



WILDLIFE FIRST

ವೈಲ್ಡ್ ಲೈಫ್ ಫಿರಿಸ್ಟ್

NO.1235, FIRST FLOOR
26TH 'A' MAIN ROAD
4TH 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR
BANGALORE - 560 041, INDIA
TEL: 0 8 0 - 2 6 5 3 5 7 6 3
FAX: 0 8 0 - 2 6 5 3 5 8 1 1
EMAIL: wildlifefirst@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.wildlifefirst.info

Wildlife First wins yet another legal battle against KIOCL. Subleasing buildings to Alva's Resort in Kudremukh National Park held as a Violation.

Wildlife First's sustained legal battle to save the Bhadra River and the Kudremukh National Park met with more success. On 26.10.2016, the Additional Chief Secretary Forest, Ecology and Environment (ACS) has passed an Order upholding the contentions of Wildlife First on stopping Commercial Resorts in Kudremukh. The Order of the ACS is pursuant to the Orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka issued in WP 55394/2015 filed by Wildlife First, directing the ACS to pass a reasoned, speaking Order after due hearings.

This deemed order of the Hon'ble High Court, has clearly held that the subleasing of buildings by KIOCL through a contract with Alva's Resort is a violation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Orders and Guidelines of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The Order has also concluded that the violation of the Eco-sensitive zone continues and Respondent -3, the Chief Wildlife Warden must take necessary action as no statutory clearances from relevant authorities was obtained. The Order further records that KIOCL did not take any action to close the commercial resort and thus violation of the Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Guidelines of the MeEF continued.

The Order of the ACS contains scathing remarks on Respondent -4 – the Deputy Commissioner of Chikmagalur District – *"This shows utter carelessness of Respondent 4 in safeguarding its i.e. Government's interests"* and holding that KIOCL must be dispossessed of the Revenue Lands as per law and that the Revenue Department is bound by the Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on transfer of buildings under the guidance of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC).

In the light of the above directions, Wildlife First urges the Deputy Commissioner Chikmagalur, to initiate necessary and time bound action to dispossess KIOCL from the entire portion of the demised mining lease area which it has been in occupation, 10 years after the expiry of the time limit granted by the Supreme Court. Wildlife First also urges the Chief Wildlife Warden to immediately seal the Alva's Resort and stop all commercial tourism operations within the Kudremukh National Park.
