

सत्यमेव जयते

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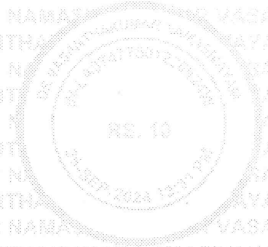
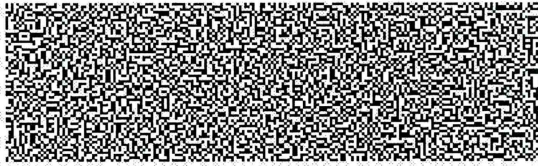
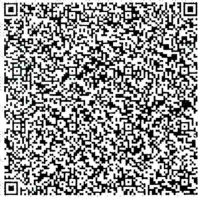
INDIA NON JUDICIAL

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH

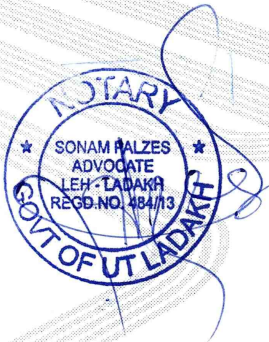
Rs.

e-Stamp

**Certificate No.** : IN-LA07477501230924W  
**Certificate Issued Date** : 25-Sep-2024 12:31 PM  
**Account Reference** : NONACC (SV)/ la12103704/ LEH/ LA-LEH  
**Unique Doc. Reference** : SUBIN-LALA1210370414213311749248W  
**Purchased by** : DR VASANTHAKUMAR NAMASIVAYAM  
**Description of Document** : Article 4 Affidavit  
**Property Description** : AFFIDAVIT  
**Consideration Price (Rs.)** : 0  
 (Zero)  
**First Party** : DR VASANTHAKUMAR NAMASIVAYAM  
**Second Party** : HONOURABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PB NEW DELHI  
**Stamp Duty Paid By** : DR VASANTHAKUMAR NAMASIVAYAM  
**Stamp Duty Amount(Rs.)** : 10  
 (Ten only)



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Statutory Alert:

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2. The onus of checking the legitimacy is on the users of the certificate.
3. In case of any discrepancy please inform the Competent Authority.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH

**BEFORE THE HONOURABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI**

Original Application No.641/2024

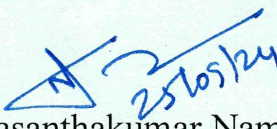
**IN THE MATTER OF: -**

News item titled "*Chunk of India's Forests, missing, after 27 years-delay to file reports Analysis*" appearing in The Hindu dated 28.04.2024.

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Filed by: -

  
 Dr. Vasanthakumar Namasivayam, IAS,  
 Commissioner/Secretary,  
 Deptt. of Forest, Ecology & Environment,  
 UT of Ladakh.

Dated: - 25/09/2024  
Leh-Ladakh

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BEFORE THE HONOURABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI

Original Application No.641/2024

In the matter of: -

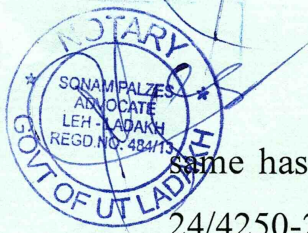
News item titled "*Chunk of India's Forests, missing, after 27 years-delay to file reports Analysis*" appearing in The Hindu dated  
28.04.2024.

Response by way of affidavit by the Commissioner/Secretary Health &  
Medical Education/ Forest, Ecology and Environment, Civil Secretariat, Leh-  
Ladakh, (In respect of Union Territory of Ladakh)

Hon'ble Sir,

I, Dr. Vasanthakumar Namasivayam, IAS, working as Commissioner/ Secretary, Deptt. of Forest, Ecology & Environment, UT of Ladakh, having office at Civil Secretariat, Leh-Ladakh, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under: -

1. That the afore mentioned matter relates to *suo-motu* cognizance of the news item which appeared in the Hindu newspaper with the title "*Chunk of India's Forests, missing, after 27 years-delay to file reports Analysis*".
2. That the news item relates to the 'missing' Indian forests due to the delay in filing reports by the State Expert Committee (SEC) regarding records of forest land to be identified as per dictionary meaning including all categories of forests irrespective of ownership as understood in the T.N Godvarman judgement.
3. That the Union Territory of Ladakh was part of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir till 2019 and as per office records of Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, UT of Ladakh, there is no order available for the constitution of Expert Committee by the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in T.N Godavarman case dated 12.12.1996.
4. That, however, the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh constituted the State Expert Committee (SEC) on 22.03.2024, a month prior to the publication date of the article, in compliance to the interim Order dated 19.02.2024 issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P (C) No. 1164/2023, in the matter of Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma vs. Union of India & Others, and other related cases. The



same has also been communicated to the MoEF&CC vide letter no. CCFL/2023-24/4250-252 dt: 28.03.2024. The copy of letter dated 28-03-2024 along with constitution of SEC order are annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE R-I**.

5. That the State Expert Committee, UT of Ladakh is currently in the process of preparing a comprehensive records of forest land in UT Ladakh as directed in the T.N Godavarman judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. In this regard, various meetings have also been conducted with all the stakeholders to expedite the process of identification of these forest lands along with on-ground verification. The comprehensive report shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change-GoI on completion of this exercise.
6. That the under signed is bound by the orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION: -

Verified at Leh on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of Sept 2024, that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained by the Deptt. of Forest, Ecology & Environment, UT of Ladakh in its day-to-day affairs and the nothing material has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.

The content of the deed/ Affidant has been read over to the parties/ Deponent/Executants who admitted it to be true and correct hence attested  
Notary Reg No.:.....484/13

Sonam Palzes (Notary Public)  
Leh UT Ladakh  
25/09/2024

DEPONENT



Ann

समृद्धि  
ONE EARTH - ONE FAMILY - ONE FUTURE

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH  
OFFICE OF CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

Charan Jeet Singh, Scientist D  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

No: CCF/2023-24/4250-252

Dated: 28-03-24

Subject: Interim order dated 19.02.2024 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the W.P.(C) No. 1164/2023 in the matter of Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma vs. Union of India and other concerned matters -reg.

Ref: Your office O.M Dated: 02-03-2024 on the subject cited above.

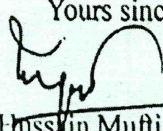
Regarding the subject and reference cited above, it is to inform that the Union Territory of Ladakh was a part of erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir till 2019 and as per the office records of Department of Forest Ecology and Environment, UT Ladakh, there is no order available for the constitution of Expert Committee by the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in T.N Godavarman case dated 12-12-1996.

The Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh however has constituted the Expert Committee (copy enclosed) for preparation of comprehensive records of forest land in UT Ladakh, as understood in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India judgment in W.P. (C) No. 202 of 1995 titled "*T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Union of India & Ors*" read with the directions issued in its Interim Order dated 19-02-2024 passed in W.P. (C) No. 1164/2023 titled "*Ashok Kumar Sharma Vs Union of India and Others*".

The Expert Committee is in the process of preparing an exhaustive record of lands to be identified as forests as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the report shall be submitted at the earliest.

Encl: As above.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Sajjad Hussain Mufti, IFS) 28  
Chief Conservator of Forests  
Union Territory of Ladakh

Copy to:

1. Commissioner/Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, UT Ladakh for favour of information.
2. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UT Ladakh for favour of information.



I/20119/2024

संघ राज्य प्रशासन, लद्दाख

सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग

THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKHGENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT

F. No.: A / 538 / 2022 – GAD SEC

ई-मेल / e-mail:  
gad.utladakh@ladakh.gov.inयूटी सचिवालय / UT Secretariat  
लेह / Leh, Dated: 22.03.2024

**Subject:** W.P.(C) No. 202 of 1995 titled "*T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs. Union of India & Ors.*" read with W.P.(C) No. 1164 of 2023 titled "*Ashok Kumar Sharma, IFS (Retired) and Others vs. Union of India and another*" ... ..  
**Constitution of Expert Committee thereof ... reg.**

**Ref.:** Directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court by Order in W.P.(C) No.1164 of 2023 dated 19 / 02 / 2024.

**Order No.: 146- LA (GAD) of 2024**  
**Dated: 22.03.2024**

Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of an Expert Committee, comprising the following Officers of the Administration of UT of Ladakh, for preparation of comprehensive records of forest lands in the Union territory of Ladakh; in pursuance and compliance of Order dated 12-12-1996 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P.(C) No. 202 of 1995 titled "*T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs. Union of India & Ors.*" read with Order dated 19-02-2024 passed in W.P. (C) No. 1164 of 2023 titled "*Ashok Kumar Sharma, IFS (Retired) and Others vs. Union of India and Anr.*".

- |    |  |          |
|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Ladakh | Chairman |
| 2. | Chief Conservator of Forests, Ladakh                 | Convener |
| 3. | Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Leh                | Member   |
| 4. | Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Kargil             | Member   |
| 5. | Divisional Forest Officer, Leh                       | Member   |
| 6. | Divisional Forest Officer, Kargil                    | Member   |

*Handwritten signature*

*Terms of reference for the Expert Committee:*

- (i) To identify areas which are 'forests' irrespective of whether they are so notified, recognized or classified under any law, and irrespective of the ownership of such forest land(s);
- (ii) To identify areas which were earlier forests but stand degraded, denuded or cleared; and

(iii) To identify areas covered by plantation trees belonging to the Government as also areas belonging to private persons.

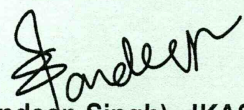
The Expert Committee shall prepare an exhaustive report detailing all categories of forests, for its onward submission to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India; as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

**By order of the Administration of UT of Ladakh.**

Sd/-  
**(Michael M. D'Souza) IAS**  
 Administrative Secretary  
 General Administration Department

Copy to:

1. All Administrative Secretaries, UT of Ladakh.
2. Additional Director General of Police, UT of Ladakh.
3. Secretary to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, UT of Ladakh for information of Hon'ble Lt. Governor.
4. Chief Electoral Officer, UT of Ladakh.
5. Deputy Commissioner, Leh / Kargil.
6. All Heads of Departments.
7. Director, NIC, UT of Ladakh.
8. Private Secretary to Advisor to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, UT of Ladakh for information of Advisor.
9. Government Order File.

  
**(Sandeep Singh), JKAS**  
 Under Secretary  
 General Administration Department