

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

In re: Original Application No. 249 of 2023 on the News item published in the Newspaper, The Hindu dated 19.03.2023 titled 'India's Sinking Island',

with

Original Application No. 657 of 2024 News Item titled "Swell waves likely to strike coastal areas over weekend" appearing in The Hindu dated 04.05.2024

PAPER – I

Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No. 14 The Member Secretary, Puducherry Coastal Zone Management Authority, Puducherry

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Through



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Standing Counsel, Govt. of Puducherry

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

In re: Original Application No. 249 of 2023 on the News item published in the Newspaper, The Hindu dated 19.03.2023 titled 'India's Sinking Island',

With

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I, Yasam Lakshmi Narayana Reddy, S/o Late Shri Yasam Veera Reddy, (Hindu) aged 52 years, working as Member Secretary in the Puducherry Coastal Zone Management Authority (PCZMA) with office at 3rd Floor, PHB Building, Anna Nagar, Puducherry – 605005 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows based on the official records that is placed before me:

- 1) I respectfully submit that the Affidavit is being filed in compliance to the Order dated 01.07.2024 of this Hon'ble Tribunal, respondents for filing their response before the next date of hearing.

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**MEMBER SECRETARY
PUDUCHERRY COASTAL ZONE
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
PUDUCHERRY**


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- 2) I respectfully submit that as far as Coastal Zone Management Plan for Union Territory of Puducherry is concerned, the Puducherry Coastal Zone Management Authority (PCZMA), Government of Puducherry (GoP) has diligently taken measures for protecting and improving the quality of the coastal environment and preventing and abating coastal environmental issues in the coastal areas in the U.T of Puducherry.
- 3) I respectfully submit that the Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Puducherry had prepared a comprehensive Shoreline Management Plan for Puducherry in May (2015) through the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- 4) I respectfully submit that SLMP and learnings from the experimental beach nourishment studies conducted, process-based measurements and numerical studies, NIOT had designed a hybrid solution for the first time in the country with two reefs and sand nourishment for restoring the eroding beach along Puducherry town. The proposed hybrid solution involves:
- i. *Construction of one Near shore Wedge Reef opposite to the Chief Secretariat on the north end of Puducherry town foreshore, with the crest at Chart Datum.*
 - ii. *Construction of one Offshore Reef placed at the south end, at 300 m north of the pier, with the crest at 1 m above Chart Datum.*
 - iii. *Sand nourishment using 4,50,000 m³ of sand between northern and southern reef along the Coastline of Pondicherry Town near Gandhi Statue.*

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- 5) I respectfully submit that the above said project for restoration of Puducherry coastline was implemented by the Public Works Department, Puducherry through NIOT with financial assistance from the Ministry of Earth Sciences to the tune of Rs. 35 Crores for the construction of Nearshore Wedge Reef.
- 6) I respectfully submit that the construction of northern nearshore wedge reef was commenced in June 2017 and completed in August 2018 by NIOT. Sand nourishment was carried out by the Port Department, Puducherry. The construction of Northern nearshore wedge reef and sand nourishment has resulted in the formation of wide beach for a distance of about 250 meters and the bathymetry of the sea had also considerably improved.
- 7) I respectfully submit that, National Green Tribunal Order dated 11.04.2022 in O.A. No. 04/2013 and Appeal No. 18 of 2017 by C.H. Balamohan Vs Union of India & Others directed that 'all coastal States / UTs shall prepare the depiction of high, medium and low erosion stretches along the coastline which is mandatory in the CZMP' prepared as per CRZ Notification, 2019.'



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- 8) I respectfully submit that the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), MoES, Chennai has submitted the draft Shoreline Management Plan for the UT of Puducherry during the consultation meeting held on 30.07.2024 under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Science, Technology and Environment).
- 9) I respectfully submit that a consultation meeting was held on 19.08.2024 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (S,T&E) w.r.t the preparation of the Shoreline Management Plan along with the officials from NCCR, Chennai and stake-holder Departments of GoP.
- 10) I respectfully submit after finalization of Shoreline management Plan for UT of Puducherry will be forwarded to National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management for necessary incorporation in the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan for UT of Puducherry prepared under CRZ Notification, 2019.
- 11) I respectfully submit that, the warning alert if any received from the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and the same shall be forwarded to the State Disaster Management Authority for issue of directions for suspension and evacuation of the residents living along the coast.

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12) I respectfully submit that PCZMA vide earlier communication to MoEF&CC dated 04.06.2024 has stated that the public consultation for Puducherry and Karaikal will be completed by September, 2024. However due to the directions of the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in O.A. No. 171 of 2024, the public hearing proposed for Puducherry and Karaikal earlier in the Month of May, 2024 were postponed. The GoP has taken all the necessary measures to comply with the directives of the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) and it is proposed to conduct the public consultation before November, 2024 for Puducherry and Karaikal regions and submit it to the MoEF&CC for necessary approval of CZMP.

13) I respectfully submit that, in view of the above submissions, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may pass such further or other orders(s) as deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.



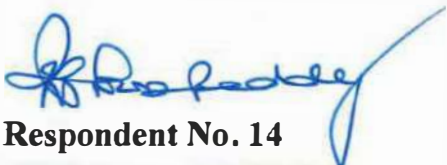
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MEMBER SECRETARY
PUDUCHERRY COASTAL ZONE
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VERIFICATION

Verified at Puducherry on 10.09.2024 that the contents of the above status report are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and information as derived from the official records and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

SIGNED BEFORE ME

MW 10/09/2024
M. SIVAPRAKASH, B.L.,
ADVOCATE & NOTARY PUBLIC
Govt. of India
Regd. No. 7933/2010
No.5, 111rd CROSS, ILANGO NAGAR
PUDUCHERRY - 605 011
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Respondent No. 14

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