

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
CIVIL APPEAL NO.2025 OF 2019**

IN THE MATTER OF:

G. Sundarrajan

Appellant

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

Respondents

INDEX

SL. NO.	PARTICULARS	PAGE NOS.
1.	Additional Affidavit filed on behalf of the Respondent No.2/State of Tamil Nadu	1-12
2.	ANNEXURE R2/1: A copy of the notification bearing S.O. No.4729 (E) dated 28.12.2020	13- 27
3.	ANNEXURE R2/2: A copy of the Memorandum dated 17.06.2021	28-34
4.	ANNEXURE R2/3: A copy of the letter bearing No.1081 5/FR.5/2019-12 dated 09.11.2021	35

PAPERBOOK

**DR. JOSEPH ARISTOTLE S.
ADVOCATE FOR THE RESPONDENT/STATE OF TAMIL NADU**

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ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE 2ND

RESPONDENT – STATE OF TAMIL NADU

I, Supriya Sahu, D/o. Mr. Ram Ashrey Prasad aged about 54 years, working as Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, having its office at Fort St. George, Secretariat, Chennai – 9, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state on oath as hereunder:-


1. That I am working as Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, having its office at Fort. St. George, Secretariat, Chennai – 9 and I am filing this additional Affidavit on behalf of the 2nd respondent, Government of Tamil Nadu and as such I have perused the relevant records and documents and I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case and thus, competent to swear this affidavit.




 Additional Chief Secretary to Government
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2. It is respectfully submitted that the appellant had filed the present civil appeal before this Hon'ble Court with the prayer to set aside the judgment dated 02.11.2018 in Appeal No. 60 of 2018 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi.
3. That for the sake of brevity the Respondent does not repeat the averments made in the Counter Affidavit dated 06.08.2019 filed by the 2nd Respondent but craves the leave of this Hon'ble Court to treat the averments made therein as part and parcel of this Additional Affidavit.
4. It is respectfully submitted that, the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, applied for Environmental Clearance to the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Tamil Nadu. As the project is a unique project and the proposed site is bordering interstate boundary, which attracts the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; the SEIAA, Tamil Nadu returned the application directing the Project Proponent to get the Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.
5. That based on the above, the Project Proponent applied and obtained Environment Clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on 01.06.2011.




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Environment, Climate Change and
Forest Department
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6. That, against the said project, one Thiru G Sundarrajan, *Poovulagin Nanbaragal* (Friends of Earth) an Environmental Organization, filed a Petition (Application No. 6/2015) before the National Green Tribunal challenging the Environmental Clearance issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 01.06.2011 and demanded that a detailed and comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment to be conducted by an accredited agency and public hearing to be conducted in accordance with the EIA Notification, 2006 and Biological Diversity Act, 2002 as the project site is situated within 4.9 km of Mathikettan Shola National Park, Idukki District, Kerala.
7. That in the aforesaid case, the NGT (Southern Zone), vide its order dated 20.03.2017 directed the project authorities to apply afresh and the earlier Environmental Clearance was kept in abeyance.
8. That after the aforesaid order, the new Project Proponent, i.e., Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai applied for Environment Clearance on 25.07.2017 as "Building and Construction Project" before State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Tamil Nadu.
9. That the SEIAA, Tamil Nadu, during its meeting held on 27.11.2017, recorded that the proposal is not eligible for consideration as "Building and Construction Project" as it involves





 Additional Chief Secretary to Government
 Environment, Climate Change and
 Forest Department
 Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

many technical features other than mere constructions. The following were cited as reasons for non-consideration by SEIAA, Tamil Nadu.

- i. *The tunneling work involves carrying out blasting in hard and composite rock mass and requires huge quantity of high strength explosives to break it. Further, the tunneling work involves the excavation of 600000 cubic metre of Charnockite rock from the mountain.*
- ii. *The tunnel and Cavern will be at the depth of 1,000 m from the top of the Mountain. At the depth of 1,000 m, mountain rock would be under tremendous pressure and the vertical stress is expected to be greater than 270 kg per sq.m. This will create problems like Rock bust and roof collapse. The proposals of the PP regarding the safeguards will have to be scrutinized using the Geo-technical studies.*
- iii. *The Western Ghats is a global biodiversity hotspots and treasure trove of biological diversity. It harbours many endemic species of flowering plants and endemic fishes and amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and invertebrates and it also an important centre of evolution of economically important domesticated plant species.*
- iv. *The proposed site forms part of catchment of various streams and streamlet's and ultimately contribute to the Vaigai watershed which forms life support and livelihood of the dependent communities by providing water for drinking and agricultural need in 5 districts of Tamil Nadu.*




Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change and
Forest Department
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10. That after the said rejection by SIEAA, Tamil Nadu, the Project Proponent applied before the Ministry for revised Environmental Clearance on 05.01.2018. The Ministry decided to appraise the proposal at Central level considering the National Importance of the proposal. It also treated this proposal as "Category B" project since the construction area was lesser than notified under the EIA Notification 2006 for a Category 'A' project. The Ministry accepted the proposal after deliberations by Experts Appraisal Committee (EIAC) on 05.01.2018 and issued fresh Environmental Clearance on 26.03.2018 to Project Director, INO, TIFR.

11. That the MoEF&CC had issued Environmental Clearance dated 26.03.2018 to the Unit M/s. India based Neutrino Observatory Project subject to certain specific conditions that necessary Forest Clearance and National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) clearance should be obtained as per law before implementation of project proposals.

12. That the aforesaid Environment Clearance dated 26.03.2018 granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to the M/s. Tata Institute of Fundamental Research was challenged before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal by Thiru G Sundarrajan, *Poovulagin Nanbaragal* (Friends of Earth) vide



Appeal No. 60 of 2018 in G. Sundarrajan versus UOI others. The petitioner filed the said appeal on the following amidst other grounds:

- a. *The EC was granted on the basis of Rapid EIA Report prepared by non-accredited agency*
- b. *The project site is in close proximity of Ecologically sensitive area of Western Ghats.*
- c. *The Project is "Category A" project and EC was issued by treating as "Category B" Project.*

13. That in the said appeal, NGT vide its order dated 02.11.2018 observed the following while passing its order.

- a. *The project involved appraisal at the inter-state Level i.e., Tamil Nadu as well as Kerala.*
- b. *As the project needed to be appraised considering the fact that the project site was in ecologically sensitive Western Ghats, and*
- c. *As the project site was at a distance of 4.9 km from Mathikettan Shola National Park in Kerala.*

The operative portion of the order dated 02.11.2018 passed by the NGT in Appeal No. 60 of 2018 is as here under:-

"The project will not be implemented until and unless the approval of National Board for the Wildlife is received since the project site is within the Eco Sensitive Zone of the National Park in Kerala".





Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change and
Forest Department
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

14. That, being aggrieved by the aforesaid order of the NGT, the Petitioner herein, has filed the present Civil Appeal before the Hon'ble Court of India bearing C.A. No. 2025 of 2019.

15. That earlier, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research had applied on 04.01.2018 for Clearance from the National Board of Wildlife since the proposed area was located within the 10 k.m. Eco-Sensitive Zone of Mathikettan Shola National Park. However, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has issued the final notification for Eco-Sensitive Zone of Mathikettan Shola National Park vide S.O.No.4729 (E), dated 28.12.2020 making it 0 k.m. at Inter-State Boundary. A copy of this aid notification bearing S.O. No.4729 (E) dated 28.12.2020 is produced herewith as **ANNEXURE R2/1** (Page No. 13 to 27).

16. That, the User Agency / Project Proponent submitted an online proposal on 21.05.2021 for Wildlife clearance as the project site falls within the Mathikettan and Periyar Tiger Corridor. The District Forest Officer, Theni has not recommended the proposal since the proposed project falls in the Mathikettan – Periyar Tiger Corridor mapped by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), and the fragile ecology of this Western Ghat area,





Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change and
Forest Department
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

especially in the context of Tiger habitat which will get adversely affected by the activities of the proposed project.

17. That in view of enormous irreversible damage likely to be caused by the project, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has also not recommended the project. The area in question forms the part of Bodi hills West Reserve Forest, which lies in Southern Western Ghats. The Western Ghats is considered a global biodiversity hotspot harbouring numerous endemic species of flora and fauna. The project in question falls exactly on the hill slopes of this part of the Western Ghats which align within it a significant tiger corridor, namely the Mathikettan-Periyar Tiger Corridor (*a corridor per se, is a narrow strip of land through which a tiger or elephant moves from habitat to habitat and disperses genetically, which is the only biological process to strengthen their populations*) and has been profiled in NTCA's Notification (available in DSS systems of NTCA) that links Periyar Tiger Reserve along the border of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and Mathikettan Shola National Park.

18. That this area also links ecologically to the eastern habitats where Srivilliputhur Meghamalai Tiger Reserve is located and hosts tigers from the region and assist in genetic disperse across the Western Ghats and their South Eastern projections through the Cumbam




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Environment, Climate Change and
Forest Department
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

Valley. Along with tiger, its co-predators, several other species of mammals including the ungulates, reptiles and amphibians move around the slopes of the hills.

19. That even a least disturbance to the habitat has huge impact on movement of tigers. Tigers by their biological behaviour completely avoid human presence and any other anthropogenic disturbances and move through undisturbed patches of forest. Even a little vibration in the land can bring enough disturbance to its movement pattern.

20. That the Western Ghats has been under stress because of variety of factors. The area in question also forms significant watershed and water catchment of the River Sambal and River Kottakudi and is ecologically highly sensitive. Small streams in west side of Bodi hills join Kottakudi River which ultimately join Periyar River before ultimately draining into Vaigai dam.

21. That even when the tunnel in which the experiments would be conducted, would lie about a kilometre below the ground, there would be enormous allied establishments and activities such as blasting, excavations, transportation, movement of vehicles, commutations by the personnel, housing, electrification and other infrastructural activities. Movement and placement of heavy and




Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change and
Forest Department
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sophisticated instruments inside the tunnel and a security environment built all around would bring enormous disturbance to tigers and they will ultimately start avoiding this corridor and will have no other alternative for genetic dispersion. In addition the above activities will bring enormous change to land use regime of the current area jeopardising the ecological sustainability of this portion of the Western Ghats.

22. It is respectfully submitted that the Government of Tamil Nadu after considering the local oppositions, public agitations and irreversible likely damage to the precious wildlife and rich biodiversity of the region is not in favour of the implementing the project. Pertinently in this regard, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had also presented a Memorandum during his meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 17.06.2021 and requested to not to implement the project in view of considering the serious repercussions of the project activities. It was specifically requested in the said Memorandum dated 17.06.21 that

"Government of India's proposal to setup the India Based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project proposed to be located at Theni District in Tamil Nadu, falls on the Mathikettan-Periyar Tiger corridor as mapped by the National Tiger Conservation Authority of India. The Corridor has a critical and important function of maintaining the genetic flow that will be completely destroyed due to the diversion and the allied effect of the tunnel



Sd/-
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formation as proposed by the project. The project activities will lead to irreversible damage to the precious wildlife and rich biodiversity of the region.

In view of the serious repercussion of the project activities, Government of Tamil Nadu is not in favour of the proposed INO project and requests Government of India to drop the project."

A copy of the aforesaid Memorandum dated 17.06.21 is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE R2/2 (Page No. 28 to 34)**.

23. That subsequently the Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal has also reviewed the Infrastructure Projects on Project Monitoring Group (PMG) Portal in which INO is one among them.

24. It is respectfully submitted that on 27.9.2021, a team lead by Thiru T.R. Balu, Member of Parliament, with Hon'ble Minister (Industries), Hon'ble Minister (Forests), Principal Secretary, Industries and Principal Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department visited New Delhi and met the Union Minister for Industries & Commerce, Government of India and appraised the union minister on 02.11.2021 the specific stand of the Government of Tamil Nadu for not being in favour of implementation of project. Further, as advised by the Additional Secretary, Government of India, a copy of the memorandum was also sent to the Department of Atomic Energy vide Government



Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change and
Forest Department
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

letter dated 09.11.2021. A copy of the letter bearing No.1081
5/FR.5/2019-12 dated 09.11.2021 is annexed herewith as
ANNEXURE R2/3 (Page No. 35).

Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble
Court may be pleased to pass appropriate order or such orders as it may
deem fit and proper in this case and thus render justice.

P. KARUPPIAH, M.A., B.L.
ADVOCATE & NOTARY PUBLIC
GOVT. OF INDIA
***G. AVVAI NAGAR, CHENNAI-51**



15/2/22

VERIFICATION

Verified at Chennai on this 15th Day of February, 2022 that the contents of
Paras 1- 24 of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my
knowledge, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there
from.



P. KARUPPIAH, M.A., B.L.
ADVOCATE & NOTARY PUBLIC
GOVT. OF INDIA
***G. AVVAI NAGAR, CHENNAI-51**

15/2/22

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Filed through

Dr. Joseph Aristotle. S
Advocate for Respondent

NEW DELHI

FILED ON 16.02.2022

उपाबंध-V

ANNEXURE R2/1

की गई कार्रवाई सम्बन्धी रिपोर्ट का प्रपत्र

1. बैठकों की संख्या और तारीख।
2. बैठकों का कार्यवृत्त: (कृपया मुख्य उल्लेखनीय बिंदुओं का वर्णन करें। बैठक के कार्यवृत्त को एक पृथक उपाबंध में प्रस्तुत करें)।
3. पर्यटन महायोजना सहित आंचलिक महायोजना की तैयारी की स्थिति।
4. भू-अभिलेखों की स्पष्ट छवियों के सुधार के लिए निबटाए गए मामलों का सार (पारिस्थितिकी संवेदी जोन वार)। विवरण उपाबंध के रूप में संलग्न करें।
5. पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण अधिसूचना, 2006 के अधीन आने वाली क्रियाकलापों की संवीक्षा किए गए मामलों का सार। (विवरण एक पृथक उपाबंध के रूप में संलग्न करें)।
6. पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण अधिसूचना, 2006 के अधीन न आने वाली क्रियाकलापों की संवीक्षा किए गए मामलों का सार। (विवरण एक पृथक उपाबंध के रूप में संलग्न करें)।
7. पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 19 के अधीन दर्ज की गई शिकायतों का सार।
8. कोई अन्य महत्वपूर्ण मामला।

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 28th December, 2020

S.O. 4729 (E).—WHEREAS, a draft notification was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, *vide* notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change number S.O. 2771(E), dated the 13th August, 2020, inviting objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby within the period of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette containing the said notification were made available to the public;

AND WHEREAS, copies of the Gazette containing the said draft notification were made available to the public on the 13th August, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, objections and suggestions were received from persons and stakeholders in response to the aforesaid draft notification were duly considered in the Ministry;

AND WHEREAS, the Mathikettan Shola National Park is located between 9°57' to 10°01' N Latitudes and 76°14' to 76°16' E Longitudes and spread over an area of 12.82 square kilometres (1281.7419 hectares) located in Udumbanchola Taluk of Idukki District in the State of Kerala. The National Park is situated in the high ranges of southern Western Ghats and formed together with the part of the forest areas of Cardamom Hill Reserve notified in the Travancore Government Gazette dated the 24th August, 1897. Considering the unique features of the Shola forest in Mathikettan and its importance as an Elephant corridor, the State Wildlife Advisory Board recommended to declare the area as a National Park and accordingly the Government of Kerala *vide* order No.50/2003/F&WLD dated the 10th the October, 2003 notified the Mathikettan Shola as Mathikettan Shola National Park;

AND WHEREAS, the Mathikettan Shola National Park is an abode of several endemic flora and fauna, and the habitat is the last remnant of the original forests of the Cardamom Hill Reserve and provides perennial supply of water from Uchinikuthipuzha, Mathikettan Puzha and Njandar the tributaries of Panniyar for meeting the agricultural and drinking water requirements of Santhanpara, Pooppara areas. The major vegetation comprises of malavirinji

(*Actinodaphne bourdillonii*), panthada (*Beilschmiedia wightii*), ungakanni (*Litsea glabrata*), manjakudala (*Litsea wightiana*), keezhambazham (*Neolitsea cassia*), malamavu (*Persea macrantha*), kattupoovarasu (*Rhododendron arboreum*), pachotti (*Symplocos cochinchinensis*), kambilivetti (*Turpinia cochinchinensis*), kozhikkulamavu (*Daphniphyllum neilgherrense*), attuchankala (*Hydnocarpus alpina*), cholarudralksham (*Elaeocarpus recurvatus*), kolakkattachedi (*Gaultheria fragrantissima*), analivenga (*Pittosporum neilgherrense*), nanjinar (*Psychotria nilgiriensis*), kottappoovu (*Psychotria nudiflora*), manjanathi (*Mahonia leschenaultii*), katturosa (*Rosa leschenaultiana*), kattuvizhal (*Maesa indica*), perukilam (*Clerodendrum viscosum*), kattunochi (*Debregeasia longifolia*), vizhal (*Embellia ribes*), kattumunthiri (*Rubus ellipticus*), kattumunthiri (*Rubus niveus*), kakkathodali (*Toddalia asiatica*), etc;

AND WHEREAS, the Mathikettan Shola National Park is also home to a variety of mammalian species such as *Ratufa indica* (Indian giant squirrel), *Semnopithecus johnii* (Nilgiri langur), *Macaca silensis* (lion-tailed macaque), *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* (common palm civet), *Cuon alpinus* (Asiatic wild dog), *Panthera pardus* (leopard), *Cervus unicolor* (sambar), *Bos gaurus* (gaur), *Elephas maximus* (Asian elephant), etc;

AND WHEREAS, the major avifauna, butterflies and odonates recorded from the Mathikettan Shola National Park are *Gracula religiosa* (hill myna), *Pycnonotus jocosus* (red-whiskered bulbul), *Iole indica* (yellow-browed bulbul), *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* (black bulbul), *Rhopocichla ruficeps* (dark-fronted babbler), *Garrulax jerdoni* (grey-breasted laughingthrush), *Muscicapa mutui* (brown-breasted flycatcher), *Ficedula nigrorufa* (black-and-orange flycatcher), *Cyornis pallipes* (white-bellied blue flycatcher), *Cyornis tickelliae* (Tickell's blue flycatcher), *Eumyias thalassina* (verditer flycatcher), *Eumyias aberti* (Nilgiri flycatcher), *Culicicapa ceylonensis* (grey-headed flycatcher), *Prinia hodgsonii* (grey-breasted prinia), *Saxicola caprata* (pied bushchat), *Saxicoloides fulicata* (Indian robin), *Myiophonus horsfieldii* (Malabar whistling thrush), *Troglodytes minos* (southern birdwing), *Pachliopta hector* (crimson rose), *Graphium sarpedon* (common bluebottle), *Papilio demoleus demoleus* (lime), *Papilio helenus daksha* (red helen), *Papilio polymnestor polymnestor* (blue mormon), *Catopsilia pomona pomona* (common emigrant), *Eurema laeta laeta* (spotless grass yellow), *Eurema andersoni* (one-spot grass yellow), *Eurema hecabe hecabe* (common grass yellow), *Colias nilgiriensis* (Nilgiri clouded yellow), *Pieris canidactylus* (Indian cabbage white), *Belenois aurora aurora* (pioneer or caper white), *Appias albino swinhoei* (common albatross), *Hebomoia glaucippe australis* (great orange tip), *Leptocryptus neelgherrensis* (common treebrown), *Heteropsis oculus* (red-disc bushbrown), *Mycalopsis davisoni* (palani bushbrown), *Ypthima huebneri* (common four-ring), *Ypthima madrasa* (common five-ring), *Diplacodes trivialis* (ground skimmer), *Orthetrum pruinosum* (crimson-tailed marsh hawk), *Orthetrum triangulare* (blue-tailed forest hawk), *Pantala flavescens* (wandering glider), *Trithemis aurora* (crimson marsh glider), etc;

AND WHEREAS, the rare, threatened, endangered and endemic species of the Mathikettan Shola National Park are *Andropogon affinis*, *Rungia laeta*, *Strobilanthes andersonii*, *Strobilanthes gracilis* (thokakurinj), *Strobilanthes micranthus* (kallankurinj), *Strobilanthes neoasper*, *Strobilanthes rubicundus*, *Indobanalia thyrsoflora*, *Meiogyne ramarovii* (panthalamam), *Heracleum candolleianum* (kattugeerakam), *Heracleum sprengelianum* (kattumalli), *Arisaema leschenaultii* (pambucholam), *Arisaema psittacus* (pambucholam), *Hoya wightii* (ellodiyan), *Gynuratravancorica* (koppuchedi), *Vernonia fysonii* (kaliyammam-pathiri), *Vernonia travancorica* (karana,thempu), *Impatiens campanulata* (thottachinungi), *Impatiens cordata* (thottachinungi), *Impatiens cuspidata* (thottachinungi), *Impatiens tangachee* (kannipooovu), *Begonia floccifera* (kalthamara), *Cullenia exarillata* (mullenchankka), *Euonymus crenulatus* (dhanthapatri), *Mastixia arborea* (kattukarpooram), *Elaeocarpus munronii* (kalrudraksham), *Elaeocarpus variabilis* (kottampazhamaram), *Drypetes venusta* (choota), *Exacum wightianum* (thavalakkalchedi), *Leucas vestita* (hanumanpal), *Actinodaphne bourdillonii* (malavirinji), *Apollonia arnottii* (karamavu), *Cinnamomum wightii* (shanthamaram), *Cryptocarya beddomei* (chembalava), *Litsea oleoides* (matthi), *Litsea wightiana* (pattuthali), *Neolitsea fischeri* (varimaram), *Asparagus gonocladus* (sathavari), *Osbeckia leschenaultiana* (nailangi), *Ficus laevis* (peyathi), *Syzygium densiflorum* (kurunjavai), *Jasminum brevifolium* (kattumulla), *Ligustrum perrottetii* (kathikodimaram), *Isora notoniana* (iramburippi), *Mussaenda tomentosa* (pattam), *Psychotria nilgiriensis* (pavadakkambu), *Saprosma foetens* (theenari), *Isonandra perrottetiana* (karimpala), *Pouzolzia wightii* (naralikola), *Columbia elphinstonii* (nilgiri wood pigeon), *Muscicapa nigrorufa* (black and orange flycatcher), *Cyornis pallidipes* (white-bellied blue-flycatcher), *Anthus nilgherrensis* (Nilgiri pipit), *Nectarinia minima* (crimson-backed sunbird), *Trochalopteron fairbanki* (palani laughingthrush), *Troglodytes minos* (southern birdwing), *Papilio dravidarum* (malabar raven), *Mycalopsis oculus* (red disk bush brown), *Oriens concinna* (tamil dartlet), *Trachypithecus johnii* (Nilgiri langur), *Martes gowatkinsii* (Nilgiri marten), etc;

AND WHEREAS, it is necessary to conserve and protect the area, the extent and boundaries of Mathikettan Shola National Park which are specified in paragraph 1 as Eco-sensitive Zone from ecological, environmental and biodiversity point of view and to prohibit industries or class of industries and their operations and processes in the said Eco-sensitive Zone;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clauses (v) and (xiv) of sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) (hereafter in this notification referred to as the Environment Act) read with sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, the Central Government hereby notifies an area to an extent varying from 0 (zero) to 1.00 kilometres

around the boundary of Mathikettan Shola National Park, in Idukki District in the State of Kerala as the Eco-sensitive Zone (hereafter in this notification referred to as the Eco-sensitive Zone) details of which are as under, namely: -

1. **Extent and boundaries of Eco-sensitive Zone.** - (1) The Eco-sensitive Zone shall be to an extent of 0 (zero) to 1.00 kilometres around the boundary of Mathikettan Shola National Park and the area of the Eco-sensitive Zone is 17.5 square kilometres. Zero extent of Eco-sensitive Zone was justified by the State Government as "The zero Eco-sensitive Zone in the North East and East boundary is due to the interstate boundary with Tamil Nadu State". The extents of Eco-sensitive Zone at various direction the National Park are given as:

<i>Direction</i>	<i>Extent of Eco-sensitive Zone (kilometres)</i>
North	1.00 kilometres
North- East	0 (Kerala - Tamil Nadu Inter State Boundary)
East	0 (Kerala - Tamil Nadu Inter State Boundary)
South- East	1 kilometres
South	1 kilometres
West	1 kilometres
North-west	1 kilometres

- (2) The boundary description of Mathikettan Shola National Park and its Eco-sensitive Zone is appended as **Annexure-I**.
 - (3) The maps of the Mathikettan Shola National Park demarcating the Eco-sensitive Zone along with boundary details and latitudes and longitudes are appended as **Annexure-IIA, Annexure-IIB and Annexure-IIC**.
 - (4) Lists of geo-coordinates of the boundary of Mathikettan Shola National Park and the Eco-sensitive Zone are given in Table A and Table B of **Annexure-III**.
 - (5) The list of villages falling in the Eco-sensitive Zone along with their geo co-ordinates at prominent points is appended as **Annexure-IV**.
2. **Zonal Master Plan for Eco-sensitive Zone.**- (1) The State Government shall, for the purposes of the Eco-sensitive Zone prepare a Zonal Master Plan within a period of two years from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, in consultation with local people and adhering to the stipulations given in this notification for approval of the competent authority in the State.
 - (2) The Zonal Master Plan for the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be prepared by the State Government in such manner as is specified in this notification and also in consonance with the relevant Central and State laws and the guidelines issued by the Central Government, if any.
 - (3) The Zonal Master Plan shall be prepared in consultation with the following Departments of the State Government, for integrating the ecological and environmental considerations into the said plan:-
 - (i) Environment;
 - (ii) Forest and Wildlife;
 - (iii) Agriculture;
 - (iv) Revenue;
 - (v) Urban Development;
 - (vi) Tourism;
 - (vii) Rural Development;
 - (viii) Irrigation and Flood Control;
 - (ix) Municipal;
 - (x) Panchayati Raj;
 - (xi) Kerala State Pollution Control Board; and
 - (xii) Public Works Department.
 - (4) The Zonal Master Plan shall not impose any restriction on the approved existing land use, infrastructure and activities, unless so specified in this notification and the Zonal Master Plan shall factor in improvement of all infrastructure and activities to be more efficient and eco-friendly.
 - (5) The Zonal Master Plan shall provide for restoration of denuded areas, conservation of existing water bodies, management of catchment areas, watershed management, groundwater management, soil and moisture

conservation, needs of local community and such other aspects of the ecology and environment that need attention.

- (6) The Zonal Master Plan shall demarcate all the existing worshipping places, villages and urban settlements, types and kinds of forests, agricultural areas, fertile lands, green area, such as, parks and like places, horticultural areas, orchards, lakes and other water bodies with supporting maps giving details of existing and proposed land use features.
 - (7) The Zonal Master Plan shall regulate development in the Eco-sensitive Zone and adhere to prohibited and regulated activities listed in the Table in paragraph 4 and also ensure and promote eco-friendly development for security of local communities' livelihood.
 - (8) The Zonal Master Plan shall be co-terminus with the Regional Development Plan.
 - (9) The Zonal Master Plan so approved shall be the reference document for the Monitoring Committee for carrying out its functions of monitoring in accordance with the provisions of this notification.
3. **Measures to be taken by the State Government.**— The State Government shall take the following measures for giving effect to the provisions of this notification, namely:—

- (1) **Land use.**— (a) Forests, horticulture areas, agricultural areas, parks and open spaces earmarked for recreational purposes in the Eco-sensitive Zone shall not be used or converted into areas for commercial or residential or industrial activities:

Provided that the conversion of agricultural and other lands, for the purposes other than that specified in part (a) above, within the Eco-sensitive Zone may be permitted on the recommendation of the Monitoring Committee, and with the prior approval of the competent authority under Regional Town Planning Act and other rules and regulations of the Central Government or the State Government as applicable and *vide* provisions of this notification, to meet the residential needs of the local residents and for activities, such as:—

- (i) widening and strengthening of existing roads and construction of new roads;
- (ii) construction and renovation of infrastructure and civic amenities;
- (iii) small scale industries not causing pollution;
- (iv) cottage industries including village industries; convenience stores and local amenities supporting eco-tourism including home stay; and
- (v) promoted activities given in paragraph 4:

Provided further that no use of tribal land shall be permitted for commercial and industrial development activities without the prior approval of the competent authority under Regional Town Planning Act and other rules and regulations of the State Government and without compliance of the provisions of article 244 of the Constitution or the law for the time being in force, including the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007):

Provided also that any error appearing in the land records within the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be corrected by the State Government, after obtaining the views of Monitoring Committee, once in each case and the correction of said error shall be intimated to the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change:

Provided also that the correction of error shall not include change of land use in any case except as provided under this sub-paragraph.

- (b) Efforts shall be made to reforest the unused or unproductive agricultural areas with afforestation and habitat restoration activities.
- (2) **Natural water bodies.**—The catchment areas of all natural springs shall be identified and plans for their conservation and rejuvenation shall be incorporated in the Zonal Master Plan and the guidelines shall be drawn up by the State Government in such a manner as to prohibit development activities at or near these areas which are detrimental to such areas.
 - (3) **Tourism or eco-tourism.**— (a) All new eco-tourism activities or expansion of existing tourism activities within the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be as per the Tourism Master Plan for the Eco-sensitive Zone.
 - (b) The Tourism Master Plan shall be prepared by the State Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Departments of Environment and Forests.

- (c) The Tourism Master Plan shall form a component of the Zonal Master Plan.
- (d) The Tourism Master Plan shall be drawn based on the study of carrying capacity of the Eco-sensitive Zone.
- (e) The activities of eco-tourism shall be regulated as under, namely:-
 - (i) new construction of hotels and resorts shall not be allowed within one kilometre from the boundary of the protected area or upto the extent of the Eco-sensitive Zone whichever is nearer:
 Provided that beyond the distance of one kilometre from the boundary of the protected area till the extent of the Eco-sensitive Zone, the establishment of new hotels and resorts shall be allowed only in pre-defined and designated areas for eco-tourism facilities as per Tourism Master Plan;
 - (ii) all new tourism activities or expansion of existing tourism activities within the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the eco-tourism guidelines issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (as amended from time to time) with emphasis on eco-tourism, eco-education and eco-development;
 - (iii) until the Zonal Master Plan is approved, development for tourism and expansion of existing tourism activities shall be permitted by the concerned regulatory authorities based on the actual site specific scrutiny and recommendation of the Monitoring Committee and no new hotel, resort or commercial establishment construction shall be permitted within Eco-sensitive Zone area.
- (4) **Natural heritage.**- All sites of valuable natural heritage in the Eco-sensitive Zone, such as the gene pool reserve areas, rock formations, waterfalls, springs, gorges, groves, caves, points, walks, rides, cliffs, etc. shall be identified and a heritage conservation plan shall be drawn up for their preservation and conservation as a part of the Zonal Master Plan.
- (5) **Man-made heritage sites.**- Buildings, structures, artefacts, areas and precincts of historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural significance shall be identified in the Eco-sensitive Zone and heritage conservation plan for their conservation shall be prepared as part of the Zonal Master Plan.
- (6) **Noise pollution.** - Prevention and control of noise pollution in the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 under the Environment Act.
- (7) **Air pollution.**- Prevention and control of air pollution in the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (14 of 1981) and the rules made thereunder.
- (8) **Discharge of effluents.**- Discharge of treated effluent in Eco-sensitive Zone shall be in accordance with the provisions of the General Standards for Discharge of Environmental Pollutants covered under the Environment Act and the rules made thereunder or standards stipulated by State Government whichever is more stringent.
- (9) **Solid wastes.**- Disposal and Management of solid wastes shall be as under:-
 - (a) the solid waste disposal and management in the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be carried out in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, published by the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change *vide* notification number S.O. 1357 (E), dated the 8th April, 2016; the inorganic material may be disposed in an environmental acceptable manner at site identified outside the Eco-sensitive Zone;
 - (b) safe and Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Solid wastes in conformity with the existing rules and regulations using identified technologies may be allowed within the Eco-sensitive Zone.
- (10) **Bio-Medical Waste.**- Bio-Medical Waste Management shall be as under:-
 - (a) the Bio-Medical Waste disposal in the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be carried out in accordance with the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 published by the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change *vide* notification number G.S.R. 343 (E), dated the 28th March, 2016.
 - (b) safe and Environmentally Sound Management of Bio-Medical Wastes in conformity with the existing rules and regulations using identified technologies may be allowed within the Eco-sensitive Zone.

- (11) **Plastic waste management.**— The plastic waste management in the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be carried out as per the provisions of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, published by the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change *vide* notification number G.S.R. 340(E), dated the 18th March, 2016, as amended from time to time.
- (12) **Construction and demolition waste management.**— The construction and demolition waste management in the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be carried out as per the provisions of the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016 published by the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change *vide* notification number G.S.R. 317(E), dated the 29th March, 2016, as amended from time to time.
- (13) **E-waste.**— The e - waste management in the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be carried out as per the provisions of the E-Waste Management Rules, 2016, published by the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, as amended from time to time.
- (14) **Vehicular traffic.**— The vehicular movement of traffic shall be regulated in a habitat friendly manner and specific provisions in this regard shall be incorporated in the Zonal Master Plan and till such time as the Zonal Master plan is prepared and approved by the Competent Authority in the State Government, the Monitoring Committee shall monitor compliance of vehicular movement under the relevant Acts and the rules and regulations made thereunder.
- (15) **Vehicular pollution.**— Prevention and control of vehicular pollution shall be in compliance with applicable laws and efforts shall be made for use of cleaner fuels.
- (16) **Industrial units.**— (i) On or after the publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, no new polluting industries shall be permitted to be set up within the Eco-sensitive Zone.
- (ii) Only non-polluting industries shall be allowed within the Eco-sensitive Zone as per the classification of Industries in the guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board in February, 2016, as amended from time to time, unless so specified in this notification, and in addition, the non-polluting cottage industries shall be promoted.
- (17) **Protection of hill slopes.**— The protection of hill slopes shall be as under:-
- (a) the Zonal Master Plan shall indicate areas on hill slopes where no construction shall be permitted;
- (b) construction shall not be permitted on existing steep hill slopes or slopes with a high degree of erosion.
4. **List of activities prohibited or to be regulated within Eco-sensitive Zone.**— All activities in the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be governed by the provisions of the Environment Act and the rules made thereunder including the Coastal Regulation Zone, 2011 and the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and other applicable laws including the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (69 of 1980), the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927), the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, (53 of 1972), and amendments made thereto and be regulated in the manner specified in the Table below, namely:-

TABLE

S. No. (1)	Activity (2)	Description (3)
A. Prohibited Activities		
1.	Commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing units.	<p>(a) All new and existing mining (minor and major minerals), stone quarrying and crushing units shall be prohibited with immediate effect except for meeting the domestic needs of bona fide local residents including digging of earth for construction or repair of houses within the Eco-sensitive Zone;</p> <p>(b) The mining operations shall be carried out in accordance with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated the 4th August, 2006 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs. UOI in W.P.(C) No.202 of 1995 and dated the 21st April, 2014 in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs. UOI in W.P.(C) No.435 of 2012.</p>

2.	Setting of industries causing pollution (Water, Air, Soil, Noise, etc.).	New industries and expansion of existing polluting industries in the Eco-sensitive Zone shall not be permitted: Provided that non-polluting industries shall be allowed within the Eco-sensitive Zone as per classification of Industries in the guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board in February, 2016, as amended from time to time, unless otherwise specified in this notification and in addition the non-polluting cottage industries shall be promoted.
3.	Establishment of major hydro-electric project.	Prohibited.
4.	Use or production or processing of any hazardous substances.	Prohibited.
5.	Discharge of untreated effluents in natural water bodies or land area.	Prohibited.
6.	Setting up of new saw mills.	New or expansion of existing saw mills shall not be permitted within the Eco-sensitive Zone.
7.	Setting up of brick kilns.	Prohibited.
B. Regulated Activities		
8.	Commercial establishment of hotels and resorts.	No new commercial hotels and resorts shall be permitted within one kilometer of the boundary of the protected area or upto the extent of the Eco-sensitive Zone, whichever is nearer, except for small temporary structures for eco-tourism activities: Provided that, beyond one kilometer from the boundary of the protected area or upto the extent of the Eco-sensitive Zone whichever is nearer, all new tourist activities or expansion of existing activities shall be in conformity with the Tourism Master Plan and guidelines as applicable.
9.	Construction activities.	(a) New commercial construction of any kind shall not be permitted within one kilometer from the boundary of the protected area or upto extent of the Eco-sensitive Zone, whichever is nearer: Provided that, local people shall be permitted to undertake construction in their land for their use including the activities mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 3 as per building bye-laws to meet the residential needs of the local residents. Provided further that the construction activity related to small scale industries not causing pollution shall be regulated and kept at the minimum, with the prior permission from the competent authority as per applicable rules and regulations, if any. (b) Beyond one kilometer it shall be regulated as per the Zonal Master Plan.
10.	Small scale non polluting industries.	Non polluting industries as per classification of industries issued by the Central Pollution Control Board in February, 2016 as amended from time to time, and non-hazardous, small-scale and service industry, agriculture, floriculture, horticulture or agro-based industry producing products from indigenous materials from the Eco-sensitive Zone shall be permitted by the competent Authority.

11.	Felling of trees.	(a) There shall be no felling of trees in the forest or Government or revenue or private lands without prior permission of the Competent Authority in the State Government. (b) The felling of trees shall be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the concerned Central or State Act and the rules made thereunder.
12.	Collection of Forest produce or Non-Timber Forest produce.	Regulated as per the applicable laws.
13.	Erection of electrical and communication towers and laying of cables and other infrastructures.	Regulated under applicable laws (underground cabling may be promoted).
14.	Infrastructure including civic amenities.	Taking measures of mitigation as per the applicable laws, rules and regulations and available guidelines.
15.	Widening and strengthening of existing roads and construction of new roads.	Taking measures of mitigation as per the applicable laws, rules and regulation and available guidelines.
16.	Undertaking other activities related to tourism like flying over the Eco-sensitive Zone area by hot air balloon, helicopter, drones, Microlites, etc.	Regulated as per the applicable laws.
17.	Protection of hill slopes and river banks.	Regulated as per the applicable laws.
18.	Movement of vehicular traffic at night.	Regulated for commercial purpose under applicable laws.
19.	Ongoing agriculture and horticulture practices by local communities along with dairies, dairy farming, aquaculture and fisheries.	Permitted as per the applicable laws for use of locals.
20.	Establishment of large-scale commercial livestock and poultry farms by firms, corporate and companies.	Regulated (except otherwise provided) as per the applicable laws except for meeting local needs.
21.	Discharge of treated waste water or effluents in natural water bodies or land area.	The discharge of treated waste water or effluents shall be avoided to enter into the water bodies and efforts shall be made for recycle and reuse of treated waste water. Otherwise the discharge of treated waste water or effluent shall be regulated as per the applicable laws.
22.	Commercial extraction of surface and ground water.	Regulated as per the applicable laws.
23.	Establishment of solid waste disposal site and common incineration facility for solid and bio-medical waste.	Regulated as per the applicable laws.
24.	Solid waste management.	Regulated as per the applicable laws.
25.	Introduction of exotic species.	Regulated as per the applicable laws.
26.	Eco-tourism.	Regulated as per the applicable laws.
27.	Use of polythene bags.	Regulated as per the applicable laws.
28.	Commercial sign boards and hoardings.	Regulated as per the applicable laws.
29.	Open Well, Borewell, etc. for agriculture and other usages.	Regulated as per the applicable laws.

C. Promoted Activities		
30.	Rain water harvesting.	Shall be actively promoted.
31.	Organic farming.	Shall be actively promoted.
32.	Adoption of green technology for all activities.	Shall be actively promoted.
33.	Cottage industries including village artisans, etc.	Shall be actively promoted.
34.	Use of renewable energy and fuels.	Bio-gas, solar light, etc. shall be actively promoted.
35.	Agro-Forestry.	Shall be actively promoted.
36.	Plantation of Horticulture and Herbals.	Shall be actively promoted.
37.	Use of eco-friendly transport.	Shall be actively promoted.
38.	Skill Development.	Shall be actively promoted.
39.	Restoration of degraded land/ forests/ habitat.	Shall be actively promoted.
40.	Environmental awareness.	Shall be actively promoted.

5. **Monitoring Committee for Monitoring the Eco-sensitive Zone Notification.**— For effective monitoring of the provisions of this notification under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Central Government hereby constitutes a Monitoring Committee, comprising of the following, namely:-

S. No.	Constituent of the Monitoring Committee	Designation
(i)	District Collector, Idukki	Chairman, ex officio;
(ii)	District Panchayat President, Idukki	Member;
(iii)	Representatives of Kerala State Pollution Control Board or Kerala State Electricity Board or Kerala Water Authority or Kerala State Irrigation Department or Kerala State Environment Department	Member;
(iv)	Representative of Non-governmental Organizations working in the field of natural conservation (including heritage conservation) to be nominated by the Government of Kerala	Member;
(v)	One expert in Ecology from reputed Institution or University of the State of Kerala to be nominated by the Government of Kerala	Member;
(vi)	Wildlife Warden, Munnar Wildlife Division	Member-Secretary.

6. **Terms of reference.** – (1) The Monitoring Committee shall monitor the compliance of the provisions of this notification.

- (2) The tenure of the Monitoring committee shall be till further orders, provided that the non-official members of the Committee shall be nominated by the State Government from time to time.
- (3) The activities that are covered in the Schedule to the notification of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests number S.O. 1533 (E), dated the 14th September, 2006, and are falling in the Eco-sensitive Zone, except for the prohibited activities as specified in the Table under paragraph 4 thereof, shall be scrutinised by the Monitoring Committee based on the actual site-specific conditions and referred to the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for prior environmental clearances under the provisions of the said notification.
- (4) The activities that are not covered in the Schedule to the notification of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests number S.O. 1533 (E), dated the 14th September, 2006 and are falling in the Eco-sensitive Zone, except for the prohibited activities as specified in the Table under paragraph 4 thereof, shall be scrutinised by the Monitoring Committee based on the actual site-specific conditions and referred to the concerned regulatory authorities.

- (5) The Member-Secretary of the Monitoring Committee or the concerned Deputy Commissioner(s) shall be competent to file complaints under section 19 of the Environment Act, against any person who contravenes the provisions of this notification.
 - (6) The Monitoring Committee may invite representatives or experts from concerned Departments, representatives from industry associations or concerned stakeholders to assist in its deliberations depending on the requirements on issue to issue basis.
 - (7) The Monitoring Committee shall submit the annual action taken report of its activities as on the 31st March of every year by the 30th June of that year to the Chief Wildlife Warden in the State as per proforma appended at Annexure-V.
 - (8) The Central Government in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may give such directions, as it deems fit, to the Monitoring Committee for effective discharge of its functions.
- 7. Additional measures.-** The Central Government and the State Government may specify additional measures, if any, for giving effect to provisions of this notification.
- 8. Orders of Supreme Court, etc.-** The provisions of this notification shall be subject to the orders, if any passed or to be passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India or the High Court or the National Green Tribunal.

[F. No.25/108/2015-ESZ-RE]

Dr. SATISH C. GARKOTI, Scientist 'G'

ANNEXURE- I

A. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION OF THE MATHIKETTAN SHOLA NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE KERALA

- North** : Boundary commences from the point of interstate boundary between Kerala and Tamil Nadu meets the southern boundary of survey No. 32 Pooppara Village of the resurvey minor circuit and runs west parallel to Bodimetta - Pooppara road, along the southern boundary of survey No. 17, 16, 13, 14, 8, 22 and hence turning south along the eastern boundary of block 13 and survey numbers 34, 35, 36, 37 and hence along the western boundary of survey No.38 to reach a point where the northern most extremity of survey No. 38 meets the Resurvey Minor Circuit.
- East** : Thence the boundary runs north along the interstate boundary till it reaches the starting point. The external boundaries are already surveyed and 70% of boundary is marked with permanent cairns.
- South** : Thence the boundary turns east along the Northern boundary of survey No. 64, 63 and turns south along the Eastern boundary of survey No. 78, 71, 72, 73, 74, 174, 192, 193, 195, 197 and turn south along the eastern boundary of survey no. 198, 199 and again turns north East along the Northern boundary of survey No. 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212 to meet the interstate boundary.
- West** : Thence the boundary turns south and follows the Resurvey Minor Circuit along the Eastern boundary of block No. 13 till it meets the Northern boundary of survey No. 65 and turn south along the Eastern boundary of survey No. 65 till it meets the boundary of survey No. 64 on the line democratizing the area handed over after eviction.

B. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION OF THE ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE AROUND MATHIKETTAN SHOLA NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE KERALA

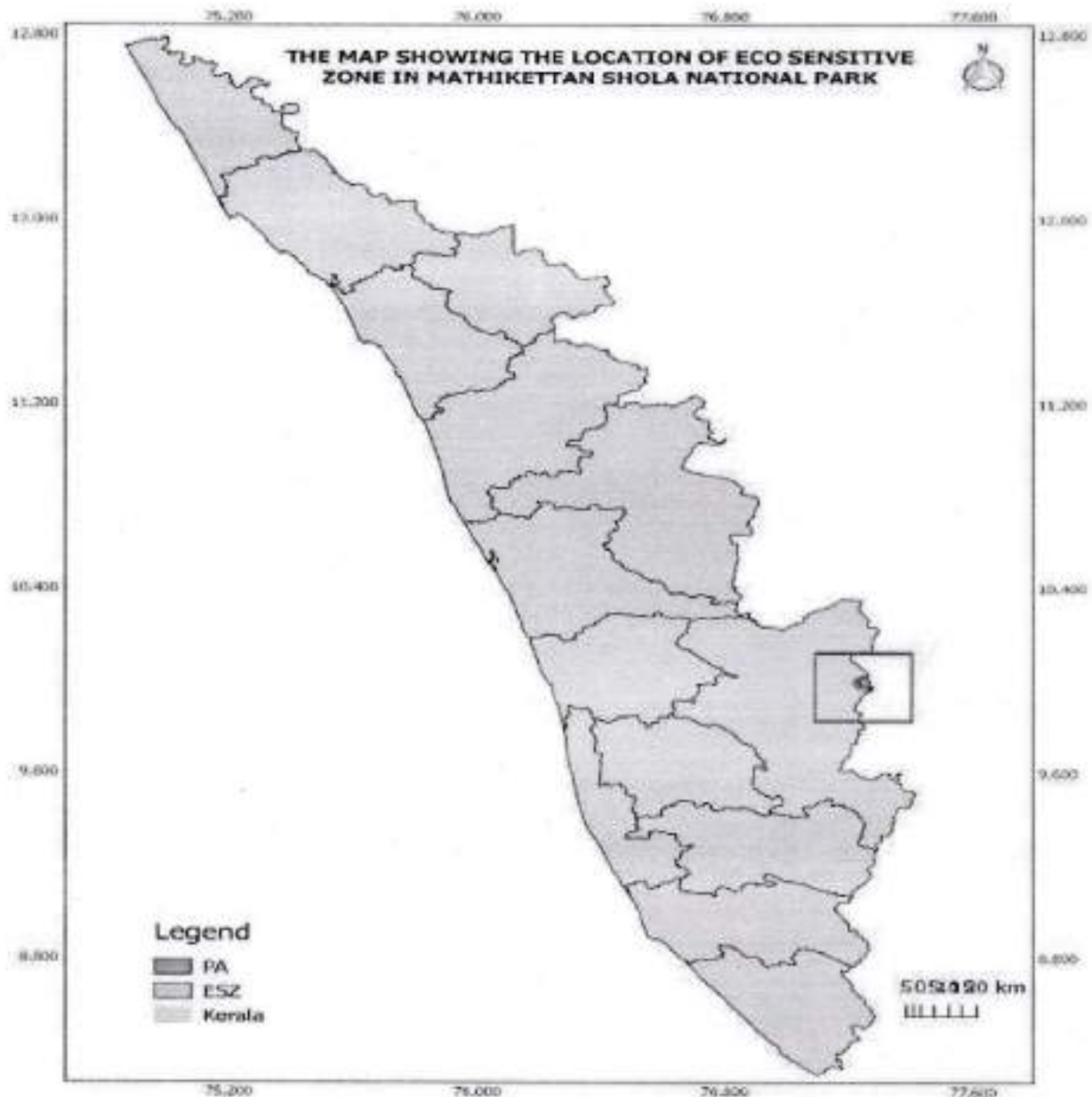
- North** : Starting at P1 (10° 1' 36.08"N, 77° 15' 42.12"E) on the northern side of Mathikettan Shola National Park, being located at interstate boundary. Then moves towards west direction along north-west side of National park along south edge of Anayirangal reservoir up to P5 (10° 0' 15.26"N , 77° 12' 52.56"E) Panniyar tea estate.
- East** : The Eastern part of Mathikettan Shola National Park is being Tamil Nadu. Hence no Eco Sensitive Zone is proposed.
- South** : The southern side of ESZ starting at P9 (9° 58' 3.14"N, 77° 13' 58.81"E) near to Korampara inhabitants. Then it moving towards south-east direction and moves through P10 (9° 57' 57.89"N, 77°

14' 22.38"E), P11 (9° 57' 52.18"N, 77° 14' 53.14"E) P12 (9° 57' 43.75"N, 77° 15' 26.35"E) and P13 (9° 57' 40.3"N, 77° 16' 6.82"E). The points represents Paythotti junction, Paythotti-Njandarmedu road and Njandarmedu. From P13, boundary turns to north direction and moves up to P14 (9° 58' 29.38"N, 77° 16' 22.29"E) where it touches Interstate boundary.

West : In west, the point starts from P6 (9° 59' 53.1"N, 77° 12' 46.44"E) Then after it proceeds on south-west direction through P7 (9° 59' 21.12"N, 77° 12' 57.16"E) and reaches P8 (9° 58' 31.24"N, 77° 13' 15.26"E), located near to Korampara inhabitants.

ANNEXURE- IIA

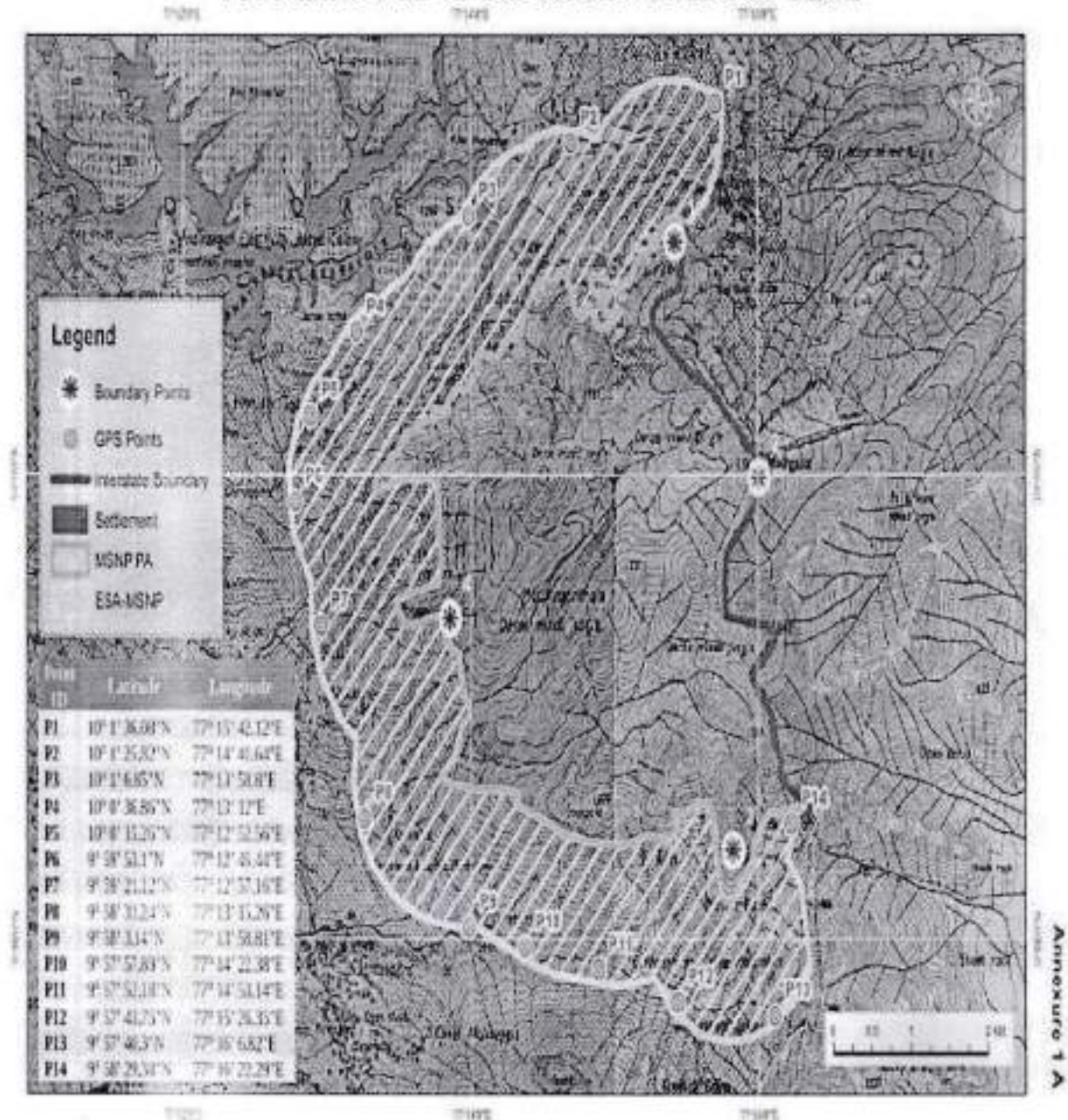
LOCATION MAP OF THE ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE OF MATHIKETTAN SHOLA NATIONAL PARK ALONG WITH LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE OF PROMINENT LOCATIONS



ANNEXURE- IIC

**MAP OF THE ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE OF MATHIKETTAN SHOLA NATIONAL PARK
ALONG WITH LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE OF PROMINENT LOCATIONS IN
SURVEY OF INDIA TOPOSHEET**

TOPO SHEET MAP OF ECO SENSITIVE ZONE OF MSNP



ANNEXURE-III

**TABLE A: GEO- COORDINATES OF PROMINENT LOCATIONS OF THE
MATHIKETTAN SHOLA NATIONAL PARK**

Sl. No.	Latitude	Longitude
1	10° 1' 0.05 "N	77° 15' 25.6 "E
2	9° 59' 59.22 "N	77° 16' 0.34 "E
3	9° 58' 22.95 "N	77° 15' 49.5 "E
4	9° 59' 27.9 "N	77° 13' 51.13 "E

**TABLE B: GEO-COORDINATES OF PROMINENT LOCATIONS OF THE
ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE**

Sl. No.	Point code	Latitude	Longitude
1	P1	10° 1' 36.08"N	77° 15' 42.12"E
2	P2	10° 1' 25.82"N	77° 14' 41.64"E
3	P3	10° 1' 6.85"N	77° 13' 58.8"E
4	P4	10° 0' 36.86"N	77° 13' 12"E
5	P5	10° 0' 15.26"N	77° 12' 52.56"E
6	P6	9° 59' 53.1"N	77° 12' 46.44"E
7	P7	9° 59' 21.12"N	77° 12' 57.16"E
8	P8	9° 58' 31.24"N	77° 13' 15.26"E
9	P9	9° 58' 3.14"N	77° 13' 58.81"E
10	P10	9° 57' 57.89"N	77° 14' 22.38"E
11	P11	9° 57' 52.18"N	77° 14' 53.14"E
12	P12	9° 57' 43.75"N	77° 15' 26.35"E
13	P13	9° 57' 40.3"N	77° 16' 6.82"E
14	P14	9° 58' 29.38"N	77° 16' 22.29"E

ANNEXURE-IV

**LIST OF VILLAGES COMING UNDER THE ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE OF
MATHIKETTAN SHOLA NATIONAL PARK ALONG WITH GEO-COORDINATES**

Sl. No.	District	Taluk	Village	Type of Village	Latitude	Longitude
1	Idukki	Udumbanchola	Poopara	Revenue	10° 0' 9.36"N	77° 13' 27.84"E

ANNEXURE -V

Performa of Action Taken Report:-

1. Number and date of meetings.
2. Minutes of the meetings: (mention noteworthy points. Attach minutes of the meeting as separate Annexure).
3. Status of preparation of Zonal Master Plan including Tourism Master Plan.
4. Summary of cases dealt with rectification of error apparent on face of land record (Eco-sensitive Zone wise). Details may be attached as Annexure.
5. Summary of cases scrutinised for activities covered under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 (Details may be attached as separate Annexure).
6. Summary of cases scrutinised for activities not covered under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 (Details may be attached as separate Annexure).
7. Summary of complaints lodged under section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
8. Any other matter of importance.



TRUE COPY

செய்தி வெளியீடு

மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு முதலமைச்சர் திரு. மு.க. ஸ்டாலின் அவர்கள் இன்று (17.6.2021) பதுமல்லியிலுள்ள பிரதமர் இல்லத்தில், மாண்புமிகு இந்தியப் பிரதமர் திரு. நரேந்திர மோடி அவர்களை சந்தித்து, தமிழகத்தின் வளர்ச்சித் திட்டங்கள் உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு கேளரிக்கைகள் அடங்கிய மனுவை வழங்கினார்கள். ஆதன் விவரங்கள் வருமாறு:

**Memorandum presented to Shri Narendra Modi,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
by M.K.Stalin,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 17.06.2021.**

INDEX

Sl. No.	Subject	Page No.
1)	Water Resources Issues a) Mekedatu Scheme of Karnataka b) MullaiPeriyar Dam- Restoration of Water Level to FRL of 152 ft. c) Inter-linking of Rivers (Inter-linking of Peninsular Rivers (Godavari-Cauvery Linkage and Cauvery-Gundarau Linkage) d) Release of Cauvery water during this year as per judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court	1
2)	Fisheries a) Protection of Traditional Fishing Rights of Indian Fishermen in the Palk Bay and Ensuring their Safety and Security b) Retrieval of Katchatheevu and Restoration of Traditional Fishing Rights of Tamil Nadu Fishermen c) Establishment of National Commission for the Welfare of Fishermen.	11
3)	Power a) Removing bottlenecks in supply of coal. b) Expeditious release of funds under Special Liquidity Scheme Tranche II with liberalized terms. c) Revoke the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2020	20
4)	Finance a) Sharing Proceeds of Cess and surcharge with States.	25

Sl. No.	Subject	Page No.
	c) Release of Pending 14 th Finance Commission Grants d) Release of pending GST dues and pending dues for shared schemes between Centre and State e) Shortfall in the disbursement of Share in Central Taxes from 1996-97 to 2014-15. f) Early approval of Externally Aided Projects. g) Investment by National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF) in Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund. h) SDRF- Increased allocation	
5)	Health a) National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)- Attempts to extend such medical entrance to other courses should be dropped b) Expediting construction of AIIMS in Tamil Nadu c) Establishment of new AIIMS in Coimbatore d) Adequate Allotment of Vaccine. e) Adequate supply of Life Saving Drugs like Liposomal Amphoterecin B f) OBC reservation in All India Quota for admission to medical colleges at UG and PG level	49
6)	Agriculture a) Prime Minister's Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) b) Repeal of Three Farm Laws.	57
7)	Food Release of Custom Milled Rice (CMR) Subsidy.	61
8)	Industries a) Commencing Vaccine production in HLL Biotech unit in Chengalpattu and Pasteur Institute, Coonoor b) Sanction of Mega Textile Parks. c) Excess land of Salem Steel Plant to be provided for Defence Industrial Park.	63

Sl. No.	Subject	Page No.
9)	School Education (a) The National Education Policy should be revoked (b) Release of Grants under SarvaShikshaAbhiyan, RashtriyaMadyamikShikshaAbhiyanand Delinking of the Model School Scheme under RashtriyaMadyamikShikshaAbhiyan (c) Implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act	66
10)	MSME Special Relief Package for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	75
11)	Chennai Metro Rail - Pending Project and Policy Issues a) Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase II Approval under 50 : 50 joint venture partnership basis. b) Railways lands taken by Chennai Metro Rail Limited on lease basis.	77
12)	Sri Lankan Tamils Issue Eelam Tamils to have equal civil and political rights.	81
13)	Tamil a)DeclaringTamil as on Official Language of India and Use of Tamil in the High Court. b) Priority in appointments in Union Government Offices and Central PSUs in Tamil Nadu to people from Tamil Nadu. c) Revival of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai d) Declare Thirukkural as the National Literature	84

Sl. No.	Subject	Page No.
14)	Welfare of Backward Classes: a) Withdrawal of income ceiling/limit to identify backward classes. b) Constitutional amendment to enable states to allocate reservation for MBCs, SCs and STs based on the respective state's composition.	88
15)	Highways Projects: a) Speedy execution of Maduravoyal - Chennai Port elevated Road project. b) Speedy execution of Chennai-Airport to Chengalput elevated road project. c) Sea bridge project connecting Chennai Port - Thiruvottriyur. d) 6/8 lane Highway project between Chennai and Kanyakumari e) Chennai-Salem Greenfield Expressway.	90
16)	Expansion of Thoothukudi Port to spur economic growth of the state a) Expansion of Thoothukudi Port b) SethuSamuthramShip Canal Project	98
17)	Judiciary Establishing Regional Branch of Supreme Court in Chennai.	101
18)	Upgrading Airport Infrastructure a) New International Airport with world-class standards at Chennai b) Declare Madurai airport as an International airport c) Expand and modernise the airports in Salem and Thoothukudi.	103

Sl. No.	Subject	Page No.
19)	Pass Bill to provide 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures..	108
20)	Amending MGNREG Act to provide 150 days of employment to rural people.	109
21)	Launch Urban Wage Employment Scheme.	112
22)	New Railways Projects for Tamil Nadu.	113
23)	Repeal the Citizenship Amendment Act	115
24)	Continuance of Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Board in Chennai	116
25)	Environment a) Drop the Hydrocarbon schemes and Neutrino projects b) Repeal of Draft EIA Notification, 2020	117

வெளியீடு: இயக்குநர், செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை, சென்னை-9

25. Environment

a. Drop the Hydrocarbon Schemes and Neutrino Project

The Cauvery Basin is the rice bowl of Tamil Nadu which supports millions of farmers and farm workers. The Cauvery basin districts play a very critical role in ensuring food security of the State. The region is also ecologically very fragile. In view of the above, all sections of the society and the State Government have been opposing hydrocarbon exploration and extraction in the Cauvery basin region. It is apprehended that hydrocarbon extraction will adversely impact the fragile eco system of the Cauvery basin. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also promulgated the Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, 2020 and has prohibited new hydrocarbon projects in the Protected Agricultural Zone.

Hence the State has been requesting Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas not to take up new hydrocarbon projects in the State of Tamil Nadu and not to bring any blocks for auction without prior consultation and concurrence of the State Government.

Government of India's proposal to set up the India Based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project proposed to be located at Theni District in Tamil Nadu, falls on the Mathikettan-Periyar Tiger corridor as mapped by the National Tiger Conservation Authority of India. The corridor has a critical and important function of maintaining the genetic flow that will be completely destroyed

due to the diversion and the allied effect of the tunnel formation as proposed by the project authorities. The project activities will lead to irreversible damage to the precious wildlife and rich biodiversity of the region.

In view of the serious repercussions of the project activities, Government of Tamil Nadu is not in favour of the proposed INO project and requests Government of India to drop the project

b) Repeal of Draft EIA Notification, 2020.

The draft EIA Notification, 2020 was put up in the public domain on 12th March 2020 by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India for obtaining comments from all stakeholders within a period of 60 days. The draft EIA Notification 2020 has been found aiming at diluting the stringent provisions of the EIA Notifications 2006 and 2016 and that was not found to be in the interests of the sustainable growth, health of the communities and ecological security of the sensitive regions of the State. Hence, this Government object to the attempts of revision of the existing provisions of the EIA notifications 2006 and 2016 that dilute them. The Government of TamilNadu requests the Government of India to drop the EIA Notification, 2020.

TRUE COPY

ANNEXURE R2/3



Environment, Climate Change
and Forests (FR.5) Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.
Phone:- 044-25671511
E-mail:- eccfd@tn.gov.in

Letter No.10815/FR.5/2019-12, dated: 09.11.2021

From
Tmt.Supriya Sahu, I.A.S.,
Principal Secretary to Government.

To
The Department for Promotion of Industry and
Internal Trade (DPIIT), New Delhi.(w.e)

The Additional Secretary Government of India,
Department of Atomic Energy,
New Delhi. (w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Forests – Wildlife – India Based Neutrino Project -
Memorandum submitted by Hon'ble Chief Minister of
Tamil Nadu – Copy of memorandum and a report
submitted by a team lead by T.R.Balu, Member of
Parliament - Furnished - Regarding.

In continuation of the Project Monitoring Group meeting on 2.11.2021 conducted by
the Department for promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, I am directed to enclose a
copy of the memorandum submitted by Hon'ble Chief Minister to the Hon'ble Prime
Minister on 17.06.2021.

Yours faithfully,

B. Subochan

for Principal Secretary to Government

A.
TRUE COPY