

ITEM NO.34

COURT NO.16

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 304/2018

ANAND ARYA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

IA No. 131361/2018 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 225339/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 224942/2025 - MODIFICATION OF COURT ORDER

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 230/2001 (PIL-W)

IA No. 103394/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 76161/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 76150/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 76117/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 30632/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 203606/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 30648/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION

W.P.(C) No. 302/2020 (PIL-W)

IA No. 172737/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 172736/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

Date : 07-10-2025 These matters were called on for hearing today.

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HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE N.V. ANJARIA

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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

IA No.225339/2025 & IA No.224942/2025 in Writ Petition(s)
(Civil)Nos.304/2018,

1. This application for impleading without specifying the provision of law has been filed by the applicant (Mr. Ashwini Kumar) seeking to implead himself as petitioner in the present writ petition on the ground that he intends to bring on record the National Atlas Wetland Map 2024 and for modifying the interim order dated 11.12.2024.

2. This Court had observed that 'Ground Truthing' and 'demarcation' of wetland boundary is the next step which is to be undertaken by each of the State/Union Territories Wetland authorities in coordination with the concerned nodal department

as provided under the Rules.

3. This writ petition(s) has been filed challenging the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 (for short 'the 2017 Rules') by raising concern relating to identification, demarcation and protection of wetlands across India, specially in the light of the obligations under the Ramsar Convention and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

4. The petitioner is said to be a practicing advocate and an environment enthusiast. As such claiming to have participated in several initiative in advancing the environment and justice and particularly emphasis to preservation and the restoration of wetlands and to safeguard ecological rights.

5. The present writ petition has been pending from the year 2018. From time to time this Court had passed several orders and at this stage, if the present applicant is allowed to intervene and permitted to join as petitioner, the likelihood of the bandwagon getting bigger and bigger, day by day is a hard fact which cannot go unnoticed. As such permitting the applicant to assist the writ petitioner in prosecuting this case and to place on record all such records through the writ petitioner, the present application stands rejected.

6. Consequently, application for direction (IA No.224942/2025) filed by the impleading applicant is also rejected.

Writ Petition(s)(Civil)Nos.304/2018, 230/2001 & 302/2020

1. By order dated 19.08.2025, we had directed the States to expedite the 'Ground Truthing' and 'boundary demarcation'

within a period of two months from the date of the said order. The period of two months granted by this Court would expire on 19.10.2025. Hence, it would be apt and appropriate to list these matters after 19.10.2025. Hence, we direct the Registry to list these matters on 28.10.2025.

2. Mr. Jayant Bhushan, learned senior counsel has brought to our notice Annexure 2 to the Status Note submitted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change (Wetlands Division), Government of India whereunder the exercise of 'Ground Truthing' and 'boundary demarcation' seems to have been carried out in a reverse manner which is not in consonance with Rule 7 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management Rules) 2017. It is needless to state that the exercise which is being carried out shall be in compliance with Rule 7(1)(a) of the Rules and the reports, as already ordered, shall be filed on or before 19.10.2025.

3. The reports which have been filed by the respective States is placed on record. The status reports, affidavits and any other pleadings that is being filed in the present petitions by the State or instrumentalities of the State or Union Territories shall be served upon the respective learned advocates appearing for the petitioners in all these petitions.

4. Re-list these matters on 28.10.2025.

(NIRMALA NEGI)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)