

FOREST CASE UPDATE

Issue 50, December 2008, January 2009

CONTENTS

1. Extracts from the Report of the CEC on Illegal Activities in Faridabad District, Haryana (Aravalli Hills)
2. Extract of the CEC Recommendations regarding construction of an indoor Stadium in Siri Fort Complex, New Delhi (I.A.2212)
3. Some Orders in the Godavarman Case in November and December 2008

Dear Friends,

It is our pleasure to bring you the 50th issue of Forest Case Update. We do hope that the endeavour which began in 2004 has over the last five years been as informative and useful to all readers as much as it has been for us. During this phase we have seen some of the most critical as well as controversial orders and decisions that have been passed. At the same time critical deliberation on issues of forest clearances and Net Present Value and Temporary working permits have been witnessed. There have been periods of intensive activity and comparative calm when it comes to Supreme Court and Central Empowered Committee (CEC) hearings related to forest matters.

While putting together this issue we realized that after a relatively lull period for more than a year far as the forest cases are concerned, there has been a sudden spurt in cases as well as orders passed. Over the last two months, the issue which has dominated the courts has been principally the case concerning mining in the Aravalli specifically in the District of Gurgaon and Faridabad in Haryana as also the issue of large scale construction of farmhouses and commercial complexes on forest land. CEC has submitted a strong report which in detailed manner highlights the ecological threat to the area and has recommended for demolition of all structures built in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act. The Court is yet to pass an order on the same but it has already created ripples among the high profile violators. Some extracts of the CEC with reference to Faridabad are highlighted in this issue of the newsletter

In another case, the CEC has submitted its report on the felling of trees for construction of sports complex in the Siri Fort area of New Delhi. Over 891 trees were cut in an area which qualifies it as a deemed forest. What started initially as a short matter of felling of 'few trees' has now become a case of accountability of authorities to the law of the land. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had

in a blatant and reckless manner cut down trees for a supposedly public project but in reality a commercial complex.

The period also saw the CEC having submitted its report on the issue of elephant corridor in Rajaji National Park. In a rare instance, a split recommendation was given to the Supreme Court on whether an over pass or under pass should be created over the Chilla corridor. We will report in detail in the next issue of Forest Case Update.

The last two months has seen some serious arguments on some very important conservation issues in the country, which is encouraging. Let us hope for the best!

Kanchi Kohli

Ritwick Dutta

Extracts from the Report of CEC on Illegal Activities in Faridabad District, Haryana (Aravalli Hills)

After considering the CEC report dated 28.8.2008 in IA No.1468 and 2138-2129 in IA No.891-892, this Hon'ble Court by order dated 1.9.2008 had asked the CEC to file the land use maps and macro plans in respect to the Aravalli Hills area in Haryana. Pursuant to the above order of this Hon'ble Court, the CEC has filed a Report (interim) dated 13.11.2008 which has dealt with the procedure that is being followed for the preparation of the village-wise land use maps, discussions being held with the State of Haryana to arrive at a consensus for environmentally sustainable land use of Aravalli Hills and related issues. In continuation of the said Report, this Report (Second) is being filed which deals with the Aravalli Hills in District Faridabad.

6. On perusal of the maps of these three representative villages it may be seen that:

- i) a very large number of mines, which are presently closed pursuant to the orders of this Hon'ble Court, fall in areas notified under Section 4 and/or 5 of PLPA and other area in and around the plantation. The report of the Forest Survey of India shows that atleast 134 mines fall in the areas notified under Section 4 and/or 5 of the PLPA. These include 28 mines in Lakarpur, 26 mines in Anangpur, 17 mines in Mewla Maharajpur, 11 mines in Badkhai, 19 mines in Gothra Mohabtabad and Nayagaon, 8 mines in Mangar and 7 mines in village Dhauj. It may be seen that the list compiled by the FSI does not include a large number of small/surface mines.
- ii) Many of the mined areas now have water in them; and
- iii) a large number of Colonies, Buildings, Banquet Halls, Farm Houses, Engineering Colleges, Schools, Ashrams etc. are located in areas notified under Section 4 and/or 5 of the PLPA and/or areas with forest cover. For ready reference a copy of the map prepared by FSI for the village Anangpur on the scale 1:7920 along with the details of some prominent non-forest uses marked thereon is enclosed at ANNEXURE-R2 to this Report.

7. The CEC is of the view that demolition of the above illegal Buildings/Colonies/Farm Houses etc. and rehabilitation of such areas should taken up by the State of Haryana in a time bound manner and no sale/purchase of such lands be permitted. The permission earlier granted, if any, for non-forestry use in such areas should be immediately revoked by the State of Haryana. The CEC does not agree

with the State of Haryana that large scale demolition may create serious law and order problem and that at least the buildings already constructed after obtaining permission/approval from the concerned authorities of the State should be regularized

8. It has been decided in consultation with the State of Haryana that after ground verification, reconciliation and rectification of the inconsistency, if any, the maps prepared by super-imposing the satellite imagery on the revenue maps along with the other details will be made available to the Revenue, Forest, Town & Country Planning Departments and the Mining Department of the State Government and that these details will also be published on the website so as to bring in the required transparency for the benefit of all the stake holders.

9. As stated in the Interim Report, the CEC with a view to ensure environmentally sustainable land use of Aravalli Hills has been holding meetings with senior officers of the State of Haryana to reach a consensus on the following:

- a) to treat the entire Aravalli Hills areas of Faridabad and Gurgaon District as prohibited zone for mining except specific locations exempted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court
- b) preparation of macro plans for State controlled mining in exempt areas
- c) demolitions of colonies, farm houses, banquet halls and other buildings illegally constructed in areas closed under Section 4 & 5 of PLPA such as Kant Enclave, Karmyogi Shelter Pvt. Ltd., Lake Wood View etc.; and
- d) identification of government infrastructure projects required in public interest

12. A consensus has been reached with the State of Haryana that Section 4 and/or 5 areas acquired and developed by the HUDA in its Sectors namely 21-C III, 44, 47 and 45, and used for the construction of the Gymkhana Club, Fire Station and the Police Post may be considered for regularization subject to 379 acres of the acquired land being notified as Reserved Forest/Protected Forests, deposit of Rs.45 crores by the State/HUDA in the Aravalli Rehabilitation Fund and other conditions. The details may be seen in para 7 of the Minutes of the meeting at Annexure R-4 of this Report.

13. In the above background, this Hon'ble Court may consider passing of appropriate order regarding:

- (a) time bound action plan for demolition of Colonies, Farm Houses, Banquet Halls/ and other non-forestry uses in the areas notified under Section 4 and/or 5 of PLPA and area under the plantations in District Faridabad. This Hon'ble Court by an order dated 14.5.2008 in IA No.1901 in M.C. Mehta matter has declined to grant any exemption/relief to Kant Enclave, Karmyogi Shelter and other colonizers and has held that the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 18.3.2004 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.4677 of 1985 is equally applicable to colonization and other non-forestry activities
- (b) prohibiting mining of major minerals in the Aravalli Hills in District Faridabad
- (c) revocation of all existing mining leases in District Faridabad
- (d) in principle permission for carrying out mining of construction material in 600 hectares of area in District Faridabad
- (e) prohibiting the use of Aravalli hills in District Faridabad for any non forestry purposes without the permission of this Hon'ble Court except the site specific identified Government Projects of public interest; and
- (f) regularisation of areas notified under Section 4 and/or 5 of PLPA and other forest areas falling in the identified HUDA sectors.

14. If permitted, CEC will file the details of the area identified for mining of construction material along with draft notification of Aravalli Rehabilitation Fund, Monitoring Committee and other details

in due course after the details are received from State Government with its observations thereon for seeking the specific directions of this Hon'ble Court.

15. The present Report provides for a comprehensive package for relief and prohibitions which are interlinked and should be considered as a whole. It would therefore be appropriate that decision on the various recommendations/observations made by the CEC in this Report are taken simultaneously. For instance, the regularization of HUDA sectors may be permitted only if the State of Haryana takes effective steps for demolition of buildings/structures in the areas notified under Section 4 and/or 5 of PLPA and other forest areas and rehabilitation of such areas.

16. The CEC will be filing its report regarding Aravalli Hills in District Gurgaon in due course after the preparation of the consolidated maps and ground verification work is completed.

This Hon'ble Court may please consider the above Report and may please pass appropriate orders in the matter.

Dated: 15.1.2009

(M.K. Jiwrajka)
Member Secretary

Extracts of the CEC recommendations construction of an indoor stadium in the Siri Fort Complex (I.A.2212)

1. IA No. 2272 n IA No. 2212 has been filed by learned Amicus Curiae with the following prayers:

- (a) to direct DDA and the Respondents 1 and 2 and their servants and agents (including the Commonwealth games Authority or Committee as may be) to relocate the stadium to be constructed to some other site, ensuring that any site selected should be such as to cause minimum disruption to the environment, and if such new site involves felling of trees, it should be after obtaining leave of this Hon'ble Court,
- (b) to direct the CEC to submit a report on the steps to be taken to restore the area by replanting a forest in the area, and other measures as may be necessary;
- (c) initiate proceeding against the officials concerned for committing a breach of the orders of this Hon'ble Court,
- (d) such other orders as may in the interest of justice be deemed necessary.

2. This Report is filed by the EC pursuant to this Hon'ble Court's order dated 10.11.2008 after examining the matter during the meetings convened by the CEC on 12th, 22nd and 24th December 2008 and undertaking site inspection on 5.12.2008 and 23.12.2008, during which the Residents Welfare Associations/residents of the nearby colonies and Members of the Siri Fort Sports Complex, officials of the DDA, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Traffic Police and representatives of the Organising Committee of the Commonwealth Games 2010, were present.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is undertaking construction of an Indoor Stadium with facilities for Badminton and Squash for the ensuing Commonwealth Games - 2010. As per the environment clearance dated 12.1.2007 accorded by the ministry of Environment and Forest (ANNEXURE-R-1), the project involves the construction of Indoor Stadium on a plot area of 10.91 hectares (about 27.70 acres) having a built up area of 50,000 sq. mtrs (25,000 sq. mtrs. +

25,000 sq. mtrs with two level basement parking). The estimated cost of the project has been revised from Rs.155.273 crores to Rs. 172 crores.

4. At the time of environmental clearance the DDA had stated that the project involved felling of 435 trees and an area of 10 hectares had been earmarked in Lado Sarai for compensatory afforestation. However the project involved felling of many more trees. It is seen that against the above 435 trees the DDA had sought permission for felling of 667 trees. The site visit by the Delhi Forest Department revealed that actually 891 trees are required to be felled. The specie-wise details of the 891 trees is enclosed at [ANNEXURE-R-2](#) to this Report.
5. The permission for felling of 891 trees had been accorded by the Delhi Forest Department after an exemption under Section 29 of the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, was accorded vide notification dated 23.8.2007 ([ANNEXURE-R-3](#)). As per the permission dated 24.8.2007 accorded by the Tree Officer and Deputy Conservator of Forest, South Forest Division ([ANNEXURE-R-4](#)), 748 trees were permitted to be cut down and the balance 143 trees were required to be transplanted. The photographs of the trees permitted to be felled and / or transplanted from the said area are enclosed at ([ANNEXURE-R-5](#)) to the Report. The permission has been accorded inter alia on the condition that 8,910 tree saplings will be raised at the various identified places during the financial year 2007-2008. Unfortunately, neither the DDA nor the Delhi Forest Department was able to confirm whether the transplanting of 143 trees and planting of 8,910 tree saplings has actually been carried out by the DDA.
6. As per the details provided by the Delhi Forest Department, the permission for felling of 891 trees from an area of 10.91 hectares (27.70 acres) has been accorded by the Delhi Forest Department by treating the area as non-forest land falling outside the Delhi Ridge. However, on going through the relevant document, it is seen that pursuant to this Hon'ble Court's order dated 12.12.1996, an Expert Committee was constituted by the Government of Delhi to identify the forest area in Delhi including the deemed forest area. The details of the areas identified as "Forest" have been filed before this Hon'ble Court through an Affidavit dated 15.9.1997 ([ANNEXURE-R-6](#)). While compiling the details of the forest area, none of the areas under the administration of the DDA was included because the DDA did not furnish any information to the said Expert Committee. Consequently the area wherein the Indoor Stadium is presently being constructed by the DDA stood excluded from the list of the identified forest areas. This exclusion of the forest area thus is not on merit. The exclusion of the forest area thus is not on merit. The exclusion of the forest area has taken place because the DDA failed to furnish the relevant information to the Expert Committee.
7. The CEC is of the view that the project suffers from serious pitfalls. At the outset the project should never have been taken up at the present location as it involved felling of a huge number of trees with all its inevitable serious adverse environmental impact including the destruction of the massive green areas. Practically all the trees had girth of more than one foot while many had girth measuring over three feet. The photographs of the area taken by the Delhi Forest Department at the time of enumeration of the trees show that the area was not only lush green but was also well stocked with trees and in all probability would have fallen in the category of deemed forest.
8. It is seen that the permission for felling tree was granted and project work was allowed to be taken on the technical ground that the area is not part of the identified forest. This had happened because as stated earlier the DDA did not furnish to the Expert Committee all the necessary details of the forest area under its administrative control. This failure on the part of the DDA is compounded by the fact that the Delhi Forest Department before granting the felling permission did not deem it necessary to examine whether in view of the large number of trees the area falls in the category of deemed forest. The Forest Department did not also make any assessment regarding the adverse impact of felling of the very large number of trees. The Forest Department did not also examine whether there was any necessity of felling the trees from the entire project area or whether felling should have mainly been restricted to the area where the Indoor Stadium was being construction. This will be evident

from the fact that though the main building occupies about 6.25 acres of area, the tree felling has been done over the entire project of 27.70 acres. With proper planning and execution, tree felling in many of the areas could have been easily avoided or minimized.

9. In the above context, it may be noted that the projects related to the Commonwealth Games - 2010 such as expansion and upgradation of Talkatora Stadium of NDMC, upgradation of SP Mukherjee Sport Complex of CPWD, upgradation of new construction of Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range at Tughlakabad, construction of Express Metro Link to Airport of DMRC, and the construction of Outub Minar Gurgaon link of DMRC have been undertaken after seeking permission of this Hon'ble Court. Had this project been properly examined it would in that case in all probability not have been spared the present sorry spectacle.
10. During the site inspection it was observed / reported that the Indoor Stadium is being constructed with a provision for underground parking for 850 vehicles and which is nearing completion. It was informed that this parking space however will not be put to any use during the Commonwealth Games 2010 - for that matter later on also for any important games event - because of security considerations. It is unfortunate that when the large concrete structures were coming up it did not strike anyone that the construction of the parking area in the basement area is going to be a huge wasteful expenditure. This security aspect was also not divulged while seeking the environmental clearance. If this parking area is at all ever to be used an approach road to it would be unavoidable. All this will put the final seal of destruction of the greenery in the area forever and also ensure perennial disturbance to the large number of residents in the area.
11. DDA's complete lack of sensitivity in chopping down trees and going in for the concrete structures for the Indoor Stadium has been vehemently resented by the large number of residents of the area and who have through their Associations filed many petitions before the CEC accusing the DDA of being insensitive to the environmental and ecological implications. They have also accused DDA of malafide, the fear of the residents of the area being that the construction of the basement parking is the first step by the DDA towards setting up of banquet halls and commercialization of the area as was done after the Asian Games 1982 in the Siri Fort Complex. In the light of the past experience this apprehension, though not supported by any documentary evidence cannot be out-rightly rejected.
12. The DDA intends using additional area for movement of the vehicles of the VVIPs/Games participants, temporary parking place, media coverage, catering etc. For this purpose the area under existing Golf Driving Range, hockey ground walking track, skating rink, children park etc. at the Siri Fort Complex is planned to be used. This, in addition to cutting of more trees, would also result in permanent damage to these areas. There is much opposition and resentment to all this amongst the local residents and users of the Siri Fort Sports Complex.
13. The CEC is of the view that the use of additional area for the above purposes could have been easily avoided with proper planning. Moreover had the Indoor Stadium been properly located and designed at the existing site the need for this additional area at the Siri fort Sports Complex site would not have arisen. Evidently, when the project was conceived very little thought that appears to have been given as to how the Games participants/VIPs etc., will enter the new Complex.
14. During the site visit the CEC suggested an alternate route for the movement of the VIPs Game's participants etc., and also for temporary parking of their vehicles (if the project is to be implemented at all). The alternate, which has been accepted by the DDA, the Delhi Police and the local residents, is given in the schematic map enclosed at [ANNEXURE-R-7](#) to this Report. The alternative provides that the approach to the above Games Complex could be from the August Kranti Marg/Siri fort Auditorium Complex side. After entering the Siri Fort Sports Complex it could enter inside the Golf Driving Range from the extreme left end through a temporary opening and a track about 9 meters wide. This track to be laid inside the Golf Driving Rang would go up to the point as shown in the map and from where the vehicles of the VIPs and Games Participants would turn into the Badminton and Squash Court Complex to reach the alighting point. The vehicles will return towards the farthest end of the Golf

Driving Range (adjoining the Hockey Grounds) which would be the temporary parking space for vehicles during the games period. In this way the trees standing between the Golf Driving Range and the Games Stadium under construction would not be required to be felled. As soon as the Games are over, the Gold Driving Range should be restored to pre-games status with the option of using Golf Driving Range during important games events.

15. During the site visit the CEC was informed that as art of the integration of the Indoor Stadium with the existing facilities for sports, DDA has decided to re-locate some of these facilities within the Sri Fort complex. This may result in further destruction of greenery in the area. It would, therefore, be appropriate that no change in the existing land use or facility is undertaken by the DDA unless and until it is environmentally friendly. It also needs to be ensured that the Stadium and connected facilities are not allowed to be used in future for any commercial purpose or any non-sports activities such as opening of restaurants, banquet halls, food courts, commercial parking, offices, marriage venues, etc. and the like.
16. To sum up, the CEC is of the view that this project should never have been taken up at the present site/location. However, if for some unavoidable reasons it was to be implemented at the present site then with a proper design and planning felling of such a large number of trees could have been avoided. The additional area proposed to be used for the movement of the VIPs and Games participants, temporary parking etc. could also have been avoided. The project has been planned and implemented with a brazen and cavalier approach and the project authorities did not have any compunction whatsoever about wasting public money. It is imperative that all those responsible for the reckless felling of trees and infructuous expenditure on the basement parking are identified and stringent action taken against them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

17. Ideally, the CEC would prefer that the construction taken up by the DDA in the area is demolished and the area is reclaimed and rehabilitated y planting adequate number of trees. However if for any reason such as time constraint for creating alternative facilities for the ensuing Commonwealth Games, it is found necessary to permit the project at the existing site, this Hon'ble Court may consider the same on the following conditions:
 - i) A High Powered Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Delhi, with one representative each of the MOEF (not below the rank of Inspector General of Forest), DDA (not below the rank of Commissioner), Conservator of Forest, Delhi Government and three non officials as its members will be constituted. For the non official members the names of Shri M.L. Lahoty, Advocate, Supreme Court, Ms Sonali Bhagwati, Architect and a resident of Panchsheel Park and Mr. Gautami Bhatia, Architect and a resident of Gulmohar Park may be considered;
 - ii) The Monitoring Committee will be responsible for restoration and rehabilitation of the area in and around the project site. No further felling of tree in the area or change in the existing land use will be undertaken without the permission of the Monitoring Committee;
 - iii) An amount of Rs. five crores will be provided by the DDA for undertaking rehabilitation and restoration and greening of the area in and around the project site. The amount will be kept in fixed deposit in a nationalized bank and interest thereon will be used for this purpose under the close supervision of the Monitoring Committee. The Committee will prescribe its procedure and lay down transparent guidelines for the administration, use and audit of the Fund;
 - iv) No commercial use or non-sports activities will be permissible in the Indoor Stadium and surrounding areas;
 - v) The basement area will not be used for the parking purposes. The Monitoring Committee will decide the best use of the basement for sports and related activities;

- vi) The approach road for the movement of VIPs and Games participants and others will be constructed as per the layout given in the schematic map at Annexure-R-7 to the Report. After the Games are over, the status-quo ante will be restored; and
- vii) The entire area wherein tree felling has been undertaken except the areas which are necessarily required to be kept under construction will be restored by planting of suitable species of trees and shrubs as per the details decided by the Monitoring Committee.

18. It is also recommended that this Hon'ble Court may consider directing the Delhi Forest Department to identify deemed forest areas out of the areas under the administrative control of the DDA and the other agencies.

This Hon'ble Court may please consider the above report and may please pass appropriate orders in the matter.

Dated: 22.1.2009

(M.K. Jiwrajka)
Member Secretary

Some Orders in the Godavarman Case in October 2008

In Issue 49 we have included most of the orders of November 2008. However, the orders of the last hearing of the month were not available at the time the Update was being finalized. In this issue we are putting forth some decisions and directions of the Supreme Court in the months of November and December 2008. The hearings in January 2009 so far have not seen any substantial and/or significant order.

Orders Dated 28.11.2008

- I.A.NO.1424-25 (Regarding instances of violations, encroachment and illegal mining and industrial operations in Chhattisgarh by BALCO, ESSAR and others)

Heard learned senior counsel appearing for the applicant.

Our attention has been drawn to the CEC Report and having gone through it, we understood that M/s.ESSAR while carrying out the project of laying down the pipelines, has violated some conditions of licence and caused damage to the forest, though these facts are denied by Mr. Mukul Rohtagi, learned senior counsel appearing for ESSAR. Having regard to the report filed before us we are of the view that an additional sum of Rs.50 lakhs should be paid by ESSAR within a period of four weeks and the same be deposited in a separate account which shall be maintained by CEC.

Matter relating to Mr. Anil Lunia

CEC has filed its report in IA 1424-25. We are told that in this connection three writ petitions are also pending before the High Court of Chhattisgarh. In one petition the Conservator of Forests, Chhattisgarh is the petitioner and in the other two petitions one Mr. Anil Lunia is the petitioner. Learned counsel appearing for Mr. Anil Lunia and also the petitioner State have no objection for transferring these cases to the file of this Court. Accordingly, we order transfer of W.P.(C) Nos.6355, 5874 and 6458 of 2005 pending before the High Court to the file of this Court. The

Registrar of the High Court of Chhattisgarh shall see that the entire records of these cases be transferred to the Secretary General of this Court for taking further orders. Parties to complete pleadings within a period of four weeks.

Post for directions on 23.1.2009.

Orders Dated 5.12.2008

- I.A.No.941 in IA No.754-755 with I.A.No.777, 1131-1133, 1138-1146, 1148, 1184, 1272, 1361, 1579-1580 (Regarding Saw Mills in Orissa)

It is submitted by learned senior counsel for the applicants that in Orissa, the 1991 Act/Rules stipulate that there shall not be any saw mill within a distance of 10 mtrs. Of the upper boundary of the forest area and it is pointed out by the learned counsel for the State that in the State of Orissa not a single space is available to have a saw mill if the rules are strictly applied. Learned counsel appearing for the State submits that as to whether permission for any saw mill could be given in the identified industrial estate.

Learned counsel for the State, in consultation with CEC, shall file an affidavit indicating the steps taken by the State in this regard.

Adjourned by four weeks.

- I.A.NO.2432 (Regarding permission for use of forest land in the Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary for the construction of the Bobdakuva Mota Raska -Lambhiya-Zand Zand hanuman road in Vadodara, Gujarat)

By way of this application the State is seeking permission for use of forest land falling in the Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary for the construction of the Bobdakuva Mota Raska -Lambhiya-Zand Zand hanuman road in Vadodara. The CEC has examined the feasibility of the construction of the road to the wildlife sanctuary and has recommended

subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The conditions are acceptable to the State. The State has also agreed to reduce the width of the road from 10 mtrs. to 6 mts.

Subject to fulfillment of the conditions stipulated by the CEC, the project is approved. I.A. is disposed of accordingly.

- I.A.No.2433 (Regarding ex-post facto permission to Indian Oil Corporation for land in a marine national park):

By this application the Indian Oil Corporation seeks ex-post facto permission for use of land falling in the marine sanctuary and the marine national park for laying the pipeline from the Single Buoy Morning (SBM) to its depot. The execution has already been carried out by the IOC and the CEC has examined the matter and has given certain recommendations. We are told that the NPV has not been paid. The applicant shall pay the NPV within a period of eight weeks, and carry out the recommendations.

Ex-post facto permission is granted accordingly. I.A. is allowed in the above terms.

Editors: Ritwick Dutta and Kanchi Kohli

For further information and clarifications please write to forestcase@yahoo.com

Coordinating addresses: E-180, Greater Kailash 2, New Delhi-110048 and
C-106, Sector 40, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Visit the Forest Case Update Website for past issues and accessing the orders of the Supreme Court and Central Empowered Committee: www.forestcaseindia.org

We would like to acknowledge the support of Foundation for Ecological Security. The support for the procurement of the Supreme Court orders has been received from Rufford's Small Grants.