

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 60/2024

News item titled "**Lake buffer zone encroached to make illegal roads in Bengaluru's Mahadevpura**" appearing in Express News Service dated 25.12.2023

Date of hearing: 23.01.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondent: Ms. Uditha Chakravarthy, Adv. for R – 3 (Through VC)

ORDER

1. This original application is registered *suo-moto* on the basis of the news item titled "**Lake buffer zone encroached to make illegal roads in Bengaluru's Mahadevpura**" appearing in Express News Service dated 25.12.2023. The news item relates to unauthorized construction of roads over Lake buffer zone near Pattandur Agrahara Lake, Mahadevpura (Karnataka). As per the said report a decision was taken to fence the lake but before the lake could be fenced attempts have been made to encroach upon the area by building illegal roads on the lake buffer zone.

2. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms.

3. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter in *suo-motu* exercise of power has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors." reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

4. Hence, we deem it proper to implead following as respondents in the matter:-

- (1). Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary (KSPCB)
 - (2). Revenue Department, Bengaluru East, through its Tahsildar
 - (3). Bangalore Development Authority, through its Commissioner
 - (4). State Wetland Development Authority, through its Member Secretary
5. Respondent no. 3 has entered appearance and has sought time to file the response. Let notice be issued to respondent no. 1, 2 and 4 for filing their response before the appropriate bench of the tribunal.
6. Since the matter relates to Southern Zonal Bench, therefore, the OA is transferred to the Southern Bench for appropriate further action. Office is directed to transfer the original record of the case to Southern Zonal Bench.
7. List before Southern Zonal Bench on 06.03.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

January 23, 2024
Original Application No. 60/2024
AS.