

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**EASTERN BENCH, KOLKATA**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 82 OF 2026

Veterans Forum for Transparency in Public Life Applicant

Versus

Govt. of Bihar & Ors.

..... Respondents

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.....Respondents

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.03, MEMBER
SECRETARY, BIHAR STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY, PATNA, BIHAR**

I, Amit Kumar, Male, aged about 45 yrs, Son of Jainath Singh Resident of Dighi Kala, Hajipur, District-Vaishali, Bihar do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

1. That I am presently posted as Member Secretary, Bihar State Wetland Authority, Govt. of Bihar. I am authorized to file the instant affidavit on behalf of the Respondent no. 03. I am aware of the facts of the present case on the basis of the official records maintained, that I believe to be true. As such, I am competent to depose the present affidavit.

That I have read the contents of the affidavit and have understood the same.



/

Sl No. 506 Date 15.07.26

Sri/Smt. who is identified by Sri. Advocate solemnly affirmed & declared before me.

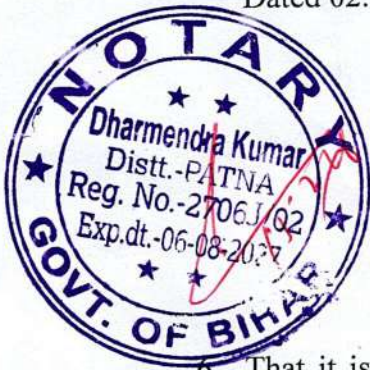
Dharmendra Kumar
Notary Public (Patna)

3. That It is alleged by the applicant that as per publication of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), there are 543 Wetland in the Saran district spread over 21170 hectares, which comprises about 8 percent of the geographical area of district. It is also alleged that Bhatkesari, Gamarhia and Mangolpur Wetland are connected with each other with Pynes (channel) and during rainy season transfers excess water within themselves.
4. That the Bihar State Wetland Authority (BSWA) is a statutory authority constituted by the State Government in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 for conservation, management, notification and monitoring of wetlands within the State of Bihar.

(A Copy of BSWA Notification No. 160 Dated-
31.01.2020 as annexed as Annexure-01)

5. That the Bihar State Wetland Authority has initiated ground-truthing, digital demarcation, the process of preparation of Brief Documents for notification of wetlands of size greater than 2.25 hectare in accordance with the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 as per directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court order No. Subject: W.P. (C) No.304/2018 - Anand Arya vs. Union of India along with W.P. (C) No.230/2001 and W.P. (C) No.302/2020 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court Demarcation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing.

Dated 02.12.2024.



(A Copy of Hon'ble Supreme Court order no.
WP (C) 304/2018 along with W.P. (C)
No.230/2001 and W.P. (C) No.302/2020 dated
11.12.2024 as annexed as Annexure-02)

6. That it is submitted that, out of the total 4,316 wetlands listed on the 'Save Wetlands Campaign' website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

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(MoEF&CC), Government of India, ground-truthing was conducted for all 4,316 wetlands. Upon such verification, it was found that 405 wetlands were non-existent, and the remaining 3,911 wetlands were duly demarcated using the shape files received from the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), MoEF&CC, Government of India.

(A Copy of the report submitted to Wetland Division MoEF&CC on 21.03.2025 as annexed as Annexure-03)

7. It is respectfully submitted that these three wetlands situated in the District of Saran, State of Bihar, as referred to in the present application, are included in the existing list of wetlands (having an area greater than 2.25 hectares) in the State of Bihar.
8. That it is alleged by the applicant that over the period all the three Wetland has become non-functional due to cause of unplanned construction in the Wetland area, Pollution and waste disposal, Encroachment and land reclamation, Invasive species, Climate change and hydrological changes.
9. That the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, vide Letter No. 277 dated 22/04/2026, has directed the Divisional Forest Officer, Saran, to conduct an inspection and submit a factual report with respect to the status of these three Wetland.

(A Copy of Additional Chief Conservator of Forest, vide Letter No.277 dated 22/04/2026 as annexed as Annexure-04).



10. That it is respectfully submitted that the Divisional Officer, Saran, after conducting a site inspection, submitted his inspection report supported by GPS-based photographs. Based on the said inspection report it has been found that no construction activity is presently

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being undertaken in and around these said wetlands and no such waste disposal site was observed in and around these three wetlands.

(A Copy of Inspection Report as submitted by Divisional Forest Officer, Saran as annexed as Annexure-05).

11. That the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, vide Letter No. 276 dated 22.04.2026, has issued necessary directions to the District Magistrate, Saran, for taking appropriate action in the alleged matter and for submission of a status report.

(A Copy of Additional Chief Conservator of Forest, vide Letter No.276 dated 22/04/2026 as annexed as Annexure-06).

12. That the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, vide Letter No. 278 dated 22.04.2026, has issued necessary directions to the Member Secretary, Bihar State Pollution Control Board, Bihar, Patna for taking appropriate action in the alleged matter and for submission of a status report.

(A Copy of Additional Chief Conservator of Forest, vide Letter No.278 dated 22/04/2026 as annexed as Annexure-07).

13. That it is also alleged that arbitrary and paper-based survey and demarcation of the extent of Bhatkesari, Mangolpur and Gamarhiya Wetland has been carried out by respondent no.3 which is devoid of ground realities and map data of Survey of India and Space Application Centre Atlas, 2021 has not been taken into consideration and because the respondent no.3 has failed to identify area of influence of said Wetlands.

14. That it is submitted that, out of the total 4,316 wetlands listed on the 'Save Wetlands Campaign' website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



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(MoEF&CC), Government of India, ground-truthing was conducted for all 4,316 wetlands. Upon such verification, it was found that 405 wetlands were non-existent, and the remaining 3,911 wetlands were duly demarcated using the shape files received from the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), MoEF&CC, Government of India.

15. It is respectfully submitted that these three wetlands situated in the District of Saran, State of Bihar, as referred to in the present application, are included in the existing list of wetlands (having an area greater than 2.25 hectares) in the State of Bihar.
16. That these three wetlands have been identified and based on assessment of the brief documents; the boundary and zone of influence will be decided for notification under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017.
17. That it is stated that there is large scale violation of Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 over the area of Gamraha, Mangolpur and Bhatkesari Wetlands in Saran District, Bihar.
18. That the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, vide letter No.03 dated 02.01.2026 has given necessary direction to all Collector in the state to comply with the Order dated 4th October, 2017 passed by the Hon'ble apex court in W.P. (C) No. 230 of 2001 with respect to Protection of Wetlands as per Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

(A Copy of the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Letter no. 03 dated 02.01.2026 as annexed as Annexure-08).



who has signed in my presence
ADVOCATE

fin

DEPONENT

(AMIT KUMAR)

VERIFICATION

Verified at Patna on day of July, 2026, that the averments made in the present affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and information derived from records of the matter and Annexures are true copy of the original, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.




DEPONENT

AMET KUNAR

Identify the Deponent signature,
who has signed in my presence


ADVOCAT



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



अमित कुमार
Amit Kumar
जन्म तिथि/DOB: 01/03/1981
पुरुष / MALE



8144 4689 8173

मेरा आधार, मेरी पहचान

भारतीय पहचान प्रमाणिका
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पता:
आत्मज: जयनाथ सिंह, दीधी
कला, हाजीपुर, वैशाली,
बिहार - 844101

Address:
S/O: Jai Nath Singh, Dighi Kala,
Hajipur, Vaishali,
Bihar - 844101

8144 4689 8173

MEERA AADHAAR, MERI PEHACHAN



बिहार सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन एवं विभाग

अधिसूचना

संचिका संख्या - वन्यप्राणी-16/2012-160..... (ई.) / प.व.ज.प., पटना- 15, दिनांक 31/01/2020

बिहार राज्य में लगभग समस्त आर्द्रभूमि क्षेत्र प्राकृतिक वन क्षेत्र के बाहर अवस्थित हैं। घनी आबादी के कारण ऐसे क्षेत्रों के विभिन्न स्वरूप पर मानवीय उपयोग का सघनतम दबाव बना रहता है। इन परिस्थितियों में आर्द्रभूमि के संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन हेतु सभी संबद्ध विभागों से विभिन्न अवयवों पर ठोस एवं कारगर कार्रवाई सुनिश्चित करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार के द्वारा आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन) नियम, 2010 को अवकमित करते हुए आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन) नियम, 2017 को अधिसूचित किया गया है।

भारत सरकार की उक्त अधिसूचना दिनांक 26.09.2017 के आलोक में नए नियम के प्रभावी होने पर बिहार राज्य आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण का पुनर्गठन निम्नवत् किया जाता है:-

1	माननीय मंत्री, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग, बिहार, पटना	अध्यक्ष
2	अपर मुख्य सचिव-सह-विकास आयुक्त, बिहार, पटना	उपाध्यक्ष
3	अपर मुख्य सचिव/प्रधान सचिव, /सचिव पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग, बिहार, पटना	सदस्य (पदेन)
4	अपर मुख्य सचिव/प्रधान सचिव/सचिव, नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग, बिहार, पटना	सदस्य (पदेन)
5	अपर मुख्य सचिव/प्रधान सचिव/सचिव, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग, बिहार, पटना	सदस्य (पदेन)
6	अपर मुख्य सचिव/प्रधान सचिव/सचिव, जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना	सदस्य (पदेन)
7	अपर मुख्य सचिव/प्रधान सचिव/सचिव, पशु एवं मत्स्य संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना	सदस्य (पदेन)
8	अपर मुख्य सचिव/प्रधान सचिव/सचिव, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना	सदस्य (पदेन)
9	अपर मुख्य सचिव/प्रधान सचिव/सचिव, पर्यटन विभाग, बिहार, पटना	सदस्य (पदेन)
10	अपर मुख्य सचिव/प्रधान सचिव/सचिव, राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग, बिहार, पटना	सदस्य (पदेन)
11	निदेशक, बिहार रिमोट सेंसिंग एप्लिकेशन सेन्टर, पटना	सदस्य (पदेन)
12	अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-मुख्य वन्यप्राणी प्रतिपालक, बिहार, पटना	सदस्य (पदेन)
13	सचिव, बिहार राज्य जैव-विविधता पर्षद	सदस्य (पदेन)
14	सदस्य सचिव, बिहार राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण पर्षद	सदस्य (पदेन)
15	अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, रांची क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय; पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार	सदस्य (पदेन)
16	श्री सोमनाथ बन्धोपाध्याय, असोशिएट प्रोफेसर, स्कूल ऑफ इकोनॉमिक्स ऐण्ड इन्वायरमेंट स्टडीज, नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय, राजगीर, बिहार	विशेषज्ञ सदस्य वेटलैण्ड इकोलॉजी
17	प्रो० (डॉ०) संतोष कुमार, पूर्व प्रोफेसर, सिविल इंजीनियरिंग डिपार्टमेंट, बिहार कॉलेज ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग (सम्प्रति एन0आई0टी0), पटना	विशेषज्ञ सदस्य हाईड्रोलॉजी
18	डॉ० रमण कुमार त्रिवेदी, निदेशक (छात्र कल्याण), बिहार पशुचिकित्सा विश्वविद्यालय, पटना (पूर्व प्रोफेसर, मत्स्य, वेस्ट बंगाल यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ एनिमल ऐण्ड फिशरीज सायन्स, कोलकाता)	विशेषज्ञ सदस्य मत्स्य पालन

19	श्री सुरेश बाबु, निदेशक, नदी, आर्द्रभूमि एवं जल नीति, डब्ल्यू0डब्ल्यू0एफ0, इण्डिया	विशेषज्ञ सदस्य भूदृश्य
20	डॉ० सूर्यभूषण, सहायक प्रोफेसर (ईकोनॉमिक्स), विकास प्रबंधन संस्था, पटना	विशेषज्ञ सदस्य सामाजिक अर्थशास्त्र
21	मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-राज्य नोडल पदाधिकारी, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, बिहार	सदस्य सचिव

राज्य आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण द्वारा निम्नांकित कार्यों का संपादन किया जायेगा :-

- राज्य के आर्द्रभूमियों के संरक्षण एवं सतत् प्रबंधन हेतु नीति निर्धारण तथा इस प्रयोजनार्थ राज्य सरकार को परामर्श देना।
- राज्य के आर्द्रभूमियों की पहचान एवं उन्हें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महत्व के आर्द्रभूमि (रामसर स्थल), अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महत्व के आर्द्रभूमि (राष्ट्रीय जलीय पारितंत्र संरक्षण कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत) चिन्हित करने हेतु अनुशंसा करना।
- आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन) नियमों 2010 अथवा इन नियमों को प्रतिस्थापित करने वाले आर्द्रभूमि संबंधी नियमों के अंतर्गत प्राधिकार को निर्दिष्ट कार्यों का संपादन करना।
- राज्य सरकार द्वारा विनिर्दिष्ट मापदण्ड के अनुसरण में विभिन्न विभागों की अधिकारिताओं के भीतर आर्द्रभूमियों की पहचान और वर्गीकरण संबंधी प्रेषित दस्तावेजों की समीक्षा कर अनुशंसा करना।
- आर्द्रभूमियों की सीमा एवं जलग्रहण क्षेत्र के बहुपक्षीय अधिकार संबंधी विवादों का हल।
- आर्द्रभूमियों के संरक्षण एवं सतत् प्रबंधन हेतु अन्य राज्य, राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संस्थाओं से सहयोग।
- आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन) नियम, 2017 के अंतर्गत अन्य प्रावधानित कार्य।

बिहार राज्य आर्द्रभूमि विकास प्राधिकरण के पुनर्गठन के संबंध में पूर्व निर्गत विभागीय अधिसूचना संख्या-34 (ई0), दिनांक-16.01.2015 को इस हद तक संशोधित किया जाता है।

बिहार राज्यपाल के आदेश से

(दीपक कुमार सिंह)

सरकार के प्रधान सचिव

ज्ञापांक : वन्यप्राणी-16/2012-160... (ई.) / प.व.ज.प., पटना-15, दिनांक-31/01/2020

प्रतिलिपि:-सी0 डी0 एवं दो अतिरिक्त प्रतियों के साथ ई-गजट कोषांग, वित्त विभाग, बिहार, पटना को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु प्रेषित।

(दीपक कुमार सिंह)

सरकार के प्रधान सचिव

ज्ञापांक : वन्यप्राणी- 16/2012-160 (ई.)/प.व.ज.प., पटना- 15, दिनांक 31/01/2020

प्रतिलिपि:—प्राधिकरण एवं संचालन/स्थायी समिति के अध्यक्ष तथा सभी सदस्यों को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु प्रेषित।

(दीपक कुमार सिंह)

सरकार के प्रधान सचिव

ज्ञापांक : वन्यप्राणी- 16/2012-160 (ई.)/प.व.ज.प., पटना- 15, दिनांक 31/01/2020

प्रतिलिपि :-सचिव, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु प्रेषित।

उनसे अनुरोध है कि संचालन/स्थायी समिति के सदस्य के रूप में किसी पदाधिकारी को मनोनीत करने की कृपा की जाय।

(दीपक कुमार सिंह)

सरकार के प्रधान सचिव

ज्ञापांक : वन्यप्राणी- 16/2012-160 (ई.)/प.व.ज.प., पटना- 15, दिनांक 31/01/2020

प्रतिलिपि :-प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, बिहार, पटना/सभी अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, बिहार, पटना/सभी क्षेत्रीय मुख्य वन संरक्षक/सभी वन संरक्षक/सभी वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु प्रेषित।

(दीपक कुमार सिंह)

सरकार के प्रधान सचिव

ज्ञापांक : वन्यप्राणी- 16/2012-160 (ई.)/प.व.ज.प., पटना- 15, दिनांक 31/01/2020

प्रतिलिपि:—आई0 टी0 मैनेजर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग, बिहार, पटना को विभागीय वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित करने हेतु प्रेषित।

(दीपक कुमार सिंह)

सरकार के प्रधान सचिव

File No. W/30/2024-WTL
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(Wetlands Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Date: 20.12.2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: W.P. (C) No.304/2018 – Anand Arya vs. Union of India along with W.P. (C) No.230/2001 and W.P. (C) No.302/2020 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court – **Demarcation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing.**

This is in continuation to Ministry's O.M. No. J-22012/17/2020-CS (W) dated 11.10.2024 regarding detailed compliance of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 and all other steps taken by the States/UTs for wetlands conservation with reference to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 01.10.2024 in the above captioned matters.

2. Vide order dated 11.12.2024, the Hon'ble Supreme Court inter-alia directed that, ***each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities shall complete ground truthing as well as the demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the Wetland which have been identified for their State by Space Application Center Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021 as expeditiously as possible, but definitely within a period of three months from 11.12.2024 (copy attached).***
3. The Ministry has assigned Knowledge Partners (KPs) of wetlands to each State/UT to assist them in various aspects of wetlands conservation. The States/UTs may enter into a formal agreement with them (list of KPs attached).
4. Since the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court are to be complied within a maximum period of three months (from 11.12.2024), it is requested that action in this regard may be taken up at the earliest. Regular progress and compliance may also be monitored through Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary of Environment/Forest Department of the State/UT for ensuring time bound compliance of the directions.
5. Since, the Ministry is required to do monitoring with each State/UT and file a detailed affidavit, it is requested to provide a **time-bound action plan latest by 31.12.2024 on top priority. Subsequently, a progress report may also be sent to the Ministry on a fortnightly basis.**

Ramesh
(Dr. Ramesh M.)
Scientist 'F'

Tel.: 011-20819338

Email: ramesh.motipalli@nic.in

To

1. The Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/UTs
2. The Member Secretaries of State & UT Wetlands Authorities

Copy to:

1. PSO to Secretary(EF&CC)
2. Sr. PPS to SS (TK)
3. PPS to JS(RA)
4. All officers of Wetlands Division

ITEM NO.6

COURT NO.13

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 304/2018

ANAND ARYA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 131361/2018 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 230/2001 (PIL-W)
(I.A.NO.203606/2022 IN W.P.(C)NO.230/2001
IA No. 203606/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 302/2020 (PIL-W)
(FOR impleading party ON IA 172736/2024
FOR INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT ON IA 172736/2024
FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 172737/2024
IA No. 172737/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 172736/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

Date : 11-12-2024 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHANSHU DHULIA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Trisha Chandran, Adv.
Mr. Naresh Kumar, AOR

Mr. Jayant Bhushan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Reena George, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Kumar Singh, AOR
Mr. Amartya Bhushan, Adv.
Mr. Yojit Mehra, Adv.

Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Sr. Adv..
Ms. Shibani Ghosh, AOR
Ms. Ayushma Awasthi, Adv.
Ms. Himanshi Gupta, Adv.

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by
Jayant Kumar Arora
Date: 2024.12.17
17:21:15 IST
Reason: I am the author of this
document.

For Respondent(s) Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Ms. Swarupma Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Manisha Chava, Adv.
Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR

Mr. Bhuvan Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Aman Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Rohan Gupta, Adv.

Mr. P. V. Yogeswaran, AOR

Mr. Manish Kumar, AOR
Mr. Ravi Shanker Jha, Adv.

Mr. Kunal Verma, AOR

Ms. Sumita Hazarika, AOR
Mr. Shiv Sagar Tiwari, AOR

Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.
Mr. Manish Chaubey, Adv.
Mr. Milind Kumar, AOR

Mr. Anil Shrivastav, AOR
Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh, AOR

Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AOR
Ms. Prerna Singh, Adv.
Mr. Samarth Krishan Luthra, Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.

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

Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR
Ms. Eliza Bar, Adv.

Mrs. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mrs. Swarupama Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. A K Panda, Adv.
Mr. Wasim Qadri, Sr. Adv.
Mrs. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Mr. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Pandey, Adv.

Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AOR
Mr. Prashant Bhagwati, Adv.
Ms. Devyani Bhatt, Adv.

Ms. Supriya Juneja, AOR

Mr. Anand Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Sandeep Jindal, AOR
Mr. Vishwanathan Iyer, Adv.

Mr. Arman Sharma, Adv.
Mrs. Shimpy Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Pooja Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Yeshasvi Shrivastava, Adv.

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

Mr. V. N. Raghupathy, AOR

Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR
Mrs. Anu K Joy, Adv.
Mr. Alim Anvar, Adv.

Mr. Sunny Choudhary, AOR
Mr. Abhimanyu Singh Ga, Adv.
Mr. Sarad Kumar Singhanian Aor, Adv.
Ms. Rashmi Singhanian, Adv.

Mr. Bharat Bagla, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR

Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR
Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
Mr. Upendra Mishra, Adv.
Mr. P. S. Negi, Adv.
Mr. T.k. Nayak, Adv.

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

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

Mr. Gaurav Khanna, AOR
Ms. Natasha Sahrawat, Adv.
Mr. Rudraksh Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Gautam Barnwal, Adv.
Ms. Deepali Bhanot, Adv.
Ms. Alisha Roy, Adv.

Ms. Baani Khanna, AOR
Mr. Robin Singh, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR
Mr. Rahul Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Aakash Thakur, Adv.
Mr. Aryan Srivastava, Adv.
Ms. Ayushi Bansal, Adv.
Mr. Sarthak Dora, Adv.

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

Mr. R. Ayyam Perumal, AOR

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

Mr. Srisatya Mohanty, Adv.
Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR
Ms. Ripul Swati Kumari, Adv.

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Ms. Swarupama Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. S.wasim A. Qadri, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ashok Kumar Panda, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.
Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.
Mr. Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.
Ms. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Gautam Kumar, Adv.
Mr. N Visakamurthy, aor, Adv.
Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Mr. Aravindh S., AOR
Mr. Abbas B, Adv.
Mr. Aman Gautam, Adv.

Ms. Suveni Bhagat, AOR

Mr. Gopal Prasad, AOR

Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, AOR
Ms. Sanjana Grace Thomas, Adv.
Mr. D.p.singh, Adv.
Ms. Tara Elizabeth Kurien, Adv.

~~-K-~~
Mr. Shishir Pinaki, AOR
Mr. Dhanaeswar Gudapalli, Adv.
Ms. Mallika Das, Adv.
Mr. Nandi Kiran Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Akash Vashistha, Adv.
Mr. Rishi Sehgal, AOR
Mr. Midhun Aggarwal, Adv.
Ms. Vaishnavi, Adv.

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

Prior to 2017, the figures given by ISRO regarding the number of wetlands in India having an area more than 2.25 Hectares was 2,01,503. The latest ISRO data, which is of the year 2021, shows that this figure has now increased to 2,31,195.

Now these figures have to be checked on ground. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 (in short, "the Rules") and the guidelines issued thereunder prescribe that the next step after identification of such wetlands is what is called Ground truthing, which is the term given to the actual inspection of these wetlands by a team constituted by the State for that purpose. This step has, however, been neglected by almost all the States, except the State of Punjab to some extent. As regards demarcation of these wetlands all States have done almost nothing up till now.

We have been informed at the Bar that each State presently has a Wetland Authority. In fact, reading of Rule 5 suggests that the State Wetlands Authority has already been constituted. Rule 5, by which the State Wetland Authority as well as such Authorities in the Union Territories have been

constituted and the powers to these Authorities have been given, reads as under :-

“Wetland Authorities – (1) The Central Government hereby constitutes the State Wetlands Authority in each State with the following members, namely ; -

XXXXX

(2) The Central Government hereby constitutes the Union Territory Wetlands Authority for each Union Territory with the following members, namely -

XXXX

(3) The State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority may co-opt other members, not exceeding three in number, if required.

(4) The State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority shall exercise the following powers and perform the following functions, namely :-

a) Prepare a list of all wetlands of the State or UT within three months from the date of publication of these rules;

b) Prepare a list of wetlands to be notified, within six months from the date of publication of these Rules, taking into cognizance any existing list of wetlands prepared/notified under other relevant State

Acts;

c) Recommend identified wetlands, based on their Brief Documents, for regulation under these rules;

d) Prepare a comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands within one year from the date of publication of these rules and upload the same on a dedicated web portal, to be developed by the Central Government for the said purpose; the inventory ought to be updated every ten years;

e) Develop a comprehensive list of activities, to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence;

f) Recommend additions, if any, to the list of prohibited activities for specific wetlands;

g) Define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands within their jurisdiction; wise use being a principle for managing these ecosystems which incorporates sustainable uses (such as capture fisheries at subsistence level or harvest of aquatic plants) as being compatible with conservation, if ecosystem functions (such as water storage, ground water recharge, flood buffering) and values (such as recreation and cultural) are maintained or enhanced ;

h) Review Integrated Management Plan for each of the notified wetlands (including trans-boundary wetlands in coordination with Central Government), and within these plans to consider continuation and support to traditional uses of wetlands that are harmonized with ecological character;

l) Recommend mechanisms for maintenance of ecological character through promotional activities for land within the boundary of notified wetlands or wetlands complex have private tenancy rights,;

j) Identify mechanisms for convergence of implementation of the management plan with the existing State/UT level development plans and programmes;

k) Ensure enforcement of these rules and other relevant Acts, rules and regulations and on a half-yearly basis (June and December of each calendar year) inform the concerned State Government or UT Administration or Central Government on the status of such notified wetlands through a reporting mechanism;

l) Coordinate implementation of Integrated Management Plans based on wiseuse principle through various line departments and other concerned agencies;

m) Function as a nodal authority for all wetland - specific authorities within the State or UT Administration;

n) Issue necessary directions for the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands to the respective implementing agencies.

o) Undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands; and

p) Advise on any other matter suo-motu, or as referred by the State Government/UT Administration.

(5) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory shall provide all necessary support and act as nodal Department and Secretariat to the Authority.

(6) The Authority shall, within ninety days of publication of these rules, shall constitute -

(a) a technical committee to review brief documents, management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the Wetland Authority and

(b) a grievance committee consisting of four members to provide a mechanism for hearing

and forwarding the grievances raised by public to the Authority;

(7) The Committees referred to in sub-rule (6) shall meet at least once in every quarter to perform their functions.

(8) The Authority shall meet at least thrice in a year.

(9) The term of non-official members of the Authority nominated by State Government or Union Territory Administration, shall be for a period not exceeding three years."

It is clear now that the ground truthing and the demarcation of wetland boundary is the next step, which is to be undertaken by each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities in coordination with concerned nodal Department as provided under the Rules. It is a Statutory function which has been assigned to them under the Rules. We, therefore, direct each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities to complete ground truthing as well as the demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the Wetland which have been identified for their State by Space Application Center Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021.

For easy accessibility of this, each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities shall complete this work as expeditiously as possible, but definitely within a period of three months from today. Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General, has assured this Court that they shall be doing the monitoring with each of the State and shall file a detailed affidavit before the

next date of listing.

Vide our order dated 03.04.2017 (in Writ Petition (C) No. 230 of 2001), this Court has passed certain directions regarding protection of Ramsar Convention Sites (of wetlands) to be monitored by each of the High Court concerned and 15 High Courts were given such a direction. The relevant portion of order dated 03.04.2017 is reproduced as under :-

"We have put it to learned counsel for the petitioner that insofar as the Ramsar Convention sites are concerned, since they are matters of international heritage, it might be more appropriate if the concerned High Courts monitor the management of these sites at least till there is some visible improvement. Learned counsel for the petitioner says that he has no objection to this.

Under the circumstances, we direct the Registry of this Court to make photocopies of the affidavit filed by the Union of India by Dr. A. Duraisamy, Scientist 'F' and Member Secretary, Central Wetland Regulatory Authority and send it to the following High Courts: High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Gauhati High Court, Gujarat High Court, Himachal Pradesh High Court, J&K High Court, Kerala High Court, Madhya Pradesh High

Court, Manipur High Court, Orissa High Court, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Rajasthan High Court, Madras High Court, Tripura High Court, Allahabad High Court and High Court at Calcutta. The affidavit be sent to the Registrar General of all the aforementioned High Courts within two weeks from today. A copy of all the orders passed by this Court from 10th September, 2014 till today shall also be sent to the concerned High Courts along with the affidavit. We request Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court to treat the affidavit as a suo motu public interest petition and, if necessary, appoint an amicus to assist the court so as to ensure that the Ramsar Convention sites within their jurisdiction are properly maintained. The affidavit by the Union of India should be filed within six weeks. List the matter on 12th July, 2017"

Now, the latest figure shows that these Ramsar sites have increased from 26 to 85, including 59 additional sites (cited below) falling under 5 other additional High Courts i.e. Patna, Bombay, Karnataka, Gauhati (Aizawl Bench as well) and Uttarakhand. The list of updated RAMSAR sites has been given to this Court, which is reproduced as under:-

"List of 85 Ramsar Sites"

	State/UT		Wetland	Date of Designation	Area (hectares)
1.	Andhra Pradesh (1)	1.	Kolleru Lake	19-08-2002	90100
2.	Assam (1)	2.	Deepor Beel	19-08-2002	4000
3.	Bihar (3)	3.	Kabartal Wetland	21-07-2020	2620
		4.	Nagi Bird Sanctuary	11-10-2023	206
		5.	Nakti Bird Sanctuary	11-10-2023	333
4.	Gujarat (4)	6.	Nalsarovar	24-09-2012	12000
		7.	Wadhvana Wetland	05-04-2021	630
		8.	Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary	05-04-2021	699
		9.	Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary	13-04-2021	512
8.	Goa (1)	10.	Nanda Lake	08-06-2022	42
9.	Haryana (2)	11.	Sultanpur National Park	25-05-2021	143
		12.	Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary	25-05-2021	412
11.	Himachal Pradesh (3)	13.	Pong Dam Lake	19-08-2002	15662
		14.	Chandertal Wetland	08-11-2005	49
		15.	Renuka Wetland	08-11-2005	20
14.	Jammu and Kashmir (5)	16.	Wular Lake	23-03-1990	18900
		17.	Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	08-11-2005	350
		18.	Hokera Wetland	08-11-2005	1375
		19.	Hygam Wetland	08-06-	802

			Conservation Reserve	2022	
		20.	Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve	08-06-2022	1675
19.	Karnataka (4)	21.	Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary	15-02-2022	518
		22.	Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve	10-03-2023	98.76
		23.	Aghanashini Estuary	14-02-2023	4801
		24.	Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve	14-02-2023	54.38
20.	Kerala (3)	25.	Asthamudi Wetland	19-08-2002	6140
		26.	Sasthamkotta Lake	19-08-2002	373
		27.	VembanadKol Wetland	19-08-2002	151250
23.	Ladakh (2)	28.	Tso Kar Wetland Complex	17-11-2020	9577
		29.	Tsomoriri Lake	19-08-2002	12000
25.	Madhya Pradesh (5)	30.	Bhoj Wetlands	19-08-2002	3201
		31.	Sirpur Wetland	07-01-2022	161
		32.	Sakhya Sagar	07-01-2022	248
		33.	Yashwant Sagar	07-01-2022	823
		34.	Tawa Reservoir	08-01-2024	20050
29.	Maharashtra (3)	35.	Nandur Madhameshwar	21-06-2019	1437
		36.	Lonar Lake	22-07-2020	427
		37.	Thane Creek	13-04-2022	6521
32.	Manipur (1)	38.	Loktak Lake	23-03-1990	26600
33.	Mizoram (1)	39.	Pala Wetland	31-08-2021	1850
34.	Odisha (6)	40.	Chilka Lake	01-10-1981	116500
		41.	Bhitarkanika Mangroves	19-08-2002	65000
		42.	Satkosia Gorge	12-10-2021	98197

		43.	Tampara Lake	12-10-2021	300
		44.	Hirakud Reservoir	12-10-2021	65400
		45.	Ansupa Lake	12-10-2021	231
40.	Punjab (6)	46.	Harike Lake	23-03-1990	4100
		47.	Kanjli Lake	22-01-2002	183
		48.	Ropar Lake	22-01-2002	1365
		49.	Beas Conservation Reserve	26-09-2019	6429
		50.	Keshopur - Miani Community Reserve	26-09-2019	344
		51.	Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	26-09-2019	116
46.	Rajasthan (2)	52.	Keoladeo Ghana National Park	1-10-1981	2873
		53.	Sambhar Lake	23-03-1990	24000
48.	Tamil Nadu (18)	54.	Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	19-08-2002	38500
		55.	Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary	08-11-2021	72
		56.	Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary	08-11-2021	260
		57.	Karikili Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	58
		58.	Pichavaram Mangrove	08/04/2022	1479
		59.	Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest	08-04-2022	1248
		60.	Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve	08-04-2022	52672
		61.	Vembannur Wetland Complex	08-04-2022	20
		62.	Vellode Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	77
		63.	Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	44
		64.	Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	40
		65.	Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex	08-04-2022	94
		66.	Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary	08-04-	113

				2022	
		67.	Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	97
		68.	Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary	24-05-2023	453.72
		69.	Longwood Shola Reserve Forest	24-05-2023	116.007
		70.	Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary	16-01-2024	125.865
		71.	Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary	16-01-2024	5151.6
62.	Tripura (1)	72.	Rudrasagar Lake	08-11-2005	240
63.	Uttar Pradesh (10)	73.	Upper Ganga River	08-11-2005	26590
		74.	Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary	19-09-2019	225
		75.	Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary	02-12-2019	722
		76.	Saman Bird Sanctuary	02-12-2019	526
		77.	Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	03-10-2019	799
		78.	Sandi Bird Sanctuary	26-09-2019	309
		79.	Sarsai NawarJheel	19-09-2019	161
		80.	Sur Sarovar	21-08-2020	431
		81.	Haiderpur Wetland	13-04-2021	6908
		82.	Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary	29-06-2021	2894
73.	Uttarakhand (1)	83.	Asan Conservation Reserve	21-07-2020	444
74.	West Bengal (2)	84.	East Calcutta Wetlands	19-08-2002	12500
		85.	Sunderbans Wetland	30-01-2019	423000
23 States & UTs		85 Ramsar Sites			13,58,068.335

The Registrar General of this Court is directed to send the complete list to all the High Courts, including the 5 High Courts which are mentioned above,

and the High Courts are requested to treat the affidavit as a Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation where an Amicus be appointed, if necessary, to assist the Court and ensure that the RAMSAR Sites within their jurisdiction are properly maintained. We say this only as a continuation of our order dated 03.04.2017.

List the matter again on 25.03.2025.

(JAYANT KUMAR ARORA)
ASST. REGISTRAR-CUM-PS

(RENU BALA GAMBHIR)
COURT MASTER

**Re: WP(C)304/2018-Anand Arya vs. UOI & Ors along with
WP(C) 230/2001 & WP(C)302/2020- Compliance of Hon'ble ccwlbihar < ccwlbihar@bihar.gov.in >
Supreme Court's Order dated 11.12.2024-reg.**

CLIMATE CHANGE AND WETLAND WING, BIHAR < ccwlbihar@bihar.gov.in >

Fri, 21 Mar 2025 3:29:03 PM +0530

To "Wetlands Division MoEFCC" <wetlands-mefcc@gov.in>
Cc "Dr. Ramesh M" <ramesh.motipalli@nic.in>, "Pankaj Verma" <pankaj.verma@nic.in>, "Chandan Singh" <c.singh@nic.in>

Dear Sir,

With reference to the email dated-04.03.2025 regarding submission of progress report on the groundtruthing and digital boundary demarcation of Wetlands, herewith Bihar State Wetland Authority, Patna attached the report on the status of groundtruthing and digital boundary demarcation of Wetlands in Bihar for kind information and necessary action.

From: "Wetlands Division MoEFCC" <wetlands-mefcc@gov.in>

To: ccfrwp@gmail.com, wildlifeap@gmail.com, robindohu@gmail.com, "Shri Sandeep Kumar, IFS" <hoff-assam@gov.in>, aswauthority@gmail.com, "CLIMATE CHANGE AND WETLAND WING, BIHAR" <ccwlbihar@bihar.gov.in>, forestchandigarh@gmail.com, "cf chandigarh" <cf.chandigarh@gmail.com>, cgstatewetland@gmail.com, cgmsbdb@gmail.com, "Chief Conservator of Forest" <ccf-dmn-dd@nic.in>, "Pradeep Waghule Forest Department Daman" <dcf-dmn-dd@nic.in>, "Deputy Conservator of Forest Wildlife" <dcfwl-dnh@nic.in>, "Shyam Sundar Kandpal" <ceodpgsenv.delhi@nic.in>, goawetland@gmail.com, scientificofficergswa@gmail.com, cwlw@gujarat.gov.in, js-wildlife-fed@gujarat.gov.in, "Environment Govt of Haryana" <environment@hry.nic.in>, swaharyana@gmail.com, pccfwlhry@gmail.com, "Member Secretary" <stc-hp@nic.in>, "DEST Himachal Pradesh" <dbt-hp@nic.in>, "s attrigohp" <s.attrigohp@gmail.com>, "Dr Suresh C Attri" <sattri-env-hp@nic.in>, csforestjk@gmail.com, "Farukh Qazi" <farukh.qazikas@jk.gov.in>, sstforestjk@gmail.com, dirjkers@gmail.com, prsecyfdjharkhand2013@rediffmail.com, pccfwl@gmail.com, commissionerfee@gmail.com, pccfkar@gmail.com, "swak kerala" <swak.kerala@gmail.com>, "STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY KERALA" <swak.envt@kerala.gov.in>, ccfladakh@gmail.com, rwlwutladakh@gmail.com, "Sajjad Hussain Mufti" <ccf-ladakh@ladakh.gov.in>, "Deputy Conservator of Forest" <lak-dcf@nic.in>, myenvironment11@gmail.com, "ED EPCO EPCO Bhopal" <ed.epco@mp.gov.in>, "mpswa epco gov" <mpswa.epco.gov@gmail.com>, "Abhay Madhukar Pimparkar" <dir1.mev-mh@nic.in>, "Dr Laishram Bijen Meitei" <man-env@nic.in>, lbsdla@gmail.com, pccfmegh@gmail.com, chiefwildmiz@gmail.com, info@nagalandforest.in, nagalandforestdeptt@hotmail.com, direnvodisha@gmail.com, "Conservator of Forests Pondicherry" <dcf.pon@nic.in>, cwlwpunjab@gmail.com, "ACSSSWCD" <psss@punjab.gov.in>, "Administrative Secretary cum Financial Commissioner Forests" <fcf@punjab.gov.in>, "env dept" <env.dept@rajasthan.gov.in>, jdenvironmentsikkim@gmail.com, tnswa18@gmail.com, "js efst ts" <js.efst.ts@gmail.com>, "Harshakumar Chikkanaragund" <dcfhq.tfd-tr@gov.in>, pccftripura@gmail.com, dcfpnd@gmail.com, sasiifs@gmail.com, upstatewetlandauthority2018@gmail.com, ccfec@gmail.com, cwlwua@yahoo.co.in, "Roshni Sen" <psecy.env-wb@gov.in>, ctoekwma@gmail.com, "Dr. Ravi Kota" <cs-assam@nic.in>, csguj@gujarat.gov.in, cs-haryana@nic.in, "Alka Tiwari" <cs-jharkhand@nic.in>, cs@karnataka.gov.in, "cso-meg" <cso-meg@nic.in>, "cs-mizoram" <cs-mizoram@nic.in>, "Jan e Alam, Chief Secretary Nagaland" <csngl@nic.in>, "CS Telangana" <Cs@telangana.gov.in>, "cs-tripura" <Cs-tripura@nic.in>, "CHIEF SECRETARY OFFCE GOVT OF UP" <csup@nic.in>, Chiefsecy@gmail.com, "Dr.

Chandra Bhushan Kumar IAS" <cs-andaman@nic.in>, devcom-d@nic.in, advisor-dnhdd@daman.nic.in, "Advisor to the Administrator UTL" <lk-advisor@gov.in>, Advisor-lgladakh@gov.in, cs-pondicherry@nic.in

Cc: "Rajat Agarwal" <js.ia-moefcc@gov.in>, "Dr. Ramesh M" <ramesh.motipalli@nic.in>, "Pankaj Verma" <pankaj.verma@nic.in>, "Chandan Singh" <c.singh@nic.in>, "Tarun Verma" <tarun.v@gov.in>, "Gauri Vashist" <gauri.vashist01@govcontractor.in>, "PRAMOD ." <pramod.rao1998@gov.in>, "suddhabrata chakraborty" <suddhabrata.chakraborty@giz.de>, "bhuyashee rajkumari" <bhuyashee.rajkumari@wi-sa.org>, "gupta manish811" <gupta.manish811@gmail.com>, "nivedhitha mp" <nivedhitha.mp@wi-sa.org>

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 6:12:56 PM

Subject: Re: WP(C)304/2018-Anand Arya vs. UOI & Ors along with WP(C) 230/2001 & WP(C)302/2020- Compliance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 11.12.2024-reg.

Respected Sir/ Madam

In continuation to the trailing mail, the status of replies/information received from the states/UTs is as follows:

1. a. **Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Assam, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Ladakh (reply vide letter dated 21.12.2024 is incomplete), Lakshadweep, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Puducherry, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand** have not submitted their time bound action plans, which were to be submitted by 31st December, 2024.
- b. **Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Jharkhand & Lakshadweep** have not updated their contact details in the Google-Sheet @ <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Da6bIB2c1nfTtx5WJjaoKTgS7Zs2NSyssWpVDuPbtCM/edit?usp=sharing> .
- c. **Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, J&K, Jharkhand, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Sikkim, UP and Uttarakhand** have not updated their data with respect to ground-truthing and demarcation of wetland boundaries in the Google-sheet @ https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14_ZXfFP9YcS7wYZOzBrrjYpl0TZzpRqhnl444vbg0g/edit?gid=0#gid=0 .

In view of the aforesaid,

- The respective States/UTs mentioned above are requested to immediately comply with the same.
- All the States/UTs are requested to update their latest status of ground-truthing & demarcation of wetland boundaries in the above said Google sheet and also provide the latest status/progress report and time bound action plan to complete the remaining ground-truthing & demarcation of wetland boundaries latest by **09.03.2025, on top priority**.
- All the States/UTs are also requested to upload the data with respect to above in the Save Wetlands Campaign Portal, i.e., <http://www.savewetlandscampaign.in> positively, latest by **09.03.2025, on top priority**.

It may kindly be noted that the above information/documents shall be filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court next week.

Best Regards,

WETLANDS DIVISION

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
5th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110003, India

Phone no./ Intercom: +91-11-20819242 / 4538
+91-11-20819338 / 4256
+91-11-20819396 / 5234

----- On Fri, 14 Feb 2025 19:14:35 +0530 **Wetlands Division MoEFCC <wetlands-mefcc@gov.in>** wrote ---

Respected Sir/Madam

In continuation to the trailing mails, the time bound action plan in respect to ground-truthing and demarcation of wetland boundaries has **not yet been received from the States of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Assam, DD & DNH, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand**. It is requested to submit their time bound action plans immediately, on top priority.

2. All the states/UTs are requested to update the data on a **day to day basis**, as discussed in the Meeting of National Wetlands Committee on 27.12.2024 (Minutes enclosed) with respect to ground-truthing of wetlands in the Google-sheet shared hereunder:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14_ZXfFP9YcS7wYZOzBrrjYpl0TZzpRqhnle444vbg0g/edit?gid=0#gid=0

3. Further, all the States/UTs are also requested to send the progress report with respect to ground-truthing and demarcation of wetland boundaries **on a fortnightly basis**.

Regards.

----- On Fri, 10 Jan 2025 15:38:08 +0530 **Wetlands Division MoEFCC <wetlands-mefcc@gov.in>** wrote ---

WETLANDS DIVISION

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
5th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110003, India

Phone no./ Intercom: +91-11-20819242 / 4538
+91-11-20819338 / 4256
+91-11-20819396 / 5234

Respected Sir/Madam

In continuation to the trailing mail, the time bound action plan in respect to ground-truthing and demarcation of wetland boundaries have been received from the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory Administration of Chandigarh. All the remaining states/UTs are requested to submit their time bound action plans on an **immediate** priority.

All the states/UTs are also requested to update the data on a day to day basis, as discussed in the Meeting of National Wetlands Committee on 27.12.2024 (Minutes enclosed) with respect to ground-truthing of wetlands in the Google-sheet shared hereunder:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14_ZXfFP9YcS7wYZOzBrrjYpl0TZzpRqhnle444vbg0g/edit?gid=0#gid=0

Further, all the States/UTs are also requested to send the progress report with respect to ground-truthing and demarcation of wetland boundaries on a fortnightly basis.

Regards.

----- On Fri, 03 Jan 2025 10:24:14 +0530 **Wetlands Division MoEFCC <wetlands-mefcc@gov.in>** wrote ---

WETLANDS DIVISION

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
5th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110003, India

Phone no./ Intercom: +91-11-20819242 / 4538
+91-11-20819338 / 4256
+91-11-20819396 / 5234

Respected Sir/Madam

In reference to the trailing mail, as discussed in the 4th Meeting of National Wetlands Committee, please find attached the link of Google Sheet, which is to be updated on a day to day basis w.r.t. ground truthing and boundary demarcation of wetlands in compliance of Order dated 11.12.2024.

The link is provided hereunder:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14_ZXfFP9YcS7wYZOzBrrjYpl0TZzpRqhnle444vbg0g/edit?gid=0#gid=0

Regards.

----- On Fri, 20 Dec 2024 18:50:43 +0530 **Wetlands Division MoEFCC <wetlands-mefcc@gov.in>** wrote ---

WETLANDS DIVISION

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
5th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110003, India

Phone no./ Intercom: +91-11-20819242 / 4538
+91-11-20819338 / 4256
+91-11-20819396 / 5234

Respected Sir/ Madam,

Please find attached the OM dated **20.12.2024** with respect to the matter captioned above.

Best Regards,

WETLANDS DIVISION

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
5th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
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+91-11-20819396 / 5234

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PFA,
Thanks & Regards,
S. Chandrasekar, I.F.S
CCF-cum- State Nodal Officer, Environment & Climate Change,
Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of Bihar, Aranya Bhawan, Riding Road, Patna-800014

1 Attachment(s)

Report (Honble Supreme Cour...

1.2 MB

Report

Sub:- W.P. (C) No.304/2018 – Anand Arya vs. Union of India along with W.P. (C) No. 230/2001 and W.P. (C) No. 302/2020 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court – Demarcation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by groundtruthing– reg.

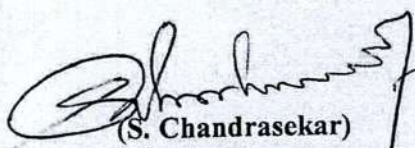
With reference to the Hon'ble Supreme court order dated 11.12.2024 in W.P. (C) No. 304/2018, the state of Bihar has prepared an action plan and submitted to the Wetland Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India vide letter No-I/186409/2024, dated-31.12.2024. As per the information provided in the 'Save Wetland Campaign' website as developed by the MoEFCC, Govt. of India, there are 4316 Wetlands, whose area is greater than 2.25 hectare and above are distributed in 38 Districts in the state of Bihar. That a list of district wise Wetlands, its GPS coordinate and other information was prepared and circulated to the all respective Forest divisions to carry out groundtruthing of these wetlands. The frontline forest department staffs were provided with both online and hands-on training in the field to operate the 'ArcGIS 123 mobile Application' to capture the required information of the Wetlands in their respective jurisdiction. The IT wing of the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bihar has prepared the digital boundary demarcation map of the Wetlands, based on the shape file provided by the National Center for Sustainable Coastal Management, MoEFCC, GoI. The Member Secretary, Bihar State Wetland Authority has been regularly monitoring the progress of the groundtruthing and digital boundary demarcation of the Wetlands.

The district wise groundtruthing and digital boundary demarcation status of the Wetlands of Bihar are given below in the Table:-

Groundtruthing and Digital Boundary Demarcation status of Wetlands in Bihar				
Sl. No	District Name	Number of Target Wetlands	Number of Groundtruthed Wetlands	Number of Wetlands Digital Boundary Demarcated
1	ARARIA	146	146	117
2	ARWAL	5	5	4
3	AURANGABAD	40	40	33
4	BANKA	96	96	83
5	BEGUSARAI	107	107	106
6	BHAGALPUR	141	141	126
7	BHOJPUR	27	27	25
8	BUXAR	20	20	17
9	DARBHANGA	326	326	317
10	EAST CHAMPARAN	200	200	183

11	GAYA	87	87	71
12	GOPALGANJ	35	35	34
13	JAMUI	130	130	125
14	JEHANABAD	17	17	17
15	KAIMUR	27	27	26
16	KATIHAR	674	674	643
17	KHAGARIA	152	152	143
18	KISHANGANJ	102	102	99
19	LAKHISARAI	53	53	52
20	MADHEPURA	114	114	108
21	MADHUBANI	156	156	115
22	MUNGER	60	60	51
23	MUZAFFARPUR	175	175	167
24	NALANDA	51	51	47
25	NAWADA	53	53	43
26	PATNA	44	44	43
27	PURNIA	405	405	331
28	ROHTAS	31	31	28
29	SAHARSA	151	151	120
30	SAMASTIPUR	203	203	194
31	SARAN	85	85	81
32	SHEIKHPURA	59	59	44
33	SHEOHAR	8	8	8
34	SITAMARHI	72	72	69
35	SIWAN	56	56	51
36	SUPAUL	33	33	33
37	VAISHALI	71	71	57
38	WEST CHAMPARAN	104	104	100
Total		4316	4316	3911

That out of the total 4316 wetlands in the 'Save Wetland Campaign' website of the MoEFCC, GoI, and groundtruthing was done for 4316 wetlands. After groundtruthing it was found that a total of 405 wetlands were found non-existing and the remaining 3911 wetlands were demarcated using the shape files received from the National Center for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), MoEFCC, GoI.


 (S. Chandrasekar)
 Member Secretary,
 Bihar State Wetland Authority, Patna.

21/3/25



बिहार सरकार

कार्यालय : प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, बिहार, पटना।
(जलवायु परिवर्तन संभाग)

तृतीय तल, अरण्य भवन, शहीद पीर अली खाँ मार्ग (साईडिंग रोड), शेखपुरा, पटना-800014
ई-मेल : ccwlbihar@bihar.gov.in

पत्रांक: पर्या०/जल०/परि० (मु०)-30/2026 - 277

प्रेषक,

अमय कुमार, भा०व०से०

अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक,
पर्यावरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन एवं आर्द्रभूमि,
बिहार, पटना।

सेवा में,

वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी,
सारण वन प्रमंडल, सारण।

पटना-14, दिनांक-24/04/2026

विषय:- माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण, पूर्वी बेंच, कोलकाता में दायर O.A. No. 82/2026 : Veterans Forum for Transparency in Public Life Vs. Govt. of Bihar & Ors. के संबंध में।

प्रसंग:- Wing Commander (Retd), श्री विश्वनाथ प्रसाद सिंह का ईमेल, दिनांक-19.04.2026
महाशय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक प्रासंगिक पत्र (सानुलग्नक संलग्न) के संबंध में कहना है कि माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण, पूर्वी बेंच, कोलकाता में दायर ओ.ए. 82/2026/EZ वाद में दिनांक-16.04.2026 को पारित आदेश की कंडिका-2, 3, 5 एवं 6 जो सारण जिला अन्तर्गत अवस्थित तीन आर्द्रभूमियों यथा-Gamrahia, Mangolpur एवं Bhatkeshari पर अतिक्रमण, प्रदूषण, अवैध निर्माण एवं आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन) नियम, 2017 के उल्लंघन से संबंधित है।

अतः अनुरोध है कि तीन दिनों के अन्दर उक्त आर्द्रभूमियों का स्थल निरीक्षण करते हुए निरीक्षण प्रतिवेदन उपलब्ध कराने की कृपा की जाय।

अनु०-यथोक्त।

विश्वासभाजन

(अमय कुमार)

अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक,
पर्यावरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन एवं आर्द्रभूमि,
बिहार, पटना।



कार्यालय— वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी,
सारण वन प्रमंडल, छपरा, बिहार. 841301

Phone number: 7858998981

Email- dfosaran@gmail.com

पत्रांक : 1309

दिनांक : 09.06.26

प्रेषक,

सोनु कुमार, भा०व०से०
वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी,
सारण वन प्रमंडल, छपरा।

सेवा में,

अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक,
पर्यावरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन एवं आर्द्रभूमि,
बिहार, पटना।

विषय — माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण, पूर्वी बेंच, कोलकत्ता में दायर O.A. No. 82/2026 : Veterans Forum for Transparency in Public Life Vs. Govt. of Bihar & Ors. के संबंध में।

प्रसंग — भवदीय पत्रांक— 277 दिनांक— 22.04.2026 तथा वनों के क्षेत्र पदाधिकारी, छपरा का पत्रांक— 300 दिनांक— 20.05.2026.

महाशय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक प्रासंगिक पत्र के संबंध में सादर सूचित करना है कि माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण, पूर्वी बेंच, कोलकत्ता में दायर O.A. No. 82/2026 में सारण जिला अंतर्गत अवस्थित तीन आर्द्रभूमियों यथा गम्हरिया (Gamhariya), मंगोलपुर (Mangolpur) भटकेसरी (Bhatkesari) पर अतिक्रमण, प्रदूषण, अवैध निर्माण एवं आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन) नियम, 2017 के उल्लंघन से संबंधित निरीक्षण प्रतिवेदन उपलब्ध कराने हेतु दिए गए निदेश के आलोक में इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक— 970 दिनांक— 24.04.2026 द्वारा चार सदस्यों का एक टीम गठन कर वनों के क्षेत्र पदाधिकारी, छपरा को उक्त वाद में उल्लेखित बिंदुओं के स्थलीय जाँच कर जाँच प्रतिवेदन अधोहस्ताक्षरी को उपलब्ध कराने हेतु निदेशित किया गया तथा अंचलाधिकारी, जलालपुर, सारण को इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक— 971 दिनांक— 24.04.2026 द्वारा उक्त आर्द्रभूमियों का नजरी नक्शा एवं भू-अभिलेख उपलब्ध कराने हेतु निदेशित किया। साथ ही इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक— 1107 दिनांक— 15.05.2026 द्वारा उक्त वाद में उल्लेखित बिंदुओं की सत्यता की जाँच हेतु दिनांक— 20.05.2026 को डॉ. सरोजा कुमार बारिक, आर्द्रभूमि विशेषज्ञ को इस प्रमंडल में प्रतिनियुक्त करने हेतु भवदीय से अनुरोध किया गया था।

तदआलोक में दिनांक— 20.05.2026 को डॉ० सरोजा कुमार बारिक, आर्द्रभूमि विशेषज्ञ/श्री बांके पासवान, वनों के क्षेत्र पदाधिकारी, छपरा/सुश्री प्रतिक्षा सिंह, वनपाल/

श्री शुभम कुमार एवं श्री अमन कुमार, वनरक्षी द्वारा उक्त आर्द्रभूमियों का संयुक्त रूप से स्थलीय निरीक्षण किया गया तथा संयुक्त स्थलीय निरीक्षण प्रतिवेदन वनों के क्षेत्र पदाधिकारी, छपरा द्वारा अधोहस्ताक्षरी को समर्पित किया गया है।

अतः उक्त आर्द्रभूमियों का स्थलीय निरीक्षण प्रतिवेदन इस पत्र के साथ संलग्न कर भवदीय को आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु समर्पित की जा रही है।

अनुलग्नक- यथोक्त।

विश्वासभाजन,

12/06/26

वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी,
सारण वन प्रमंडल, छपरा।

२४

Samalig
05.06.26

पत्रांक - 300 दि - 20/05/2026

सेवा में:

वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी,
सारंग वन प्रमण्डल, धर्मपुर

05/06/26
put up

विषय - माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण, पूर्वी क्षेत्र,
कोलकाता में दाखल O.A no 82/2026 Veteran
Forum for transparency in public life
Vs: Govt of Bihar के लेख में।

प्राप्ति - अवधीयार पत्रांक - 970 दि - 24.4.26

महाराज, (उत्प्रेक्षित विषयक प्रसंगिक पत्र के आदेशों
नुसार जमहरिया, भूक्रेषारी एवं मजौत पुर्तुगा संयुक्त
पॉन्ज किया गया है जिसका भूमा कोपी संलग्न है
श्रीमान को सूचनाएं एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाई है
समर्पित है।

आपका विश्वास
काँके मरमान
20.5.26
वना के क्षेत्र पदाधिकारी
वन प्रक्षेत्र, छपरा समरग।



**Field Inspection Report in compliance to the order dated 16.04.2026 passed by the Hon'ble
NGT, Eastern Bench, Kolkata, in O.A. No. 82/2026**

Background:

Pursuant to the order dated 16.04.2026 passed by the Hon'ble NGT, Eastern Bench, Kolkata, in O.A. No. 82/2026, and in compliance thereof, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Climate Change), vide official Letter No. 277 dated 22.04.2026, directed the concerned Divisional Forest Officer, Saran, to inspect the site and submit an inspection report for necessary action. Accordingly, the Divisional Forest Officer, Saran, constituted an inspection team comprising the Range Officer, Forester, and Forest Guard of the Jalalpur Block region of Saran.

Inspection Sites:

Bhatkeshari Wetland:

Village: Hansrajpur and Bhatkeshari (East),

Ghamaria(West),,

Chainpalia(South)

and Charua and Harkpura (North)

Panchayat: Bhatkeshari

Block: Jalalpur

Land use and Land cover pattern: 60% Agricultural practices in surrounding of this wetland and 40 % area covered with grasses.

Source of water: Rainfall and Catchment Runoff



Present Status of Bhatkeshari Wetland

Ghamaria wetland:

Village: Nathalpura and Nawada (East),

Ghamaria(West),

Kumna(South)

and Kariarhi(North)

Panchayat: Bhatkeshari

Block: Jalalpur

Land use and Land cover pattern: Approx.10% Agricultural practices in surrounding of this wetland and Approx. 90 % area covered with grasses.

Source of water: Rainfall and Catchment Runoff and



Present Status of Gamharia Wetland

Mangalopur wetland:

Village: Mangalopur (East),

Kunhecli (West)

Ghogalia(South)

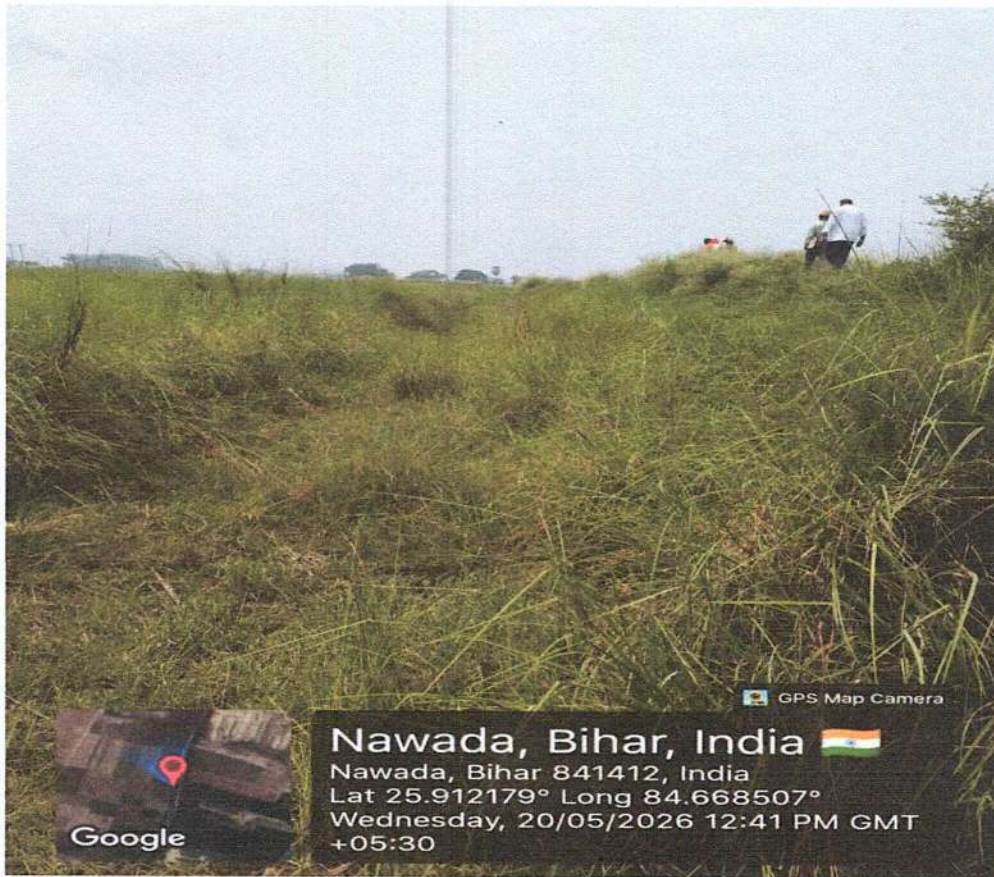
Nonda Tole and mathein (North)

Panchayat: Bistunupur and Nawada

Block: Jalalpur

Land use and Land cover pattern: Approx 25% Agricultural practices in surrounding of this wetland and approx.75 % area covered with **grasses**.

Source of water: Rainfall and Catchment Runoff



Present Status of Mangalpour Wetland

Key Findings:

- No water was found in these three waterbodies during the site visit. According to local opinion, these chaur retain water only during the monsoon season, as they are essentially low-lying areas. Therefore, all three waterbodies are seasonal in nature.
- Agricultural activities are predominantly carried out around these waterbodies.
- No construction activities were observed within the core or peripheral area of these three waterbodies.
- As per public opinion, during the flood season, Bhatkeshari Chaur and Ghamaria Chaur become interconnected. However, no direct connecting channel between these waterbodies was observed during the site visit.

- These three waterbodies are connected to the Tel River through channels. These channels are choked and narrow.
- No waste disposal site was observed within the core or peripheral areas of these waterbodies. The petitioner has not submitted GPS-based photographs of the waste disposal site; therefore, it is difficult to identify and trace the disposal site.
- No Construction work was carried out within the core or peripheral areas of these waterbodies.
- These three wetlands have been identified, and based on the assessment of the brief documents, they will be considered for notification under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.
- Plantation along the embankment of Tel river will be done after obtaining necessary approval.

Aman Kumar Sharma
Aman kumar Sharma
(Forest Guard),

Shubham k Singh
Shubham kumar Singh
(Forest Guard),

Pratiksha Singh
Pratiksha Singh
(Forester),

Banke Paswan
Banke Paswan
(Range Officer)



कार्यालय : प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, बिहार, पटना।

(जलवायु परिवर्तन संभाग)

तृतीय तल, अरण्य भवन, शहीद पीर अली खॉ मार्ग (राईडिंग रोड), शेखपुरा, पटना-800014

ई-मेल : ccwlbihar@bihar.gov.in

पत्रांक : पर्या०/जल०/परि० (मु०) 30/2026 - 276

प्रेषक,

अभय कुमार, भा०व०से०

अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक,

पर्यावरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन एवं आर्द्रभूमि,

बिहार, पटना।

सेवा में,

जिला पदाधिकारी,

सारण।

दिनांक-22/04/2026

विषय:- माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण, पूर्वी बेंच, कोलकाता में दायर O.A. No. 82/2026: Veterans Forum for Transparency in Public Life Vs. Govt. of Bihar & Ors. के संबंध में।

प्रसंग:- Wing Commandar (Retd.) श्री विश्वनाथ प्रसाद सिंह का ई-मेल दिनांक-19.04.2026

महाशय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक प्रासंगिक ई-मेल की प्रति सानुलग्नक संलग्न कर आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु भेजी जा रही है।

अतः अनुरोध है कि आदेश में वर्णित बिन्दुओं के आलोक में नियमानुसार यथा-आवश्यक कार्रवाई करते हुए कृत कार्रवाई प्रतिवेदन इस कार्यालय को एक सप्ताह के अन्दर उपलब्ध कराने की कृपा की जाय।

अनु०-यथोक्त

विश्वासभाजन,

(अभय कुमार)

अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक,
पर्यावरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन एवं आर्द्रभूमि,
बिहार, पटना।

कार्यालय : प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, बिहार, पटना।
(जलवायु परिवर्तन संभाग)

तृतीय तल, अरण्य भवन, शहीद पीर अली खाँ मार्ग (राईडिंग रोड), शेखपुरा, पटना-800014
ई-मेल : ccwlbihar@bihar.gov.in

पत्रांक: पर्या०/जल०/परि० (मु०)-30/2026 - 278

प्रेषक,

अमय कुमार, भा०व०से०

अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक,
पर्यावरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन एवं आर्द्रभूमि,
बिहार, पटना।

सेवा में,

सदस्य सचिव,

बिहार राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण पर्षद, पटना।

वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी,

सारण वन प्रमंडल, सारण।

पटना-14, दिनांक-22/04/2026

विषय:- माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण, पूर्वी बेंच, कोलकाता में दायर O.A. No. 82/2026 : Veterans Forum for Transparency in Public Life Vs. Govt. of Bihar & Ors. के संबंध में।

प्रसंग:- Wing Commander (Retd), श्री विश्वनाथ प्रसाद सिंह का ईमेल, दिनांक-19.04.2026
महाशय,

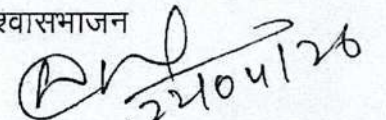
उपर्युक्त विषयक प्रासंगिक पत्र (छायाप्रति संलग्न) के संबंध में कहना है कि माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण, पूर्वी बेंच, कोलकाता द्वारा विषयांकित वाद में दिनांक-16.04.2026 को पारित आदेश में वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी, सारण (प्रतिवादी संख्या-06) एवं सदस्य सचिव, बिहार राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण पर्षद, पटना (प्रतिवादी सं०- 05) के रूप में एक माह के अन्दर माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण, पूर्वी बेंच, कोलकाता में प्रतिशपथ-पत्र दायर किया जाना है।

अतः अनुरोध है कि विषयाधीन वाद में प्रतिशपथ-पत्र दायर करते हुए उसकी प्रति अधोहस्ताक्षरी को उपलब्ध कराने की कृपा की जाय।

उक्त वाद की अगली सुनवाई की तिथि 21.07.2026 को निर्धारित है।

अनु०-यथोक्त।

विश्वासभाजन


(अमय कुमार)

अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक,
पर्यावरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन एवं आर्द्रभूमि,
बिहार, पटना।



बिहार सरकार

कार्यालय : प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, बिहार, पटना।
(जलवायु परिवर्तन संभाग)

तृतीय तल, अरण्य भवन, शहीद पीर अली खॉ मार्ग (राईडिंग रोड), शेखपुरा, पटना-800014
ई-मेल : ccwlbihar@bihar.gov.in

पत्रांक-पर्या०/जल०/परि०-88/2025 - 03

प्रेषक,

एस० चन्द्रशेखर, भा०व०से०,
मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-राज्य नोडल पदाधिकारी,
पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन,
बिहार, पटना।

सेवा में,

सभी जिला पदाधिकारी-सह-अध्यक्ष,
जिला आर्द्रभूमि समिति, बिहार।

सभी वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी-सह-सदस्य सचिव,
जिला आर्द्रभूमि समिति, बिहार।

पटना-14, दिनांक-02/01/2026

विषय:- Protection of Wetlands as per Rules 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

महाशय,

निदेशानुसार उपर्युक्त विषय के संबंध में सूचित करना है कि बिहार राज्य में अवस्थित आर्द्रभूमियों के संरक्षण हेतु माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा W.P. No. 230/2001, M.K. Balakrishnan & Ors. बनाम भारत संघ एवं अन्य में दिनांक-04.10.2017 को पारित आदेश की प्रति तथा पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के पत्रांक-F. No.- W-4/4/2022-WTL, दिनांक-08.03.2022 द्वारा निर्गत कार्यालय ज्ञापन की प्रति **सानुलग्नक संलग्न कर** आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु भेजी जा रही है।

वर्णित आलोक में अनुरोध है कि उक्त दिशा-निर्देश का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करने की कृपा की जाय।

अनु०-यथोक्त।

विश्वासभाजन,

(एस० चन्द्रशेखर)

मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-
राज्य नोडल पदाधिकारी,
पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन,
बिहार, पटना।

02/11/26

**F. No. W-4/4/2022-WTL
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(Wetlands Division)**

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi -110003

Dated 8th March, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Protection of Wetlands as per Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017

The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 4th October, 2017 in W.P. (C) No. 230 of 2001 has inter-alia, directed that, *"We make it clear and reiterate that in terms of our order dated 8th February, 2017, 2,01,503 wetlands that have been mapped by the Union of India should continue to remain protected on the same principles as were formulated in Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010"*.

2. The same has been communicated by this Ministry to all the States and UTs in November, 2017. Hon'ble NGT has also reiterated the same in various recent cases.

3. In view of above, it is once again clarified/reiterated that the 2,01,503 wetlands (>2.25 ha) as per the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment (NWIA), 2011 should be protected as per Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. This protection is irrespective of the applicability of/notification as per the said Rules.

Ramesh
(Dr. M. Ramesh)
Scientist 'E'

Tel.: 011-20819249

Email: ramesh.motipalli@nic.in

To

The Member Secretaries of State and UT Wetlands Authorities

ITEM NO.4

COURT NO.3

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 230/2001

M.K. BALAKRISHNAN & ORS. Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. Respondent(s)

Date : 04-10-2017 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MADAN B. LOKUR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. ABDUL NAZEER
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Adv.
Mr. Shrutanjaya Bhardwaj, Adv.
Ms. Veera Mahuli, Adv.
Mr. Naresh Kumar, AOR

For Respondent(s) /
applicant(s)
UOI/Delhi

Mr. A.N.S. Nadkarni, ASG
Mr. A.K. Panda, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Wasim A. Qadri, Adv.
Mr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Adv.
Ms. Binu Tamta, Adv.
Mrs. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Sanjai Kumar Pathak, Adv.
Mr. Shalinder Saini, Adv.
Mr. G.S. Makker, Adv.
Mr. B.V. Balram Das, Adv.
Mr. S.A. Siddiqui, Adv.
Mr. Satya Siddiqui, Adv.
Mr. Zaki Kazmi, Adv.

Intervenor

Mr. Jayant Bhushan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ketan Paul, Adv.
Ms. Reeja Varghese, Adv.
Mr. Chirayu Jain, Adv.

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by
SANJAY KUMAR
Date: 2017.10.05
11:15:56 IST
Reason:

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

We have heard learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Solicitor General.

We have been informed that the Wetland Rules have since been notified and they are now called the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. These Rules have come into force on the date of publication in the official gazette, that is, 26th September, 2017.

Learned counsel for the parties say that they have very serious objections to some of these Rules. It is submitted that it appears that the Central Government has abdicated its responsibility under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and instead of delegating its powers, it has abdicated its power in favour of the State Governments. We have also been informed that the Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority has since been disbanded and the State Wetlands Authority and the National Wetlands Committee have been constituted under Rules 5 and 6 of the new Rules.

With regard to the expenditure on Ramsar Convention sites, we have been informed by learned Additional Solicitor General that the audited accounts have so far been received from the States of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. Audited accounts have not been received from any other State with regard to the Ramsar

Convention sites.

We have also been informed that apart from Ramsar Convention sites, further funds have been given to the States and the Union Territories for conservation of wetlands. No audited accounts have been received in regard to these funds disbursed as well as their expenditure by the State Governments and the Union Territories.

With regard to the brief documents required to be furnished under the old Rules, it appears that only ten States and one Union Territory have responded. It appears that there is now no necessity of brief documents under the new Rules. We make it clear that this does not mean that the earlier brief documents already submitted can be discarded completely. The contents of these brief documents will still be followed as far as the implementation of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 is concerned.

Finally, with regard to the satellite images, we are told that the Space Application Centre would require between 12 to 18 months to make an inventory of 1,75,740 wetlands as they exist today. We make no comment on this but request learned Additional Solicitor General to re-check with the Space Application Centre since the wetlands are diminishing in our country at a very fast rate. It is very likely that many more will disappear by the time the task is completed by the Space Application

Centre.

We make it clear and reiterate that in terms of our order dated 8th February, 2017, 2,01,503 wetlands that have been mapped by the Union of India should continue to remain protected on the same principles as were formulated in Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010.

Learned counsel for the parties may file their objections to the new Rules within a period of two weeks. We direct that only one set of objections should be filed and both learned counsel should sit together and arrive at some consensus on the objections.

We further direct the State Governments that have not complied with earlier orders or directions given by the Central Government should do so within a period of four weeks from today failing which we will be constrained to require the presence of the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments in addition to imposition of heavy costs keeping in mind the necessity of conserving whatever water bodies are left in the country.

List the matter for further directions and for hearing on the objections to the new Rules on 9th November, 2017.

We would require the presence of a senior officer of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India to be present in Court on the next date of hearing so that any questions that may be raised

can be answered immediately. Needless to say, the senior officer who should be present in Court should be well-versed with the subject. The files on the basis of which the new Rules have been framed may also be kept ready for perusal when the matter is taken up.

(SANJAY KUMAR-I)
AR-CUM-PS

(KAILASH CHANDER)
COURT MASTER