


POWER LINES, POWER PLAYERS AND THE INDIAN SUPREME COURT: *THE M K RANJITSINH CASE* AND THE CHALLENGE OF INTEGRATING SPECIES CONSERVATION INTO INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

*Dr. Udit Raj Sharma** 

*Arpita Shukla*** 

ABSTRACT

The Supreme Court, in recent years, has faced several matters concerning environmental law, animal law and infrastructure issues. One such important matter, inter alia, was MK Ranjitsinh Case, where the court stood at the crossroad of energy sector development and habitat conservation of the Great Indian Bastard (GIB). The matter concerned laying down of overhead transmission lines for the power transmission which were proving disastrous for the GIB. In its 2021 judgment, which we refer as GIB -1, the court ruled in favour of the habitat conservation of the GIB and ordered not to lay overhead transmission lines from the sensitive area. In its 2024 judgment, which we refer as GIB-2, the Court modified its ruling to a certain extent on learning from the Central Government that its directions in GIB-1 were too impractical to implement. Alongside the GIB-2, the Apex Court made a remarkable observation and held that the people have a fundamental right to be free from adverse impacts of climate change. The Court opined that it's necessary to carve out the right to be protected against the adverse effects of climate change as a distinct right. The research attempts to do the critical analysis of GIB-1 & GIB-2, especially the latter, in order to examine the impacts of recognition of this 'newly enunciated right' and whether it extends to non-human animals as well since they are amongst the worst affected from climate change.

* Assistant Professor of Law, School of Law, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun.

** Third Year Undergraduate Student, School of Law, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun.

THIS IS A LIMITED PREVIEW OF THE CHAPTER.

To read the full-text chapter, get access by purchasing this chapter or consider buying the complete book. If your library has a subscription to EBSCOhost, this chapter, including other chapters of the book, can be accessed through your library.

This chapter is a part of the book, *'Intersectionality Between Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals: A Socio-Legal Perspective from India'* edited by Dr. Nivedita Chaudhary and Dr. Srishti Chaturvedi.

ISBN: 978-81-967805-2-4 (ebk); ISBN: 978-81-967805-0-0 (hbk); ISBN: 978-81-967805-3-1 (pbk)

The ebook and print version of this book are available at:
<https://dx.doi.org/10.46679/9788196780524>

The book and its metadata are available worldwide via EBSCOhost Academic Collection, EBSCO E-Books, Google Books, Google Play Books, WorldCat Discovery Service/OCLC, Crossref Metadata Search, CSMFL Bookstore, and other leading book resellers and academic content vendors.