

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 13 of 2025**

Tribunal on its own motion - **SUO MOTU**  
based on the News item in  
The New Indian Express newspaper,  
Chennai e-edition dated 16.01.2025,  
titled, **“Experts are alarmed as 350 turtles  
was ashore dead till January 15”**.

... Suo moto

Vs.

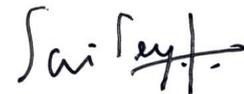
1. Union of India,  
Represented by its Secretary,  
MOEF & CC, New Delhi and ors.

... Respondents

**Additional Affidavit filed by 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent -MoEF &CC**

<b>SNo</b>	<b>Particulars of documents</b>	<b>Pg No</b>
1	Additional Affidavit filed by MoEF&CC	1
2	Annexure-1: Copy of order dated 07.05.2025	5

Dated at Chennai this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025



Sai Srujan Tayi  
Counsel for MoEF& CC/1<sup>st</sup> Respondent  
Contact No: 98414 41438  
Mail ID: sai@girisai.com

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI  
IN  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 13 of 2025(SZ)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**Tribunal on its own motion -  
based on the News item in The New Indian  
Express newspaper, Chennai e-edition  
dated 16.01.2025, titled, "Experts are  
alarmed as 350 turtles was ashore dead till  
January 2025".**

**...Suo Motu**

**VERSUS**

**Union of India,  
Represented by its Secretary,  
MOEF & CC, New Delhi and Ors**

**...Respondents**

**Additional Affidavit for compliance with the order dated 02.06.2025 of this  
Hon'ble Tribunal on behalf of the Union of India (Respondent No.1).**

I, K. Karthikeyan, S/o Karuppaiah. M.A aged about 44 years, working as Assitant Inspector General of Forests in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai (hereinafter 'Ministry') do hereby solemnly affirm and State as under:

1. That I am duly authorized to swear this affidavit, and as such, I am conversant with the facts of the present case and competent to swear the present affidavit.

K. Karthikeyan, IFS  
Asst. Inspector General of Forests (C)  
Government of India  
Regional Office, MoEF&CC  
Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006

  
**K. Karthikeyan, IFS**  
Asst. Inspector General of Forests (C)  
Government of India  
Regional Office, MoEF&CC  
Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006

2. That this affidavit has been drafted under my instructions based on the records maintained by the office of the answering Respondent in its normal course of business, and the same are true and correct.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

3. That the present case has been Suo Motu registered by this Hon'ble Tribunal based on the news item published in The New Indian Express, Chennai Edition dated 16.01.2025 titled, "Experts are alarmed as 350 turtles was ashore dead till January 15".
4. That the matter was listed for hearing on 02.06.2025, wherein the Hon'ble Tribunal directed the answering Respondent ministry to file a further affidavit.

**REPLY ON MERIT:**

5. It is respectfully submitted that the Olive Ridley Turtle, which is endangered, is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (WPA). Therefore, any form of poaching, hunting, or trade in the Olive Ridley Turtle is prohibited.
6. It is submitted that under Section 4 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the State Government may, for the purpose of the Act, appoint the Chief Wildlife Warden and other officers. The section states the following:

**"4. Appointment of Life Warden and other officers.—**(1) The State Government may, for the purpose of this Act, appoint—

- (a) a Chief Wild Life Warden;  
 (b) Wild Life Wardens;  
 [(b) Honorary Wild Life Wardens;]  
 (c) such other officers and employees as may be necessary.

K. Karthikeyan, IFS  
 Asst. Inspector General of Forests (C)  
 Government of India  
 Regional Office, MoEF&CC  
 Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,  
 Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006

  
**K. Karthikeyan, IFS**  
 Asst. Inspector General of Forests (C)  
 Government of India  
 Regional Office, MoEF&CC  
 Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,  
 Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006

(2) In the performance of his duties and exercise of his powers by or under this Act, the Chief Wild Life Warden shall be subject to such general or special directions, as the State Government may from time to time, give.

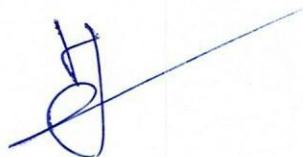
(3) [The Wild Life Warden, the Honorary Wild Life Warden] and other officers and employees appointed under this section shall be subordinate to the Chief Wild Life Warden."

7. It is further submitted that the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) is the authority to control, protect, and manage wildlife in the protected areas in the States, as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. The species listed in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 are also protected as per said statute, and CWLW and local officials of the forest, wildlife, and police are empowered to take action so far as protection and conservation of the listed species are concerned. Therefore, a system supported by statutory provisions exists under the said statute.

8. It is most respectfully submitted that a similar matter, Civil Appeal No. 288 of 2021 titled Arnav Sinha vs The State of West Bengal & OR's. is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The Apex Court heard the matter on 07.05.2025. During the course of the hearing, it was informed by the Ld. Amici to the Court that effective steps were taken, because of which hatching happened without any disturbance. The relevant part of the order is as follows:

"...2. We are informed that the State Government has fully co-operated and has in fact taken active steps. The joint efforts must continue for the subsequent events which is to commence from 10.05.2025, and all necessary steps must be taken for a period of two weeks thereafter.

3. In the meanwhile, the States that have not filed affidavits pursuant to the order dated 02.04.2025 shall file their affidavits giving information as provided in Appendix-1 of our order dated 02.04.2025..."

  
**K. Karthikeyan, IFS**  
 Asst. Inspector General of Forests (C)  
 Government of India  
 Regional Office, MoEF&CC,  
 Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,  
 Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006

The Hon'ble Supreme Court is already seized of the issue relating to the conservation of turtles, including monitoring the steps taken for their protection and the implementation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs). The apex court has posted the matter for hearing on 06.08.2025. **A copy of the order dated 07.05.2025 is placed at Annexure-1.**

9. In light of the foregoing submissions, it is respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly dispose of the present application as a similar matter is being heard by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Further, the Hon'ble Tribunal be pleased to issue such orders, directives, or relief as it may deem appropriate and just under the circumstances of the present case.

  
**DEPONENT**

**K. Karthikeyan, IFS**  
Asst. Inspector General of Forests (C)  
Government of India  
Regional Office, MoEF&CC  
Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006

### VERIFICATION

Verified at Chennai on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge based on records and no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

*K. Karthikeyan, IFS*  
Asst. Inspector General of Forests (C)  
Government of India  
Regional Office, MoEF&CC  
Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006

  
**DEPONENT**

**K. Karthikeyan, IFS**  
Asst. Inspector General of Forests (C)  
Government of India  
Regional Office, MoEF&CC  
Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006

ITEM NO.16

COURT NO.11

SECTION XVII

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

Civil Appeal No(s). 288/2021

ARNAV SINHA

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL &amp; ORS.

Respondent(s)

Sr. Advocates Ms. Liz Mathew and Ms. Uttara Babbar are amicus curie  
IA No. 13982/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED  
JUDGMENT

IA No. 13973/2021 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF

IA No. 13972/2021 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL  
DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

Date : 07-05-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PAMIDIGHANTAM SRI NARASIMHA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Appellant(s) : Ms. Liz Mathew, Sr. Adv. (A.C.)  
Ms. Uttara Babbar, Sr. Adv. (A.C.)  
Ms. Bhagawathy B., Adv.  
Ms. Rayana Mukherjee, Adv.

Mr. Jai Anant Dehadrai, Adv.  
Mr. Siddharth Sharma, Adv.  
Mr. Vipul Pathak, Adv.  
Mr. Pulkit Agarwal, AOR

For Respondent(s) : Ms. Madhumita Bhattacharjee, AOR  
Ms. Debarati Sadhu, Adv.

Mr. Som Raj Choudhury, AOR  
Ms. Shrutee Aradhana, Adv.  
Mr. Prashant Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Sahil Bhalai, AOR  
Mr. Tushar Giri, Adv.  
Mr. Siddharth Anil Khanna, Adv.  
Mr. Ritik Arora, Adv.  
Mr. Shivam Mishra, Adv.  
Mr. Gouttam Polanki, Adv.  
Mr. Sewa Singh, Adv.

Ms. Purnima Krishna, AOR

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.  
Ms. Shivika Mehra, Adv.  
Mr. Gaurang Bhushan, Adv.  
Mr. Annirudh Sharma-ii, Adv.  
Mr. Anirudh Bhatt, Adv.  
Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.  
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Verma, Adv.  
Mr. Apoorv Kurup, Adv.  
Mr. Rajesh Singh Chauhan, Adv.  
Mr. Ishaan Sharma, Adv.  
Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terald, AOR  
Mr. N.visakamurthy(aor), Sr. Adv.

Mr. Harshad V. Hameed, AOR  
Mr. Dileep Poolakkot, Adv.  
Mrs. Ashly Harshad, Adv.  
Mr. Anshul Saharan, Adv.

Mr. D. L. Chidananda, AOR

Mrs. Shirin Khajuria, Sr. Adv.  
Ms. Bhavana Duhoon, AOR  
Ms. Swati Tiwari, Adv.  
Mr. Anshul Syal, Adv.

Dr. Ravindra Chingale, Adv.  
Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.  
Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR

Ms. Archana Pathak Dave, A.S.G.  
Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR  
Mr. Chitvan Singhal, Adv.  
Ms. Shagun Thakur, Adv.  
Mr. Udit Dedhiya, Adv.  
Mr. Aditya Dixit, Adv.

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

Ms. Priyadashini Priya, Adv.  
Mr. Shreekant N. Terald, AOR

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

1. We are informed by the learned Amici that pursuant to our order dated 02.04.2025 effective steps have been taken, because of which hatching happened without any disturbance.

2. We are informed that the State Government has fully co-operated and has in fact taken active steps. The joint efforts must continue for the subsequent events which is to commence from 10.05.2025 and all necessary steps must be taken for a period of two weeks thereafter.
3. In the meanwhile, the States that have not filed affidavits pursuant to the order dated 02.04.2025 shall file their affidavits giving information as provided in Appendix-1 of our order dated 02.04.2025.
4. Copies of the affidavits shall also be served on Ms. Roopali Lakhotia, learned AOR assisting the learned amici.
5. Liberty is also granted to Mr. Jai Anant Dehadrai, Adv. for filing additional documents including expert opinion.
6. List on 06.08.2025.

(KAPIL TANDON)  
COURT MASTER (SH)

(NIDHI WASON)  
COURT MASTER (NSH)