

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

(By Video Conferencing)

Original Application No. 248/2022

In re: News item published in The Hindu dated 27.03.2022 titled
“Digging up the Chambal”

Date of hearing: 05.04.2022

**CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON
HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR AGARWAL, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON’BLE MS. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON’BLE PROF. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. The matter has been taken up on the basis of captioned media report to the effect that illegal mining is taking place in the periphery of Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan near Dholpur. The area is also close to National Chambal Sanctuary which is habitat of rare species of animals particularly Gharial, roofed turtles and also river dolphins. Illegal and unscientific mining is resulting in pollution in the area, adversely affecting the environment and public health. Blanket clearances are given for mining projects in violation of Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines, 2016 and 2020.

2. It is well known that mining can be allowed only after requisite EC in terms of directions of the Hon’ble Supreme Court in *Deepak Kumar v. State of Haryana & Ors.*, (2012) 4 SCC 629 for which District Survey Report and Replenishment study have to be prepared and appraisal conducted.

3. In view of above averments, we constitute an Eight Member Joint Committee comprising DGF&SS, Wildlife, MoEF&CC; Director, National Chambal Sanctuary; Secretaries Mining, Rajasthan, UP and M.P. and UP, MP and Rajasthan State PCBs. Madhya Pradesh State PCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance. The Committee may meet within two weeks, undertake visit to the site, interact with the stakeholders and prepare an action plan for remedial action for protecting aquatic habitats, demarcating and notifying areas for sand mining operations in conformity with ESMG 2016 and SSMG 2020, replenishment potential without conflicting with the national parks/ sanctuaries or any ecological habitat area, whether notified or not. The statutory authorities may take further remedial action in light to the said action plan, as per law. A factual and action taken report may be filed before this Tribunal within two months by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/ OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

List for further consideration on 06.07.2022.

A copy of this order along with the media report may be forwarded to DGF&SS, Wildlife, MoEF&CC; Director, National Chambal Sanctuary; Secretary Mining, Rajasthan, UP and M.P. and UP, MP and Rajasthan State PCB by e-mail for compliance.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Prof. A. Senthil Vel, EM

April 05, 2022
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