

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 SSUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CIVIL) No(s). 2/2019

IN RE FELLING OF TREES IN AAREY FOREST (MAHARASHTRA)

(IA No. 13062/2026 - EXTENSION OF TIME)

Date : 05-02-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) :By Courts Motion, AOR

For Respondent(s) :Intervenor-in-person, AOR

Mr. Maninder Singh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR
Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.
Mr. Bharat Bagla, Adv.
Mr. Sourav Singh, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Krishna, Adv.
Mr. Adarsh Dubey, Adv.
Ms. Chitransha Singh Sikarwar, Adv.

Ms. Rukhmini Bobde, Adv.
Mr. Amit Srivastava, Adv.
Mr. Jatin Dhamija, Adv.
Mr. Vinayak Aren, Adv.
Ms. Aishwarya Nigam, Adv.
Mr. Vishal Prasad, AOR

Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Pooja Dhar, AOR
Mr. Pratul Pratap Singh, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Venugopal, Adv.
Mr. Aayushman Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Tushar Shrivastava, Adv.
Mr. Madhav Gupta, Adv.

Mr. Shree Pal Singh, AOR

Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Mehta, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ashish Wad, Adv.
Mr. Manoj Wad, Adv.

Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Ms. Swati Arya, Adv.
Mr. Chirag Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Deepanshu Verma, Adv.
Mr. Anubhav Ray, Adv.
M/s J S Wad And Co, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

IA No.13062/2026

1. The prayer in this application is for extension of time for compliance of the order dated 17.11.2025. Vide that order, this Court granted permission to the applicant - Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai for felling/transplanting 1039 trees to the Project Proponent for completion of second phase of GMLR project. As a pre-condition condition and while accepting the communication dated 06.11.2025 of Conservator of Forest and Director, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, this Court accepted the site identified in that letter, suitable for compensatory afforestation.

2. The instant application has not been moved, *inter-alia*, stating that the earlier identified site does not have the requisite land measuring 27.5 acres of land for the purpose of afforestation. The aforesaid land only to the extent of 3 acres have been utilised for the purpose of afforestation. In this manner, the applicant-Corporation is required to identify and allocate another parcel of land measuring not less than 24 acres for the purpose of compensatory afforestation.

3. It is stated that such alternative land has been identified and the afforestation work will commence in the month of March, 2026 and shall be completed by the end of June, 2026.

4. The aforesaid application is, accordingly, allowed and time is extended for the purpose of afforestation subject to the following conditions:

(i) The Commissioner of Municipal Corporation, Greater Mumbai is directed to file an affidavit giving full particulars and description of the additional land along with its location, which has been identified for the purpose of compensatory afforestation.

(ii) The plan as approved by the Forest Department or any other expert agency hired for afforestation purposes shall also submit the time schedule and the total number of trees that will be planted on the identified land. The aforesaid affidavit shall be filed within two weeks.

(iii) A second affidavit-cum-status report shall be filed by 31.03.2026 with exact details of the trees planted along with a videography of the site.

(iv) A third status report by way of an affidavit shall be filed by 22.05.2026 giving further details of the afforestation completed by that time.

5. Post this matter for further consideration on 08.04.2026.

6. In the event of any default in the above-stated schedule, there shall be exemplary cost to be personally recoverable from the officers in default.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(MANOJ KUMAR)
BRANCH OFFICER