

Item No. 06

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 1380/2024

Panchtatva Foundation

Applicant

Versus

Ministry of Environment Forest
and Climate Change & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 23.12.2024

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

Applicant: Mr. Nawneet Vibhaw & Mr. Prannoy Joe Sebastian, Advs. for Applicant

ORDER

1. In this original application, applicant has raised the issue of the adverse impact of Artificial Light At Night (ALAN) on flora and fauna, and human beings.
2. The plea of the applicant is that ALAN disrupts natural biological processes, adversely affecting the human circadian rhythms, nocturnal wildlife behaviour, plant physiology and migratory species.
3. The applicant, in support of his submission, has relied upon various articles, namely: "Missing the Dark: Health Effects of Light Pollution", published in Environmental Health Perspectives in January, 2009; "Light Pollution and Impact of Light Pollution", published in International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR) in October 2014; "The New World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness", published in Science Advances in June 2016; "Nocturnal Pollinators Go Dark Under

Street Lamps”, published in Nature on 02.08.2017; “Effect Street Light Pollution on the Photosynthetic Efficiency of Different Plants”, published in Biological Rhythm Research on 08.09.2018; “Analyzing Trend in Artificial Light Pollution Pattern in India using NTL Sensor’s Data” published in Urban Climate in 2019 and many such other publications.

4. Learned Counsel for the applicant has also pointed out that the Tribunal by order dated 31.07.2023 passed in OA No. 102/2022 (CZ) in the matter of Anil Mehta vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors. had noted that the aspect of light pollution requires detailed study. He has also referred to the OA No. 637/2024, registered *suo-moto* based on a news item relating to the death of flamingos near DPS Lake in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, on account of light pollution impairing the vision of these flamingos. He has also submitted that in PIL NO. 13/2024 in the matter of Rohit Manohar Joshi vs. The Superintendent of Gardens and Tree Officer, Tree Authority & Ors. the issue is pending before the Bombay High Court with respect to the ill effect of excessive use of artificial light on the trees and other organisms. He has submitted that in India, there is no framework regulating the use of artificial light, which is required to be considered by competent authorities.

5. Issue notice to the respondents.

6. Applicant is permitted to serve the respondents and file affidavit of service atleast one week before the next date of hearing.

7. Respondents are directed to file their response by way of affidavit at least one week before the next date of hearing.

8. List on 17.04.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

December 23, 2024
Original Application No. 1380/2024
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