

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA  
(THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING WITH HYBRID MODE)**

Original Application No.70/2024/EZ  
(Earlier OA No.160/2024/PB)

News Item titled "Rising sea,  
shrinking sands erode vibrancy  
of Ganga Sagar Mela" appearing  
in the Hindu dated 15.01.2024

Applicant(s)

Versus

West Bengal State Coastal Zone  
Management Authority & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 14.08.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B. AMIT STHALEKAR, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. ARUN KUMAR VERMA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s) : *Suo Motu*

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Sibojyoti Chakraborty, Adv. for R-1 (in Virtual Mode),  
Mr. Ashok Prasad, Adv. for R-2,  
Ms. Madhumita Bhattacharjee, Adv. for R-3 (in Virtual Mode)

**ORDER**

1. Affidavit dated 21.05.2024 has been filed by the Additional Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management on behalf of the Respondent No.1, West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority; the same is taken on record.
2. In para 5 of the affidavit, it is stated that construction of Dala Arcade, Naat Mandir, Toilet Block, Bus Terminus, Eco-Camp Complex and Solid Waste Management in and around Kapil Muni Temple of Sagar Island has been undertaken.
3. This affidavit does not disclose whether these constructions are within the permissible distance from the High Flood Line (HFL). We also find that this affidavit does not address the issues raised in the newspaper article published in The Hindu dated 15.01.2024 which

is the subject matter of the Original Application. In this Article, there is a categorical allegation that most of the constructions on Sagar Island have been done in violation of the Coastal Regulation Zone.

4. The affidavit of the Additional Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management is silent in this regard.
5. Ms. Madhumita Bhattacharjee, learned Counsel appearing (in Virtual Mode) for the State Respondents prays for and is granted four weeks time for filing detailed affidavit.
6. Ms. Tripti Sah, Additional Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management is present (in Virtual Mode). Personal appearance of Ms. Tripti Sah is dispensed with for future unless specifically required.
7. **List on 16.10.2024.**

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**B. Amit Sthalekar, JM**

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**Dr. Arun Kumar Verma, EM**

August 14, 2024,  
Original Application No.70/2024/EZ  
(Earlier OA No.160/2024/PB)  
SKB