

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 65/2024 (SZ)
[EARLIER ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 85/2024 (PB)]**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU** based on the news item in Bangalore Mirror dt: 28.12.2023 titled, "**Core breach as structure set up in Kali Tiger Reserve**"

AND

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Karnataka and Ors ... Respondents

Next Date

INDEX

Sr.No	Description	Pages No.
1.	REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR, KALI TIGER RESERVE.	1-3
2.	<u>ANNEXURE-R-1</u> Photographs pertaining to the protection camp.	4-5

New Delhi
Date 12/08/2024,

Filled By :-



(Mr. DARPAN KM Adv.)
Advocate for the Respondent .
(Government of Karnataka .)
Kar/1053/2009.
Office K-6, LGF, Lajpat Nagar-3,
New Delhi - 110024
Mob. 9899125060/9968638862

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
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AND

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REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR, KALI TIGER RESERVE

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That this Hon'ble Tribunal has taken *suo moto* cognizance in the instant Original Application based on a news report, which alleges that a restroom has been constructed in the Kali Tiger Reserve to cater to tourists. The news article further alleges that the same is in breach of Project Tiger Guidelines, 2012 as it is allegedly a new tourism infrastructure in the core area of the reserve.
2. It is stated at the outset that the contents of the article are false and denied.
3. It is submitted that the area in question where the structure is put up is Neeligundi-Seema Nallah, also called the Blue waterfalls located in the Anshi National Park of Kali Tiger Reserve, along Anshi Ghat. The same is

at the boundary between Anshi Range (Joida Taluk) and Kadra Range (Karwar Taluk) next to the SH-34 connecting Ramnagar to Karwar.

4. The above-mentioned infrastructure is a protection camp put up by the Forest Department for the protection of the forest area. It is located within 7 km of the Anshi Wildlife Range, and is next to SH-34 in the Anshi Ghat area. The area has minimal vehicular traffic at night. Hence, in order to prevent any illegal offenses within the forest area, the forest protection camp was set up.
5. It is submitted that the Seema Nallah also called the Blue Waterfalls attracts visitors to stop for sightseeing. There have been many incidents of the presence of wild animals within the area which sometimes poses a risk for both humans and animals. The protection camp serves as a check for any illegal entry within the area and also prevents any man-animal conflict. Moreover, it also helps the officials take steps against and prevent any littering by the tourists in the area.
6. Further, the road connecting Anshi to Kadra has a steep ghat area with naturally grown grass. During summers, the same is prone to fires. Without the presence of any forest guards in the vicinity, it would become difficult to contain the fires. Hence, the protection camp also helps reduce the response time to the fire affected areas. It ensures that firefighting instruments and fire watchers can be stationed for prompt response during the fire season.

7. Hence, it is submitted that the structure in question is not a tourism infrastructure or a restroom. Rather, the protection camp would serve the purpose of preventing unauthorised tree felling, poaching, littering and as a strategic response point to forest fires. Photographs pertaining to the protection camp are annexed herewith as **Annexure R-1**.
8. With the above being submitted, it is humbly prayed that the instant petition may be disposed of.

Dandell
Deputy Conservator Of Forests & Director
Kali Tiger Reserve, Dandell
Director
Kali Tiger Reserve

Date: 12.08.2024

ANNEXURE-R-1



 **GPS Map
Camera Lite**

X9R9+WX6, SH 34, Anshi, Karnataka 581187, India

Latitude

14.94895874°

Longitude

74.36468191°



GPS Map
Camera Lite

X9R9+WX6, SH 34, Anshi, Karnataka 581187, India

Latitude

14.94895852°

Longitude

74.36468471°