

Writ Petition No. 389/1988

*The Goa Foundation; Dr. Claude Alvares*

vs.

*The Union of India; The State of Goa; Alcon Resort Holdings Ltd.*

*Issue:* Alcon Resort Holdings Ltd. began construction of a luxury hotel on Cavelossim beach without clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, as directed under the Environment Protection Act of 1986. This construction, which was approved by the Union of India and the State of Goa, cleared away important sand dunes along the beach, thereby making it vulnerable to erosion. Additionally, The Union of India altered the condition established by the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in a letter to all Chief Ministers on November 27, 1981 that decreed that no construction is to occur within 500 meters of the High Tide Line (HTL). The Union of India reduced this to 200 meters of the HTL. The Goa Foundation challenged that this change by The Union of India and the construction on Cavelossim beach by Alcon Resort Holdings Ltd. was illegal under India Law.