOS. 159670 AND 159677 OF 2019
WITH I. A. D. NOS. 14261 AND 14262 OF 2021
AND I. A. NOS. 40599 AND 40624 OF 2023
AND I. A. NO. 220675 OF 2023

1. The issue pertains to placing the paver blocks on the mud roads situated in the hill city of Matheran.
2. Shri Shyam Divan, learned senior counsel appearing for the applicant(s), submits that the entire effort of placing paver blocks is an attempt to motorize the city of Matheran, which hitherto was a city meant only for pedestrians and the mode of transportation was either horses or manual rickshaws.
3. In our earlier orders, we had clearly observed that permitting plying of manual rickshaws in this day and age would be against the human rights.
4. We had, therefore, on an experimental basis permitted use of E-Rickshaws only for the purpose of rehabilitation of the rickshaw pullers.
5. The State is trying to justify the installation of paver blocks on the ground that if the paver blocks are not installed there is a possibility of soil erosion. The learned counsel

appearing for the State also submits that in collaboration with the I.I.T. Bombay, it is considering the installation of clay paver blocks instead of concrete paver blocks.

6. We find that it will be appropriate that the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), which is the most prestigious body in the sphere of Environmental Science examines the issue. We, therefore, call a report from NEERI on the following aspects:-

- i. As to whether it is necessary to install the paver blocks in order to avoid soil erosion.
- ii. As to whether there could be any other alternative than installation of clay-paver blocks, in order to avoid the soil erosion.
- iii. As to whether, installation of paver blocks would arrest the soil erosion.
- iv. As to whether the use of clay-paver blocks instead of the concrete paver blocks would address the issue.

7. The report, as above, be submitted within a period of four weeks.

8. The State of Maharashtra shall make necessary arrangements for the visit of experts from NEERI and provide them with all the facilities required for conducting the inspection and the necessary assistance for submitting the report.

9. List on 16.04.2025.

I.A. NOS.254548, 254550 & 254551 OF 2023

1. These applications were mentioned.
2. List these applications on 16.04.2025 along with other applications.

**(NARENDRA PRASAD)
DEPUTY REGISTRAR**

**(DEEPAK SINGH)
AR-cum-PS**

**(ANJU KAPOOR)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**