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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

**PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.555 OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

News item titled "India lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000 Global Forest Watch" appearing in The Indian Express date 13.04.2024.

**RESPONSE AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT**

**NO. 18 STATE OF MAHARASHTRA**

**PAPER BOOK**



AP.

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**ADVOCATE FOR RESPONDENT: AADITYA PANDE**

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**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.555 OF 2024**

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News item titled "India lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000 Global Forest Watch" appearing in The Indian Express date 13.04.2024.

**RESPONSE AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT**

**NO. 18, STATE OF MAHARASHTRA**

I, P. Kalyan Kumar, age: 54 years, Designation: Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Conservation), State of Maharashtra, Presently at Van Bhavan, Nagpur do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under: -

- 1) I am the Authorized Officer in the present matter and as such I am fully conversant with the facts of the case and competent to swear the present Affidavit.
- 2) This Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to register the present Original Application by taking *suo-moto* cognizance on the basis of news item titled "India lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000 Global Forest Watch" appearing in The Indian Express on 13.04.2024.
- 3) Vide Order dated 18.11.2024, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass certain directions to several States by impleading them as Party Respondents in the present Original Application, whereby the State of Maharashtra has been arrayed as Respondent No. 18.



- 4) Vide Order dated 29.01.2025, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to grant an opportunity for the States/UTs to file their responses with respect to the subject matter of the present Original Application.
- 5) I say that this Affidavit is being filed in compliance of Order dated 29.01.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the present Original Application.
- 6) It is submitted that information regarding the forest cover/tree cover in the State of Maharashtra for the period between 2001 and 2023 is based on the India State of Forest Reports.
- 7) That the forest cover data has been compiled from India State of Forest Report published biennially by the Forest Survey of India (FSI). The relevant details are as follows:

**Forest Cover in Maharashtra (2001-2023)**

Forest Cover/ Tree Cover in Sq. Km.

ISFR Report Publishing Year	Forest Cover (Sq. Km)	Tree Cover (Sq. Km)	Total ( Forest Cover + Tree Cover) (Sq. Km)
2001	47482	8269	55751
2003	46865	9320	56185
2005	47476	8978	56454
2009	50650	9466	60116
2011	50646	9079	59725
2013	50632	9142	59774
2015	50628	9558	60186
2017	50682	9831	60513
2019	50778	10806	61584
2021	50913	14413	65326
2023	50859	14525	65384



- 8) That during the said period of 2001-2023, following information shows the increase in the forest cover/tree cover:

	<b>Net Increase</b>	<b>Percentage Increase</b>
<b>Forest Cover</b>	3377 Sq. Kms.	7.11%
<b>Tree Cover</b>	6256 Sq. Kms.	75.65%
<b>Forest Cover + Tree Cover</b>	9633 Sq. Kms.	17.28%

- 9) It is most respectfully stated that in view of the information provided hereinabove by way of compliance of Order dated 29.01.2025, this Hon'ble Tribunal may pass appropriate orders in the interest of justice.
- 10) I further crave the leave to file a detailed affidavit and/or additional affidavit and/or documents as and when required by the Hon'ble Tribunal.

- 11) That no new facts and grounds have been pleaded in this Affidavit.



(P. Kalyan Kumar)  
**DEPONENT**

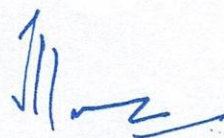
**A.P.C.C.F. (Conservation)**  
**M. S., Nagpur**

VERIFICATION

I, the above named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and state that whatever stated herein above is true to the best of my knowledge and information derived from the records and files maintained in the office and I believe the same to be true.

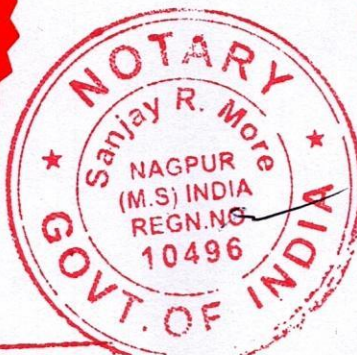
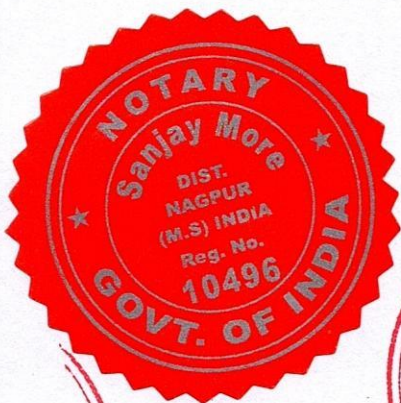
Solemnly affirmed on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025 at Nagpur.

Drawn by:  
Ms. Preet Phanse, Adv



(P. Kalyan Kumar)  
DEPONENT

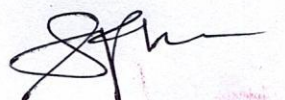
A.P.C.C.F. (Conservation)  
M. S., Nagpur



SWORN BEFORE ME ON THIS 28 DT. Feb 20 2025 AT NAGPUR BY  
SHRI/SMT./KU As Kalyan Kumar  
R/O Dee WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED  
BY SHRI/SMT. Preet. Phanse  
ADVOCATE, NAGPUR



NOTARIAL REG.  
ENTRY NO. 180  
DATE : 28/02/2025

  
SANJAY R. MORE,  
ADVOCATE & NOTARY  
NAGPUR, DIST. (M.S.) INDIA

