

By email

**Environment, Climate Change
& Forest (EC.3) Department,
Secretariat, Chennai- 600 009.
E.mail : eccfd@tn.gov.in**

Letter No.17759/EC.3/2018-30, dated 13.05.2024

From
Tmt.Supriya Sahu, I.A.S.,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

To
The Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority /
Director,
Department of Environment and Climate Change,
Chennai-15.(w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Environment and Climate Change – O.A. No.349/2023
before the National Green Tribunal (Principal Bench) –
Filing of Affidavit before the Hon'ble National Green
Tribunal (PB), New Delhi on behalf of Chief Secretary to
Government – Approved Affidavit Sent - Regarding.

- Ref: 1. Government letter No.17759/EC.3/2018-26, dated
21.02.2024.
2. E-mail received from Ministry of Environment, Forests
and Climate Change, Government of India,
New Delhi, dated. 20.03.2024.
3. From the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment,
Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New
Delhi D.O. letter No.19-107/2020-IA-III,
dated.20.03.2024.
4. Government letter No.17759/EC.3/2018-28, dated
22.03.2024.
5. Your letter No.P1/3167/2023, dated.08.04.2024.
6. Government letter No.17759/EC.3/2018-29, dated
10.04.2024.

I am directed to invite attention to your letter 5th cited and to enclose the
approved Affidavit for filing before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB),
New Delhi in O.A. No.249/2023.

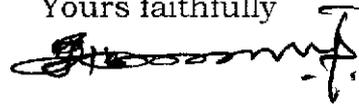
2. In this regard, the Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone
Management Authority/ Director, Department of Environment and Climate
Change is authorized to file the Affidavit on behalf of the Chief Secretary to
Government of Tamil Nadu as per the direction of the Hon'ble National Green
Tribunal (PB), New Delhi in O.A. No.249/2023.

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3. I am also to request you to send an action taken report to Government early.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. ...', written over the typed name 'J. B. ...'.

for Additional Chief Secretary to Government

Handwritten initials 'J.B.' in a circle, with a checkmark to the right.

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

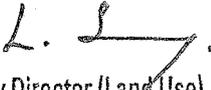
O. A. No. 249/2023

**In re: In the Matter of News Item Published in The Hindu News Paper
Dated 19.03.2023 Titled 'India's Sinking Island'**

**AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF
TAMIL NADU IN COMPLIANCE OF ORDER DATED 13.03.2024**

I, A.R. Rahul Nadh., I.A.S., S/o Regunadh A.K, aged about 36 years working as Member Secretary, TNSCZMA/Director, DoE&CC, Government of Tamil Nadu with office at Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015 solemnly affirm and sincerely state the following based on the official records presented before me: I am filing this Affidavit on behalf of the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu.

- 1) It is respectfully submitted that this affidavit is being filed in accordance with the Order dated 13.03.2024 of this Hon'ble Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, which directed the Chief Secretaries/Lieutenant Governors of Coastal States/Union Territories under consideration to submit an affidavit to the Tribunal within six weeks disclosing the outer time limit within which the CZMP - ICRZP, as per the 2019 Notification, will be finally formulated/revised and submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).


Deputy Director (Land Use)
Department of Environment & Climate Change
Chennai


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Department of Environment and Climate Change,
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- 2) It is respectfully submitted that with regard to Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP), the Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNSCZMA), under the Government of Tamil Nadu, has diligently undertaken measures for the revision of CZMP for the State of Tamil Nadu in accordance with the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2019.
- 3) It is respectfully submitted that the work of preparation of CZMP for the state of Tamil Nadu was entrusted to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, one of the agencies authorized by MoEF&CC for preparation of CZMP.
- 4) It is respectfully submitted that the NCSCM submitted the pre-draft map on November 5, 2021, and a stakeholder meeting was conducted regarding the pre-draft map on March 16, 2022. Subsequently, the NCSCM has completed the work and submitted the final draft of the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) for conducting the public hearing on August 4, 2022.
- 5) It is respectfully submitted that the draft CZMP maps were published on the website on October 6, 2022, for the purpose of obtaining comments/remarks and to conduct a public hearing. However, a Writ Petition (WP No. 30292 of 2022) was filed by Thiru K. Saravanan, wherein the primary prayer of the Petition is that the maps should be published in the Tamil language for easier understanding by the general public.


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- 6) It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble High Court of Madras issued orders on February 19, 2022, for preparing the maps in the Tamil language as well. Consequently, the Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Tamil Nadu, has prepared the draft CZMP and land use maps in both Tamil and English. These were published on the website of the Department of Environment & Climate Change on June 16, 2023, to solicit comments/remarks from Government Departments, the public, NGOs, etc. However, the maps for Chennai and Tiruvallur districts were not included due to ongoing proceedings in OA No.131 of 2022 in NGT (SZ).
- 7) It is respectfully submitted that tentative dates for public hearing had been fixed in the month of August, 2023 in 12 coastal districts except Chennai & Thiruvallur districts.
- 8) It is respectfully submitted that in the meantime, the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in OA 101 of 2023 issued a stay order on August 18, 2023, preventing the conduction of public hearings until such time the draft CZMP is complete in all aspects, which was fixed between 18.08.2023 and 31.08.2023.
- 9) It is respectfully submitted that in the aforementioned order, the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) directed the Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Tamil Nadu to promptly obtain details regarding fishing zones, fish breeding areas, fishing village boundaries, breeding and



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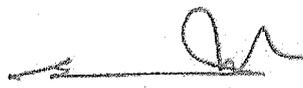
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spawning grounds, as well as common properties of the fishermen communities from the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare.

- 10) It is respectfully submitted that in this regard, all 14 Coastal District Collectors of Tamil Nadu were requested to collect the details as per the NGT orders through the Fisheries & Fisherman Welfare Department and Revenue Department. Subsequently, they were instructed to forward these details to the Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Tamil Nadu with authentication from the district administration.
- 11) It is respectfully submitted that in the interim, the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Environment, Climate Change & Forest Department has conducted a stakeholder meeting on September 19, 2023, involving various stakeholders to gather information and feedback for the completion of the draft CZMP in accordance with the CRZ Notification 2019. The Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change also conducted a meeting with commissioner of Fisheries & Fisherman Welfare Department in this regard.
- 12) It is respectfully submitted that furthermore, the authentic remarks received from District Administrations were forwarded to NCSCM for incorporation into the draft CZMP and landuse map and were included in the draft after due verification by representatives from the coastal districts.

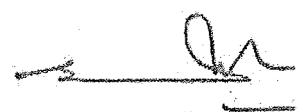

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- 13) It is respectfully submitted that the publication of draft CZMP for public consultation & conduction of public hearing after providing a 30-day prior notice to obtain comments/suggestions from all stakeholders will be done as per EIA Notification, 2006 & CRZ Notification, 2019.
- 14) It is respectfully submitted that due to the announcement of General Elections for the Lok Sabha and the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct, the public hearing will be conducted after the elections. Subsequently, the final draft, incorporating comments and suggestions obtained from the public, will be submitted to the Government of India for approval before end of October 2024.
- 15) It is respectfully submitted that in the interim, the Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Tamil Nadu, has also prepared the draft Shoreline Management Plan for the state of Tamil Nadu through the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), which will also be submitted along with final draft CZMP for approval.

It is therefore humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to record the above-mentioned facts and pass such further order or orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the interest of justice.


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VERIFICATION

Verified at Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 21st of May 2024 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and information as derived from the official records and nothing material has been concealed there from.



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