

## **INO Press Release: NGT Judgment, Nov 2018**

We are pleased to announce that the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has announced its judgement on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 in the case of Appeal 60/2018, of Shri G Sundarrajan versus Union of India and 4 others, regarding the INO project. The judgement states, “it was correct on the part of the EAC and the MoEF to appraise the project at their level”, and hence has vindicated the position of the central Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) that it has the “competence” to assess the INO project. **Hence the Environmental Clearance (EC) earlier granted to INO project by the MoEF&CC that was challenged in NGT, is upheld.**

The judgement also states that, with respect to the report regarding Western Ghats, “Therefore, the specific or general condition or recommendation made by the Committees/ Expert Groups will be mandatorily made applicable in the current project of INO also.” In addition, the Hon’ble Court has mentioned that INO has to get clearance from the National Board for Wildlife (NBW) before the project can be implemented. This is a reiteration of the procedure for project clearances and in fact the Wildlife clearance has been applied for about a year ago. We maintain that we always abide by all due processes of the law and will continue to do so. Only after obtaining environmental, forest and wildlife clearances (former two are already obtained), can we approach the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board for final consent; the project will be implemented only after this due process.

**This press release has been issued to counter misleading statements in the media that a stay was awarded in this case.** On the contrary, as the judgement states, “With the aforesaid directions, we dispose of the present Appeal.”

You may also be interested to hear what some eminent international scientists have to say about INO, in videos made by WorldwideScientists.forINO

English Video: <https://youtu.be/cPATEhMG6zg>

Tamil Video: <https://youtu.be/CpF0fC-eMUJ>

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