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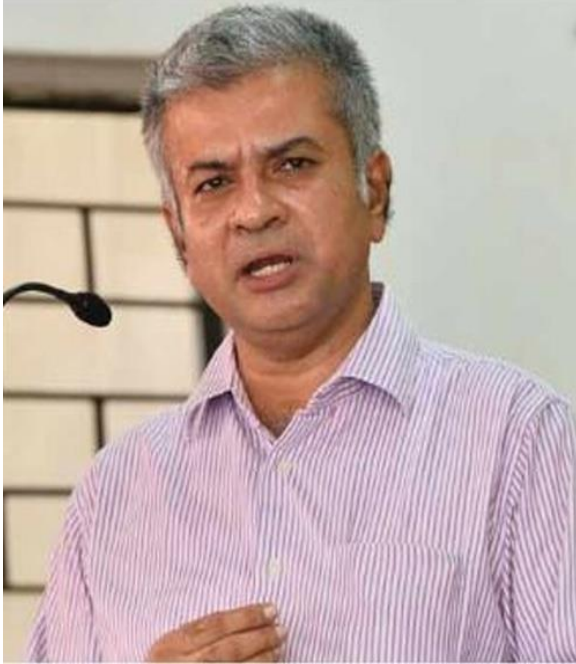
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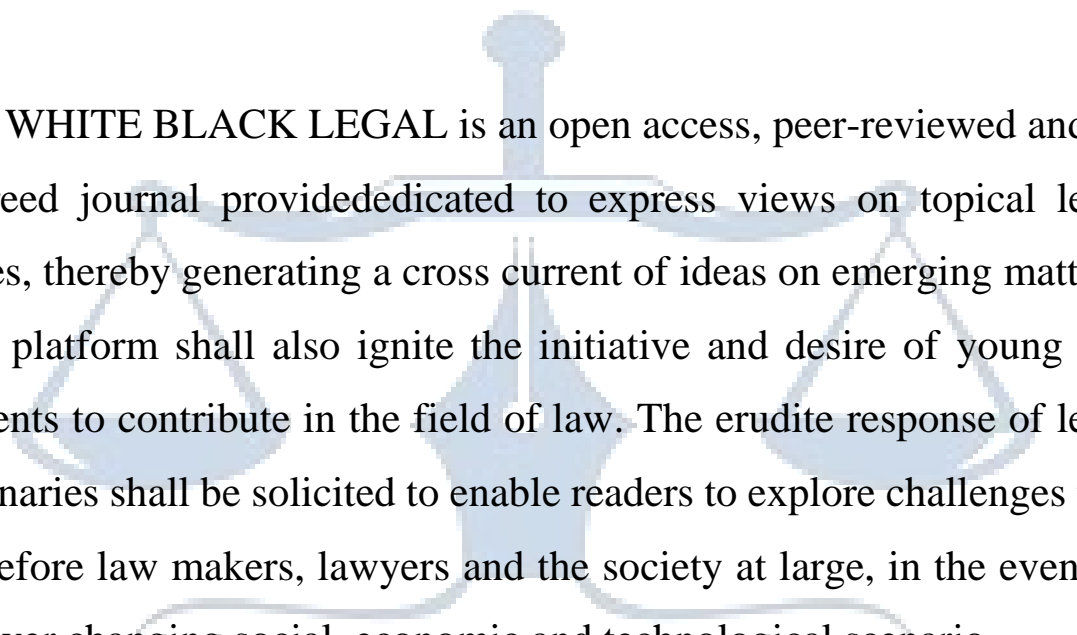
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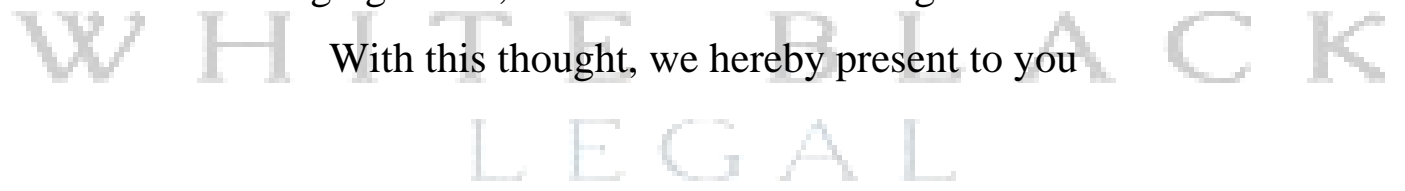
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WHITE BLACK LEGAL is an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal providededicated to express views on topical legal issues, thereby generating a cross current of ideas on emerging matters. This platform shall also ignite the initiative and desire of young law students to contribute in the field of law. The erudite response of legal luminaries shall be solicited to enable readers to explore challenges that lie before law makers, lawyers and the society at large, in the event of the ever changing social, economic and technological scenario.

With this thought, we hereby present to you



**“A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE BALANCING
RESERVOIR PROJECT IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS AND
LEGAL VIOLATIONS - A CASE STUDY OF AVULAPALLI
BALANCING RESERVOIR PROJECT IN ANDHRA
PRADESH, INDIA”**

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ABSTRACT:

This study undertakes a thorough critical analysis of a proposed balancing reservoir project located in Avulapalli Village, Chittoor District, in Andhra Pradesh, a drought-prone area beyond its catchment capacity, encompassing thousands of acres of agriculturally productive land. By scrutinizing the project's impact on both the environment and local communities, this study aims to elucidate the intricate layers of ecological disruptions and social ramifications associated with large-scale water management initiatives. The study diligently examines the direct impact on the affected communities by assessing the loss of livelihoods and displacement caused by the project. Simultaneously, the paper conducts a comprehensive analysis of the legal landscape by scrutinizing the violations committed in the name of development. This includes a review of environmental laws and regulations that should have safeguarded the affected area. The empirical investigation focuses on the agrarian landscape, by examining the repercussions of transforming fertile land into a reservoir. The displacement of over 170 families and the consequent loss of livelihoods emphasize the profound social implications of the project. This paper contributes to the ongoing debate on environmental sustainability and development. The findings of this study are not only pertinent to the specific case at hand but also offer broader implications for formulating and implementing environmental policies/projects in the pursuit of balanced development and social justice.

Key Words: Balancing Reservoir, Environmental Law Violations, Ecological Disruptions, Inaccurate Submissions, Environment Clearance

INTRODUCTION:

Water scarcity is a global challenge worsened by climate change, prompting governments to explore developmental solutions, including the construction of balancing reservoirs. However, the aspiration for water security must be intricately balanced with ecological and social considerations. Balancing reservoir projects is envisioned as a critical component of water resource management strategies, often standing at the crossroads of development and environmental conservation. In the context of a drought-prone landscape, the construction of such reservoirs takes on heightened significance, promising to address water scarcity while simultaneously raising concerns about ecological disruptions and social consequences.

The chosen project serves as an example by reflecting the intricate layers of challenges associated with large-scale water management initiatives. It involves the proposal for the transformation of fertile agricultural land, impacting the agrarian landscape and biodiversity while displacing over 170 families and jeopardizing their livelihoods. These projects come with many complexities including ecological disruptions, soil quality degradation, and biodiversity loss. It also includes instances of non-compliance and adherence to environmental laws and navigating the legal intricacies surrounding the initiatives.

METHODOLOGY:

1. Statement of the Problem:

The Avulapalli Balancing Reservoir Project raises serious environmental and social concerns. The problem revolves around the potential deviation from established environmental laws and regulations, giving rise to specific violations and the loss being caused to hundreds of farmers in the affected area and their Rehabilitation & Resettlement.

2. Research Questions:

1. What are the perceptions and experiences of the affected communities regarding the balancing reservoir project, and how do these insights contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of its impact?
2. To what extent does the balancing reservoir project deviate from existing environmental laws and regulations, and what specific violations can be identified?

3. Hypothesis:

Can the environment be compromised for the sake of developmental initiatives? The need of the hour is to understand the balance between biodiversity and development and to look for healthier alternatives.

4. Objectives:

Evaluating ecological disruptions and social ramifications caused by a Balancing Reservoir Project in a drought-prone area by assessing the project's compliance with environmental laws, identifying instances of non-compliance, and the legal intricacies involved.

5. Scope of the Study:

This research digs deep into the balancing reservoir project, exploring both the human impact and legal implications. Through in-depth interviews with affected farmers, information/data was collected on account of the loss of highly productive agricultural land, disrupted livelihoods, and displacement, painting a vivid picture of the social cost in the proposed project area. Simultaneously, on the legal side, rigorous analysis of the project's violations vis-vis Acts and Statutes has been examined. This leads to identifying specific environmental laws that were disregarded, dissecting the thoroughness and objectivity of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and evaluating the strength and effectiveness of the existing legal framework in preventing such violations.

By intertwining these two perspectives, we aim to achieve several crucial goals. Firstly, we want to document the lived experiences of farmers, giving voice to their struggles and amplifying their stories. Secondly, we want to provide a critical analysis of the legal transgressions, highlighting the project's shortcomings and potential consequences. Thirdly, we seek to identify gaps in current environmental regulations and enforcement mechanisms, pinpointing areas where the system needs improvement. Finally, we want to use our findings to formulate recommendations for more sustainable and socially responsible development practices, ensuring that future projects prioritize both progress and environmental well-being. This research aspires to contribute to broader discussions about sustainable development with environmental protection. By bridging the gap between human experience and legal realities, we hope to offer a nuanced perspective that helps in formulating future projects and

strengthens environmental governance, ensuring that progress doesn't come at the expense of communities or the planet.

6. Relevance and Significance of the Study:

In contemporary times, the relevance and significance of this research paper are underscored by the growing global call for sustainable development amid increasing environmental challenges. Balancing reservoir projects, intended to address water scarcity, is crucial in this discourse, making an in-depth analysis mandatory.

Further, the paper contributes to contemporary environmental discussions by offering insights into the fragile equilibrium between development and ecological preservation. In an era where environmental sustainability is a global priority, understanding the compliance of such projects with existing laws is paramount. The identified violations can serve as case studies, for formulating future projects and guiding policymakers towards more ecologically conscious decisions.

Moreover, the study focuses on the displacement of communities aligned with current social justice concerns, Re-habilitation and resettlement, emphasizing the need for equitable development. In essence, the paper addresses pressing issues at the intersection of environmental conservation, social equity, and sustainable development, making it highly relevant and timely.

7. Source of Data:

Primary Data includes the sample empirical data collected by interviewing the farmers of the affected area and the doctrinal data is obtained from the statutes and conventions in the country and the specific acts, rules, and G.O.s of the state of Andhra Pradesh.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Literature Review: Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection

The proposed Avulapalli Balancing Reservoir case presents a sheer example of the balance between development aspirations and environmental protection and social justice. This research builds upon a study that explores these complexities. Empirical studies have documented the socioeconomic

impacts of large-scale development projects on local communities, highlighting issues like displacement, livelihood disruption, inadequate compensation Re-habilitation & resettlement. This study will focus on firsthand accounts of affected farmers, enriching the understanding of human costs associated with such projects.

Legal precedents have examined the effectiveness of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and legal framework in preventing environmental damage. Further, by analyzing the EIA process in the instant case, assessing its compliance with legal requirements and potential shortcomings. Furthermore, research on environmental justice highlights the disproportionate burden often borne by marginalized communities in the face of environmental degradation. The study will contribute to this discussion by examining the project's impact on the affected communities and advocating for their rights and participation in decision-making processes. This research intends to bridge these existing strands of literature by offering a multifaceted analysis of the balancing reservoir case. By combining sample empirical data from affected farmers with rigorous legal analysis and aim to provide a deeper understanding of the project's ramifications and contribute to developing more sustainable way and socially responsible development models that ensure environmental protection and community well-being.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS:

About the Proposed Project - Avulapalli Balancing Reservoir:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed some environmental management projects as a part of climate change impact reduction and adaptation programs in water resources management. As part of such environmental management projects, the Water Resources Department proposed the investigation and construction of a new “**Avulapalli Balancing Reservoir** ”. As the water dependability is higher in the upper reaches of the **HNSS**(Handri Niva Sujala Sravanthi) Project command area, the tail-end reaches are unable to get water from the HNSS project. The proposed reservoir will get the water from Punganuru branch canal that conveys 800 cusecs of water from the Gandikota reservoir through the **GNSS**(Galeru Nagari Sujala Sravanthi)-**HNSS** Lift Scheme to meet the water demand of the regions. The proposed new project Avulapalli Balancing Reservoir has an Ayacut of 9700 ha. which is less than 10000 ha. ayacut. As per SO 3977 (E) dated 14th August 2018, and SO 1886 (E) dated 20th April 2022 construction of irrigation projects intended for drinking water

and having a culturable command area between > 2000 ha and <10000 ha comes under the B2 Category.



PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Avulapalli Balancing Reservoir project is proposed to store water received from Gandikota reservoir. The water is conveyed through the existing gravity canal of the HNSS Project, which is not functioning due to the non-availability of water in the tail-end region. The project aims at meeting the water demand in the drought-prone region of Chittoor district in the semi-arid zone of Rayalaseema in the state of Andhra Pradesh. It is proposed to expand the existing carrying capacity of canals and expansion of water storage facilities through this program by providing Pennar Flood water. Due to inadequate floodwater availability and geological characteristics, the desired or estimated water could not be released into the Punganuru Branch Canal (PBC).

The project proposes to provide long-term relief to the people and livestock during times of drought and famine, when even drinking water is scarce and to assist in the reversal of the desertification process by enhancing the conditions of the environment and ecology of the area. It provides the basic drinking water supply to the people and contemplated ayacut of approximately 9700 ha. in addition to the supplementing of some of the ponds or tanks situated in the most frequently drought-affected

areas, further adds feeder facility to the local industry of the region in future. The proposed scheme will take the water from the water of 800 cusecs pumped into Punganuru branch canal from the GNSS-HNSS Lift Scheme bringing water from Gandikota reservoir.

The Govt. of AP has accorded administrative sanction for Rs.2144.50Cr. vide G.O Rt No.461 Dt: 02-09-2020 for the Avulapalli reservoir construction project. For expansion of carrying capacity and expansion of storage capacity in Chittoor district. The project is based on the utilization of surplus flood water reaching the Gandikota Reservoir on the Pennar River. The balancing reservoir is proposed to store the floodwaters, if available, during the monsoon period.¹

POLICY, LEGAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS:

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India, the principal environmental regulatory agency has enacted various acts, legislations, guidelines, and standards from time to time and is the principal environmental regulatory agency. MoEF&CC has been mandated to formulate environmental policies and accord environmental clearances for different projects in India. The important environmental legislations in India are presented in below table:

Name of Act/ Statute	Scope & objectives	Key areas	Operational Agencies/Key player
Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, 1988	Prevention and control of water pollution, and enhancing the quality of water	Control discharge of sewage and industrial effluent	Central and State Pollution Control Boards

¹ EIA, Environment Management Plan, Construction of Avulapalli Balancing Reservoir near Avulapalli Village in Somala Mandal of Chittoor District.

<p>Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, 1987</p>	<p>Prevention and control of air pollution</p>	<p>Control emission of air pollutants</p>	<p>Central Pollution Boards and State Control Boards</p>
<p>Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, 1988</p>	<p>To consolidate the acquisition of common property such as forest, halt rapid deforestation and environmental degradation</p>	<p>Regulates access to natural resources, the state has a monopoly over categories forests, restriction on de-reservation, and using the forest for non-forest purposes</p>	<p>Forest Department (State Governments)</p>
<p>Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, 1993</p>	<p>To protect wildlife</p>	<p>Creates protected areas (national parks/sanctuaries) categories of wildlife which are protected</p>	<p>Wildlife advisory Boards, Forest Dept. / Central Zoo Authorities</p>
<p>Environment (Protection) Act, 1986</p>	<p>To provide for the protection and improvement of the environment</p>	<p>An umbrella legislation, supplements pollution laws</p>	<p>Central government nodal agency, MoEF&CC can delegate to state department of environment</p>

<p>EIA Notification 14th Sep 2006 and subsequent amendment thereof</p>	<p>Environment Impact Assessment</p>	<p>Environmental Protection</p>	<p>Project Development, State and Central Government</p>
<p>National Water Policy, 2012</p>	<p>Legislation is needed in view of inequalities in distribution and lack of unified perspective in planning, management, and use of water resources with due consideration to environmental sustainability and holistic benefit to the people.</p>	<p>To recognize and consider while planning the environmental needs of aquatic ecosystems, wetlands, and embanked flood plains besides adaptation to strategies to provide a mechanism for dealing with increased variability due to climate change.</p>	<p>Central and State Government</p>

<p>Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013</p>	<p>To address concerns of Landowners/farmers and those whose livelihoods are dependent on land being acquired and at the same time facilitating land acquisition in a timely and transparent manner and for ensuring a comprehensive package for the land owners for based on the market value of the land besides comprehensive rehabilitation and resettlement package for land owners.</p>	<p>Social issues</p>	<p>Central and State Government</p>
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Empirical Data from the Project Affected Farmers:

S.NO	NAME	AGE	NO. OF ACRES MARKED	NO. OF DEPENDENTS	ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME
1.	Vedagiri	53	25	4	No
2.	S Babu	55	20	5	Yes
3.	Madhu	51	15	4	No
4.	Govind Reddy	70	9	6	Yes

5.	Ramesh	40	8	2	Yes inc. residence
6.	Lakshmi Pati Naidu	57	54	6	Yes
7.	Venu	60	47	4	Yes inc. residence
8.	Mohan	67	32	7	Yes
9.	Rajanna	70	15	4	Yes
10.	Mallikarjuna	55	16.5	3	No
11.	Ratnam Naidu	65	10	5	Yes inc. residence
12.	Balaji Reddy	40	8	4	Yes
13.	Shiva	35	27	5	No
14.	Janaki	50	18	3	No
15.	Mastan Sahib	70	7	8	No
16.	Ratnamachary	67	25	5	Yes
17.	Ramalingachary	71	26	6	Yes
18.	Nagayya	64	5	4	No
19.	Dhanamma	56	6	5	Yes
20.	Peddabba	65	10	4	Yes

I interviewed around 30 farmers in the project-affected area, from various backgrounds, mostly those farmers who will completely lose their livelihood due to this project. The following information is collected from them: The proposed Avulapalli Balancing reservoir has an ayacut of 9700 Ha with a storage capacity of 3.5 TMC. but it is disheartening to know that such a huge storage facility is not required by the region, taking into consideration the limited rainfall and the drought in the region, as there is very little chance of the proposed reservoir being used to its full capacity, in the coming 50-70 years. The Submergence area is about 526.69 Ha i.e. around 2000 acres, including 300 acres of kharab land, and 200 acres of

revenue wasteland. There are about 1500 acres of agricultural land that is revenue land and this land has been in possession of farmers for about 200 years now. The submergence area also has a road of about 2km, 4 temples measuring 0.5-1 acre each, 10 ponds, and 3 schools measuring about 0.6 acres each.

The Tahasildar, VRO, RI, and the Surveyor came to the proposed submergence area marked the boundaries with paint, and installed rock-stones to keep it ready for building the boundaries. This debris caused huge damage and loss to the trees and the yield was affected due to this for 2 consecutive years. The sarpanch of the region has allegedly signed some documents declaring the willingness of the villagers for the construction of the project.

Ground Reality of the Project:

The Proposed mine location area is an agrarian economy. Paddy is a major crop grown area-wise, followed by Jowar and Bajra. Soil and climate are most suitable for plantation crops. Hence, horticulture produces such as mango, sapota, banana, and vegetables are grown extensively, over large tracts of land. Sugarcane, groundnut, and sunflower, tomato are major commercial crops. All the farmers in this region are solely dependent on the income from agriculture due to its rich fertile soil.



Before the construction works of the project were initiated, there was a lake named Seetamma Cherupu with 1

/4 TMC Water Storage Capacity which is now completely demolished by using blasters. Villages namely Bayareddypalli, Chinna Devalakuppam, Pedda Devalakuppam, Erlapalli, etc., are located in the catchment area of proposed projecta consisting of around 170 households. About 1700 Acres of agricultural land have been marked by the officials for the sake of the project. This includes about 6 lakh mango plantations, 1000 tamarind trees, 5500 coconut trees, 1 lakh teak & and kanuga trees, etc. About 450 wells and borewells that are provided with electricity service connections are being destroyed. For all these trees, valuation has not been done based on their age and the no. of trees by the Horticulture Department and neither according to its valuation, 1 Acre of DKT i.e. Assigned land, gets a compensation of 7 lakhs and settlement/revenue lands with 10 lakhs. The District Collector, accompanied by the Joint Collector, VRO Avulaplli, Tahasildar, RI, and the Surveyor of Somala mandal, promised compensation orally, to the villagers that were gathered by them, for these borewells, electricity connection services, and wells and got the signatures from some of the farmers forcefully. Those who raised concerns about this act were framed in charges including SC ST Atrocities cases, with the aid and support of political agencies and farmers. According to the environmental clearance and the EIA Report, the concerned department is liable to compensate, rehabilitation and relocate the affected farmers in the nearby areas, before project work is initiated.No compensation or rehabilitation was provides and moreover the state government used force and started the project work and not a single penny was given to any farmer till date.

Landmark Judgements:

Here are some landmark judgments that have set strict bars with regards to violation of environmental procedures and laws that are relevant to this case are as under:

In **O.A. No.149 of 2016 (SZ) [V. Ramasubbu Vs. Union of India & Ors.]**, this Tribunal has held that the entire composite project should be subjected to the scrutiny of the appropriate authorities for securing the EC and it cannot be split into phases which will deny the assessment of the impact of the entire project on the environment. Having conceived the project of higher capacity, the project proponent cannot attempt to obtain clearances from the regulatory authorities in piecemeal which will deny the opportunity of the Expert Appraisal Committee to conduct a scientific assessment of the impact of the entire project on the environment. The order of the Tribunal in **O.A. No.149 of 2016 (SZ)** was upheld by the Hon^{ble} Supreme Court of India in **Civil Appeal Diary No.42311 of 2022 (M/s. Bahri Estates Pvt. Ltd. Vs. Union of India & Ors.)** dated 25.01.2023.

Hanuman Laxman Aroskar Vs. Union of India (2019) 15 SCC 401, the Hon^{ble} Apex Court has considered the importance of Form-I application and observed that:

“82....The failure on the part of a project proponent to disclose material information in Form 1 as stipulated under the 2006 notification has a cascading effect on the salient PART E 48 objective which underlies the 2006 notification. The 2006 notification represents an independent code with the avowed objective of balancing the development agenda with the protection of the environment. An applicant cannot claim an EC, under the 2006 notification, based on substantial or proportionate compliance with the terms stipulated in the notification. The terms of the notification lay down strict standards that must be complied with by an applicant seeking an EC for a proposed project. The burden of establishing environmental compliance rests on a project proponent who intends to bring about a change in the existing state of the environment. Whereas, in the present case, there has thus been a patent failure on the part of the project proponent to make mandatory disclosures stipulated in Form 1 under the 2006 notification, which must have consequences in law. There can be no gambles with the environment: a „heads I win, tails you lose“ approach is simply unacceptable; unacceptable if we are to preserve environmental governance under the rule of law.”

Observations by NGT:

The proposed Avulapalli Balancing Reservoir was challenged before the National Green Tribunal by the affected farmers in **Appeal No.56 of 2022(SZ)** and was held that-

1. The Avulapalli Reservoir is proposed to create a new command area of 40,000 acres plus 20,000 acres of existing ayacut by storing 3.5 TMC of water from Galeru Nagari Sujala Sravanthi (GNSS) Scheme. It is stated that the impugned EC was issued without application of mind on misrepresentation of facts. The main objection of the farmers is that the EC is obtained only for Avulapalli Balancing Reservoir with a capacity of 2.5 TMC.
2. The project proponent has taken the land belonging to the Forest Department without the impact assessment being done on the forest and eco-sensitive zone.
3. The capacity of the reservoir is shown as 2.5 TMC in the project but it was stated before the Hon^{ble} High Court of Andhra Pradesh that it will increase the capacity from 2.5 TMC to 3.5 TMC. The application is considered for the construction of the project only and subsidiary canals are not included.
4. The particulars of land acquisition etc. were not placed before the SEIAA - AP. The project proponent had not obtained clearances from the National Commission of Seismic Design Parameters (NCSDP) and Centre Water Commission, New Delhi.

5. SEAC – AP has not done due diligence and has not applied its mind and has not even bothered to secure the details from the project proponent to ascertain whether the Ayacut area is less than 10,000 Hectare before they have concluded that it falls under “B2 – Category” as per S.O.3977 (E) dated 14.08.2018. From the above, it is evident that the project proponent has misled, falsified, and modified the project by claiming that the new ayacut will be only 9,700 Hectares contrary to the orders of the Government to secure the EC under the “B2 – Category”.
6. There is no critical analysis of the proposal that has been submitted by the project proponent and the proposal was accepted on its face value without any scrutiny. The above data also shows the dubious methods adopted by the project proponent in furnishing blatantly misleading information both in its Form – I, Form – -IA, and EMP. The SEAC - AP and SEIAA - AP have failed in their duty by merely relying on the information provided by the project proponent without calling for the DPR and the supporting documents along with the G.O. Rt. No.461.
7. It is extremely disturbing to note that a Government Department, in gross violation of the environmental laws, can go to the extent of implementing an Irrigation Project by resorting to falsehood, misrepresentation, and cheating the SEIAA.
8. If a Government Department can stoop to the levels they have as in the instant case, nothing can prevent an agency with commercial gains from splitting the project into different phases to avoid EC or changing the category from “A” to “B1” or even the “B2” category.
9. The claim that for administrative convenience the project can be implemented in phases by securing prior EC for Phase-I only, that too without furnishing the full details of the other Phases of the project already conceived and sanction obtained from the Government, is not sustainable.
10. The SEIAA – AP and SEAC – AP have erred in granting EC under the „B2 - Category“, as the project falls either under the „B1“ or „A“ category. Therefore, the EC is liable to be set aside.

The Hon’ble NGT in Appeal No. 56/2022 filed by the affected farmers passed judgment on 11-05-2023 and set aside the illegal EC granted to Aulapalli Reservoir by APSEIAA and a penalty of **Rs.100 Crores** is imposed on the Project Proponent /Water Resources (Project – III) Department, State of Andhra Pradesh payable to the Krishna River Management Board within a period of 03 months for their attempt to secure EC under „B2 – Category“ to avoid a detailed environmental impact study,

public hearing, etc. The said amount may be utilized for pollution abatement in Krishna River. The project works in Avulapalli, Mudivedu, and Nethiguntapalli Balancing Reservoirs should be stopped forthwith, and an affidavit of compliance to be filed on or before 25.05.2023.

That the State of Andhra Pradesh preferred an appeal against the Judgment of Hon'ble NGT before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide **Civil Appeal No. 3802 of 2023, State of Andhra Pradesh vs Gutha Gunasekhar & Ors**. The Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the State of Andhra Pradesh to deposit Rs. 25 Crores and stayed only on the aspect of imposing a penalty of Rs. 100 Crores subjected to deposit of Rs. 25 Crores.

²SUGGESTIONS & CONCLUSION:

This case study underscores the critical need to balance development aspirations with environmental protection. The NGT's penalty serves as a precedent, highlighting the legal consequences of disregarding environmental norms. However, true success lies in adopting sustainable practices that harmonize development with ecological well-being. The key takeaways from this case are:

From Reactive to Proactive: Instead of scrambling to mitigate ecological damage after the fact, let's shift gears towards sustainable water management solutions. Rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation practices, and exploring non-invasive alternatives like groundwater recharge should be actively pursued.

Beyond Paperwork, Embrace Transparency: EIA processes mustn't remain mere formalities. Rigorous assessments that accurately gauge potential environmental and social impacts are essential. Transparency throughout the process, with open communication and community engagement, is key to build trust and preventing future conflicts.

Justice Delayed is Justice Denied: The case underscores the immense human cost of development at the expense of communities. Just compensation and comprehensive rehabilitation measures for displaced populations are non-negotiable. Empowering communities through effective legal recourse ensures their voices are heard and their rights protected. The State Government which is mandated to

² Avulapalli Balancing Reservoir - Appeal No. 56/2022, NGT (2023).

provide Environmental Protection, Compensation to affected farmers, Re-settlement and Re-habilitation has violated all acts & statutes and injustice to the poor farmers.

Beyond a Price Tag, Uphold Accountability: The NGT penalty reaffirms that environmental violations carry a tangible cost. However, focusing solely on financial repercussions misses the bigger picture. Strengthening legal frameworks and ensuring stringent enforcement are crucial to deterring future transgressions and promoting environmental stewardship.

Uphold transparency and accountability: Ensure transparent public consultations throughout the planning and execution stages, and hold violators accountable for environmental transgressions.

Promote community engagement: Actively involve affected communities in decision-making processes and provide fair compensation and rehabilitation measures for displaced populations.

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- Documents attached in the Project:
 - Copy of EIA/EMP(Text)
 - Copy of EIA/EMP(Annexures)
 - Copy of EIA/EMP(Maps/Plans/Figures only)
 - Copy of Risk Assessment
 - Copy of Certificate of Accreditation
 - Copy of Feasibility Report/ Detailed Project Report(DPR) /Detailed Engineering Report /Detailed Conceptual Plan /Approved Mining Plan
 - Copy of Final Layout Plan
 - Copy of Cover Letter
 - Copy of documents in support of the competence/authority of the person making this application to make application on behalf of the User Agency
 - Copy of Additional File
 - <https://www.google.co.in/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://main.sci.gov.in/officereport/2023/20837/20837_2023_2024-01-05.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwi-u8bH_vifAxWdSmwGHfQQD8wQFnoECCMQAQ&usg=AOvVaw2wif96i0d-00InEAZsjrT> accessed May 6, 2024