

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH AT KOLKATA

7

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 94 /2025/EZ

(Under Section 18(1) read with Section 14, 15 and 17 of the

National Green Tribunal Act, 2010)
20 MAY 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Dr. Apurba Kumar Baruah & Ors.

: Applicants

Vs.

The State of Assam & Ors.

: Respondents

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Date: 20.05.2025

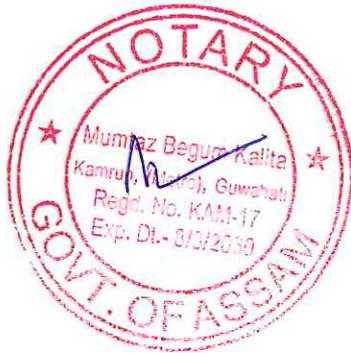
Place: Guwahati

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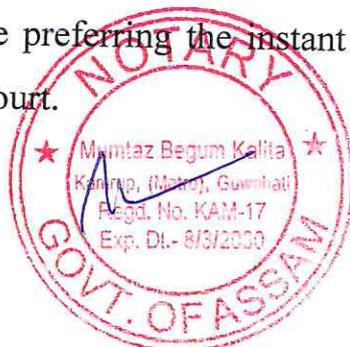


SYNOPSIS

The applicants seek to raise serious and substantial question relating to the environment before the National Green Tribunal, regarding – (i) the felling of around 3000 to 7000 trees in Guwahati city in last few years, in violation of the fundamental right to life of the people of Guwahati, as enumerated by the Hon'ble Apex Court in cetane of decisions, including in *Virender Gaur v. State of Haryana*; (ii) the plan to fell/transplant around 70 matured trees (around 50 years old) located at Ambari on GNB Road towards construction of GNB Road Flyover and (iii) cementing/concretizing the trunks of large number of matured trees (above 100 years old), and non-removal of wires, signboards, etc., from the said trees located around Dighalipukhuri pond, in violation of this Hon'ble Court's order in *Aditya N. Prasad v. Union of India & Ors.*

Urban trees help to control climate change and global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂) through photosynthesis, acting as natural carbon sinks, help cool the surrounding environment, reducing the need for energy intensive cooling systems, acts as natural filters and trapping pollutants and improving air quality in urban areas.

However, overlooking such benefits of urban trees, the respondent authorities have already felled thousands of trees in Guwahati city, and now plan to fell/translocate around 70 matured trees at the Ambari area for the GNB flyover in a most non-transparent and opaque manner. Therefore, being aggrieved the applicants herein are preferring the instant application seeking adequate relief from this Hon'ble Court.



LIST OF DATE & EVENTS

DATE	EVENTS
23.04.2013	Order passed by NGT in Aditya N. Prasad vs. Union of India & Ors.
26.08.2024	NE Now news report
28.10.2024	Northeast Today news report
31.10.2024	The Times of India news report
13.11.2024	Order passed by Gauhati High Court in PIL No. 64/2024
16.11.2024	RTI application
15.01.2025	RTI appeal
26.03.2025	The Hindu news report
24.04.2025	The Assam Tribune news report
14.05.2025	The Assam Tribune news report
17.05.2025	The Assam Tribune news report



1

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
EASTERN ZONE BENCH AT KOLKATA

MEMORANDUM OF APPLICATION
(Under Section 18(1) read with Section 14, 15 and 17 of the
National Green Tribunal Act, 2010)

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. OF 2025/EZ

IN THE MATTER OF:

1. **Dr. Apurba Kumar Baruah**
S/o (L) Rabindra Nath Baruah
R/o B/1-68, Larica Green Hamlet, Bongara
Guwahati 781015, District – Kamrup (M),
Assam

2. **Dr. Manorama Sharma**
W/o Apurba Kumar Baruah
R/o B/1-68, Larica Green Hamlet, Bongara
Guwahati 781015, District – Kamrup (M),
Assam

3. **Dr. Indranee Dutta**
W/o Sri. Rabindra Nath Dutta
R/o Kharguli, Guwahati 781004
District – Kamrup (M),
Assam

4. **Sri. Rabindra Nath Dutta**
S/o Sri. (L) Padma Kanta Dutta
R/o Kharguli, Guwahati 781004
District – Kamrup (M),
Assam



5. **Sri. Ahmed Khabirul Ahsan Hazarika**
S/o Sri. (L) Khabiruddin Ahmed Hazarika
Milanpur Tiniali, Bamunimaidam
Guwahati 781021, Assam
6. **Sri. Mahesh Deka**
S/o Sri. Dandiram Deka
R/o H.No.13, K.K Bhatta Road
Chenikuthi, Guwahati 781003
Assam
7. **Sri. Jayanta Gogoi**
S/o Sri. Motilal Gogoi
R/o Rajgarh Road, Guwahati 781003
Assam
8. **Sri. Chandan Borgohain**
S/o Sri. (L) Chitaranjan Borgohain
R/o Bhagaduttapur, Kahilipara
Guwahati 781019, Assam

Applicants

Versus



The State of Assam

Represented by the Chief Secretary,
Government of Assam
Assam Sachivalaya, Dispur
Guwahati 781006, Assam
Email: cs-assam@nic.in

2. **The Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change**
Government of Assam,
Represented by the Secretary,
Assam Sachivalaya, Dispur
Guwahati 781006, Assam
Email: akdlhi@gmail.com

3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Assam

Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari
Guwahati 781037, Assam
Email: hoff-assam@gov.in

4. The Public Works (Roads) Department

Government of Assam,
Represented by the Commissioner & Special Secretary,
Assam Sachivalaya, Dispur
Guwahati 781006, Assam
Email: as-guw1@nic.in

5. Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup (Metro)

Lichubagan, Hengrabari
Guwahati 781036, Assam
Email: dc-kamrup@nic.in

6. The Guwahati Municipal Corporation

Represented by the Commissioner
Ganesh Mandir, Guwahati 781006, Assam
Email: guwahaticom@gmail.com



The Assam State Pollution Control Board,

Represented by the Member Secretary,
Bamunimaidam, Guwahati 781021, Assam
Email: membersecretary@pcbassam.org

Respondents

- I. The addresses of the Applicants is given above for the service of notices of this application.
- II. The addresses of the Respondents are given above for the service of notices of this application

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. The applicants before Your Lordships are citizens of India and resident of the aforesaid locality in Guwahati. The applicants further state that –

- Applicant No. 1 is a retired professor and former Dean of Social Sciences at North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong. He is the President of Sustha Samaj Bikash Chakra, an organization that works for intellectual development and protection of environment;
- Applicant No. 2 is a retired professor and former Head of Department of History, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong. She is also associated with a number of research and academic organisations like, North East India History Association, Indian Association of Women Studies, etc.
- Applicant No. 3 is the former Director of the OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, and former professor at Gauhati University. She is also one of the trustees of the North East Education Trust (NEET), an alternative educational endeavor for creative expression.
- Applicant No. 4 is a retired government servant and former Director of Forensic Science Laboratory, Guwahati and member of a number of social organisations, Asom Shahitya Sabha, Ellora Vigyan Manch, etc.
- Applicant No. 5 Ahmed Khabirul Ahsan Hazarika is a tax consultant based in Guwahati. He is a social activist and associated with various socio-cultural organizations.
- Applicant No. 6 is a journalist with over 12 years of experience in print and online media, including Eastern Chronicle, The Sentinel and currently, the Executive Editor at NorthEast Now, a news portal.
- Applicant No. 7 is an activist and social worker, who has been advocating for the environment and the rights of the marginalized communities.
- Applicant No. 8 is a journalist, currently working for Logically Facts, a multilingual fact-checking organization.



2. That the applicants are conscientious citizens and nature lovers; hence they are entitled to all the rights, protections and privileges guaranteed under the Constitution of India and laws framed thereunder. Furthermore, it is the duty of the applicants as citizens of India under Article 51-A(g) of the Constitution of India, to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.

3. That the applicants seek to raise serious and substantial question relating to the environment before the National Green Tribunal, regarding –
 - (i) The felling of around 3000 to 7000 trees in Guwahati city in last few years, in violation of the fundamental right to life of the people of Guwahati, as enumerated by the Hon'ble Apex Court in cetane of decisions, including in *Virender Gaur v. State of Haryana*, that –

“Article 21 protects right to life as a fundamental right. Enjoyment of life and its attainment including their right to life with human dignity encompasses within its ambit, the protection and preservation of environment, ecological balance free from pollution of air and water, sanitation without which life cannot be enjoyed. Any contra acts or actions would cause environmental pollution. Environmental, ecological, air, water pollution, etc., should be regarded as amounting to violation of Article 21. Therefore, hygienic environment is an integral facet of right to healthy life and it would be impossible to live with human dignity without a humane and healthy environment.”

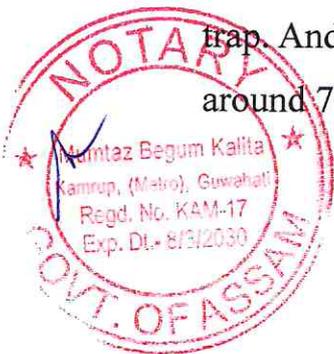
The aforesaid act of felling such large number of trees is also against the “*principle of sustainable development*” and “*precautionary principle*” as applied by this Hon'ble Court under the NGT Act, 2010.



- (ii) The plan to fell/transplant around 70 matured trees (around 50 years old) located at Ambari on GNB Road (including in Assam Textile Institute and Press Club) towards construction of GNB Road Flyover.
- (iii) The cementing/concretizing the trunks of large number of matured trees (above 100 years old), and non-removal of wires, signboards, etc., from the said trees located around Dighalipukhuri pond, in violation of this Hon'ble Court's order in *Aditya N. Prasad v. Union of India & Ors.*

Facts of the Case

4. The city of Guwahati in Assam is the biggest city of North-East of India, with an municipal area of around 217 sq.km. The city is a growing metropolis, which had a population of nearly 1 million (2011 census), and now estimated to be around 1.4 to 1.5 million. However, as the city continues to expand and urbanization increases, the pressure on the environment has also increased manifold, more particularly on urban trees, primarily due to construction of number of flyovers and road expansion works.
5. That according to a news report in 'The Times of India' dated 31.10.2024, almost 3000 trees were felled by the authorities for the construction of flyovers in Guwahati in the last three years, transforming the city into a heat trap. And in another news in NE Now dated 26.08.2024, Guwahati city lost around 7000 trees due to flyover construction, road expansion, etc.



A copy of the news in 'The Times of India' dated 31.10.2024 and 'NE Now News' dated 26.08.2024 is annexed as **ANNEXURE – A & B**

6. That the applicant No. 5 had submitted an RTI application dated 16.11.2024 with the respondent No. 2 seeking the number of trees felled as well as number of trees planted in Guwahati city under the Kamrup East Division during the last five years (2019 – 2024), however, there was no response. So he preferred appeal dated 15.01.2025 before the First Appellate Authority, but till date no information has been forthcoming.

A copy of RTI application dated 16.11.2024 and appeal dated 15.01.2025 (along with typed copy) is annexed as **ANNEXURE – C & D**

7. That the “Implementation Guidelines Nager Van Yojana (NVY)” of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India states in its ‘Introduction’ as follows:

“Urbanization is a global phenomenon, the degree of urbanization and the rate of urban growth varies in different parts of the world. This uncontrolled urbanization resulted in deterioration of natural resources and environment in urban areas in many cities in India as well as in the world. Nearly two third of the world’s population is expected to live in urban areas by 2025. Increase in population has adversely affected the green cover in urban India. Due to this urbanization trend, distance between city inhabitants and nature is increasing. Rapid urbanization has led to severe depletion of forest cover in the last few decades. The depletion of forest cover has in turn adversely affected the ecological balance and the economic stability of the society. The health of people has been affected as well.”



The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is focused on enhancing forest quality and increasing tree cover for maximizing carbon stock as well as to tackle the ill effects of urbanization.”

However, contrary the aforesaid schemes and policies with a focus on increasing tree cover, the scenario on the ground paints a completely different picture, as the concerned authorities instead of increasing are felling large number of trees, without any concern to the ill effects of such action on the environment and the wellbeing of people of the city.

A copy of the “Implementation Guidelines Nager Van Yojana” is annexed as **ANNEXURE – E**

8. That the Assam Government started the construction of the ‘elevated corridor’ project along GNB Road, with the stated objective of easing traffic congestion. As part of this project, two additional arms, one extending 390 metres along Tayabullah Road and another 250 metres along West Dighalipukhuri Road was proposed to connect with the main elevated corridor. The construction of these arms, will necessitate the felling of large number of mature trees, including more than 100-200 years old, located in and around the historic Dighalipukhuri pond. This led to tremendous uproar and protest from the citizens of Guwahati and a PIL No. 64/2024 was also preferred by applicant No. 6, 7 and 8. Subsequent to the said protest as well as the intervention of the Hon’ble Gauhati High Court, the Public Works Road Department submitted an affidavit stating that the Assam Government has been decided to realign the proposed flyover without affecting the Dighalipukhuri pond and the trees.

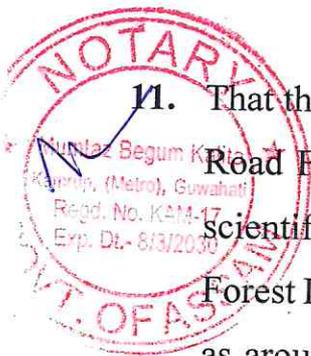


A copy of the news in 'Northeast Today' dated 28.10.2024 and the order of Hon'ble Gauhati High Court dated 13.11.2024 is annexed as ANNEXURE – F & G

9. That although the two-arms of the elevated corridor project around Dighalipukhuri pond was realigned subsequent to public outcry and intervention of the Gauhati High Court, however, the applicants have come to learn that the design of the main GNB road flyover project, which will now end near Rabindra Bhawan, will require felling/removal of around 70 matured trees, which are more than 50 years old.
10. That according to 'The Assam Tribune' dated 14.05.2025, around 30-35 trees will be translocated from Ambari for GNB flyover, though total number of trees, which will be translocated is not known. It is also reported that the Forest Department had earlier attempted similar transplantation, but only 40% trees survived. And, no information is provided to the public as to where the said trees were transplanted and how many are still surviving.

A copy of the news in 'The Assam Tribune' dated 14.05.2025 is annexed as ANNEXURE – H

11. That the transplantation of the aforesaid trees at Ambari as part of the GNB Road Flyover construction raises serious concerns about the efficacy and scientific basis of such measures. Past transplantation measures by the Forest Department during road and flyover development had limited success as around 60% trees did not survive, and the status of the remaining 40% trees is not known to the public.



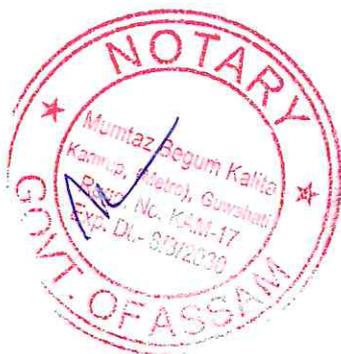
Experts have flagged that large, mature trees are highly unlikely to survive the stress of transplantation. Scientific studies further indicate that older trees (over 20–30 years) regenerate more slowly, suffer from hormonal imbalance, and are more prone to transplant shock and diseases such as *thyronectria canker*. The lack of standardized transplant methodology in India and the absence of necessary equipment compounds the low survival rates, which are nationally reported to be below 50%. Thus, tree transplantation cannot be treated as a sufficient or reliable mitigation strategy for the loss of urban green cover in this context.

12. That according to a report on “Tree Translocation in India” submitted to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) by Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, states that –

“When the tree has multiple trunks or attains an over mature status (having completed its rotation period), having a deep and elaborate tap root system, or attains girth class over 90 cm; in such circumstances the transplantation/translocation is NOT feasible. If attempted the experiment is bound to promote slow death of an otherwise healthy tree.”

A copy of the relevant portion of the above-mentioned report is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE – I.

The applicants further crave leave of this Hon’ble Court to place the entire report on record, if so required.



13. That the GNB Flyover project, has already begun to give rise to severe civic and environmental implications. The quality of life and environmental equilibrium in the surrounding areas have been significantly affected due to continuous and unregulated construction activity. Residents are facing persistent air and noise pollution, extended traffic congestion, widespread dust pollution, and recurrent water logging in adjacent areas.

According to a news report in ‘The Assam Tribune’ dated 24.04.2025 states that –

“From flouting pollution control norms to hazardous construction works and now serious injuries caused to a pedestrian by a live wire at Chandmari area due to the utter negligence of the contractor building the GNB Road flyover goes to exhibit the free rein the contractor concerned is having in the capital city. The government and regulating agencies have been turning a blind eye, despite repeated complaints and growing resentments.”

In another news report published in ‘The Assam Tribune’ dated 17.05.2025 reported as follows –

“A construction worker sustained critical injuries after being electrocuted at the under-construction GNB flyover in Chandmari on Saturday.”

Be it stated that in less than two months there has been two cases of electrocution at the under-construction of GNB road flyover due to safety lapses and the haphazard way of construction work at the said flyover.



A copy of the news in 'The Assam Tribune' dated 24.04.2025 and 17.05.2025 is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE – J & K

14. That urban trees help to control climate change and global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂) through photosynthesis, acting as natural carbon sinks, help cool the surrounding environment, reducing the need for energy intensive cooling systems, acts as natural filters and trapping pollutants and improving air quality in urban areas. However, overlooking such benefits of urban trees, the respondent authorities have already felled thousands of trees in Guwahati city, and now plan to fell/translocate around 70 matured trees at the Ambari area for the GNB flyover in a most non-transparent and opaque manner. It is not known whether the project proponent or the concerned authority/authorities have obtained permission towards the felling/translocation of the said trees? How many trees will be felled and how many translocated? Where will the trees be translocated? What about compensatory afforestation?
15. That at a time when the Hon'ble Apex Court had observed in the Taj Trapezium Zone matter that – ***“Cutting large number of trees is worse than killing human beings”***, as well as ordering tree census in Delhi in the M.C Mehta PIL, observing that – ***“Unless data on trees are available, it is impossible to know about illegal felling”***, on the contrary the concerned authorities have felled thousands of trees in Guwahati. And now plan to fell/transplant around 70 mature trees at Ambari area for the GNB flyover, which is required to be interfered with by this Hon'ble Court.



A copy of the news in 'The Hindu' dated 26.03.2025 and is annexed as ANNEXURE – L

16. That this Hon'ble Court in O.A No. 335/2023 *Pramod Tyagi v. State of (NCT) Delhi* vide judgment dated 21.03.2023 had observed that –

“39. Trees play a vital role in the ecosystem by offering numerous benefits that extend beyond their physical presence. They provide habitats and sustenance for a wide array of species, thereby support biodiversity. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from atmosphere and thereby help mitigation of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas level.”

It was further observed by the Hon'ble Court that –

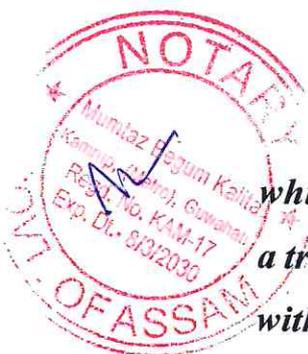
“44. Here, at this stage, we may also refer to the definition of 'environment' which is provided in Section 2(a) of the EP Act, 1986 as under:

2. DEFINITIONS

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, -

(a) *“environment” includes water, air and land and the interrelationship which exists among and between water, air and land, and human beings, other living creatures, plants, micro-organism and property.*

45. The above definition clearly shows that all the aspects which we have already discussed are adversely affected due to cutting of a tree and affect the environment/damage the environment, which comes within the ambit of the definition of 'environment' in Section 2(a) of EP Act, 1986.”



17. That this Hon'ble Court, in *Aditya N. Prasad vs. Union of India & Ors.*, has categorically directed that all public authorities including urban development and transport bodies such as the PWD and CPWD must ensure the immediate removal of signboards, advertisements, electric wires, and high-tension cables affixed to trees. Furthermore, the Tribunal mandated that no concrete or construction activity be carried out within at least one metre of any tree trunk, and that all existing concrete within this radius be removed forthwith. These directions were issued in recognition of the harm caused to tree health and urban greenery due to construction-related encroachments. However, large number of trees around Dighalipukhuri pond, which around 100-200 year old are being surrounded with concrete pavements and walls. There are also electrical wiring, cables, signboards, etc., all around these historical trees. Therefore there is an urgent need for intervention of this Hon'ble Court to prevent degradation of the historical trees and to hold executing agencies accountable for non-compliance with ecological safeguards.

A copy of the above-mentioned order of the Tribunal dated 23.04.2013 and Photographs are annexed as **ANNEXURE – M & N (colly.)**



GROUNDS

That the applicants are filing the present application on the following, among other grounds, which the applicants may take at the time of hearing of the matter:

- A. BECAUSE the felling of thousands of trees (estimated around 3000 to 7000 trees) in Guwahati city in last few years, is in violation of Article 21 of the Constitution of India, i.e., the right to life of the people of Guwahati.
- B. BECAUSE the cutting of large number of trees which affect/damage the environment, comes within the ambit of the definition of 'environment' in Section 2(a) of Environment Protection Act, 1986, as observed by this Hon'ble Court in *Pramod Tyagi v. State of (NCT) Delhi*.
- C. BECAUSE felling thousands of trees within few years in Guwahati city alone, is against the "*principle of sustainable development*" and "*precautionary principle*" as applied by this Hon'ble Court under the NGT Act, 2010.
- D. BECAUSE the proposed realignment and construction of the GNB Flyover, requiring the felling/translocation of around 70 matured trees along Ambari being undertaken without adequate environmental due diligence, is in violation of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, among other laws.
- E. BECAUSE the affected area falls within a historically and ecologically sensitive urban zone, and the loss of mature trees (over 50 years old) would lead to irreversible environmental degradation, including exacerbation of the urban heat island effect, decline in air quality, threat to urban biodiversity, and destruction of the heritage landscape of Ambari.



- F. BECAUSE the act of tree transplantation is not an effective or scientifically validated mitigation measure in this context. The survival rate of mature tree transplants is demonstrably low, as evidenced by previous transplantation efforts in Assam and other Indian cities. Older trees with large girths do not recover well post-transplant, and no standard national methodology currently exists for transplanting such trees.
- G. BECAUSE the flyover construction has led to a systemic and uncoordinated disruption of urban life, including prolonged noise and dust pollution, and unchecked vehicular bottlenecks constituting a clear violation of the right to a clean and healthy environment under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
- H. BECAUSE the Hon'ble Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal in *Aditya N. Prasad vs. Union of India & Ors.* has specifically directed that trees must be protected from encroachments such as signboards, wires, and surrounding concrete, and has underscored the need for public authorities to ensure a minimum one-metre clearance around tree trunks guidelines that have been grossly violated in the present case.
- I. BECAUSE the Revised Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), 2020 promotes the development and conservation of urban green spaces including the use of non-forest land within 5 km of city limits for Nagar Vans and Vatikas. The destruction of green assets in the Ambari-Dighalipukhuri area is therefore contrary to the very policy framework that seeks to enhance, not reduce, urban tree cover.



- J. BECAUSE the alternative alignments and vertical design options for the flyover, which could avoid the destruction of mature trees and lessen the ecological footprint have neither been explored nor disclosed transparently to the public, thereby violating the principles of sustainable development, participatory governance, and intergenerational equity.
- K. BECAUSE under Article 48-A of the Constitution of India it states that –
“The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wild life of the country.”

LIMITATION

That the present application is being filed within the period of limitation prescribed under Section 14 and Section 15 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. The cause of action is continuing in nature, as the proposed felling of trees, process of transplantation and construction activities towards the realigned GNB Flyover are under process/ongoing. And the threat to the environment, public safety, and quality of life remains unabated, thereby necessitating urgent intervention by this Hon’ble Tribunal. Hence, the application is well within time and not barred by limitation.

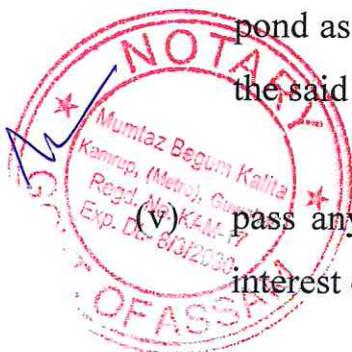
INTERIM PRAYER

In view of the above facts and circumstances, it is most respectfully submitted that the applicants have a good *prima facie* case, and in consideration of said facts and circumstances, this Hon’ble Court in the interim, may be pleased to -

- (i) to stay the proposed/ongoing tree-felling/transplantation/excavation work pertaining to the GNB Flyover project at Ambari area until the final disposal of the present application, and/or



- (ii) to appoint an independent expert committee to –
- a) verify the number of trees felled and/or transplanted in Guwahati city due to flyover construction and road construction in last 5 years and assess its environmental impact on the city and its citizens;
 - b) verify whether necessary permissions were obtained towards tree felling/transplantation as well as unauthorized/illegal felling of trees;
 - c) verify whether action has been taken against illegal felling of trees;
 - d) whether compensatory afforestation has been carried out as per law;
 - e) the ecological, civic, and public safety impact of the construction activities pertaining to GNB flyover; and/or
- (iii) to direct the Respondents to submit before this Hon'ble Tribunal a status report detailing:
- a) The number, species, age, and girth of trees proposed to be felled or transplanted at Ambari area towards GNB road flyover;
 - b) The specific alignments and justifications for the project design at Ambari area;
 - c) Details of safety protocols in place to prevent accidents in public spaces, including electrical lines; and/or
- (iv) to direct the concerned respondent authorities to remove the concrete within one metre surrounding the heritage trees around the Dighalipukhuri pond as well as remove all electrical wires, cables, signboards, etc., from the said trees, and/or
- (v) pass any such further order(s) as may be deemed fit and proper in the interest of justice and environmental protection.



PRAYER

In view of the above said facts and circumstances it is therefore most respectfully prayed by the applicants that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to -

- (i) to direct the Respondents to immediately halt all further tree-felling, transplantation and excavation activities associated with the GNB Flyover Project at the Ambari area, and/or
- (ii) to direct the constitution of an independent expert committee to assess the ecological impact of the proposed project, the viability and scientific basis of tree transplantation claims, alternative alignments and mitigation options that may minimize environmental and public harm, and/or
- (iii) to direct the Respondents to prepare and implement a time-bound mitigation and restoration plan for all environmental degradation already caused due to ongoing construction, including:
 - a) Replantation of native tree species;
 - b) Remediation of air and dust pollution;
 - c) Protection and preservation of heritage zones including the Dighalipukhuri-Ambari area; and/or
- (iv) to ensure that the concrete surrounding the heritage trees around the Dighalipukhuri pond is removed forthwith within one metre of the said trees as well as remove all electrical wires, cables, signboards, etc., from the said heritage trees in compliance of the Hon'ble NGT order in *Aditya N. Prasad vs. Union of India & Ors.*, and/or



- (v) to conduct a tree census in the entire Guwahati Municipal area, including promoting the development and conservation of urban green spaces under the revised Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), 2020, and/or
- (vi) to pass any other such order(s)/direction(s) as this Hon'ble Court seem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the present case.

Date: 20.05.2025

Place: Guwahati

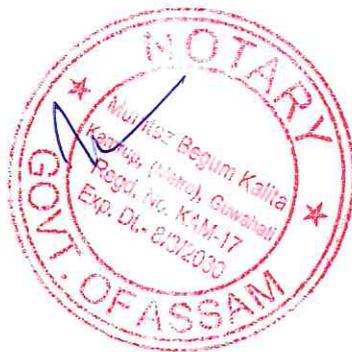
Drawn and filed by:

Vikram Rajkhowa

Vikram Rajkhowa

Advocate for the Applicants

504, Amazing Grace Apartment,
S.K Bhuyan Road, Dighalipukhuri(E)
Guwahati – 7810001, ASSAM
vikram.rajkhowa@gmail.com
(+91) 9954348258



BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH AT KOLKATA

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. OF 2025/EZ

IN THE MATTER OF:

Dr. Apurba Kumar Baruah & Ors. : Applicants

Vs.

The State of Assam and Ors. : Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

I, Dr. Apurba Kumar Baruah, son of Sri. (L) Rabindra Nath Baruah, aged around 78 years, resident of B/1-68, Larica Green Hamlet, Bongara, Guwahati 781015, in the district of Kamrup(M), Assam, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I am the applicant in the present application, and as such I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case, hence, competent to swear this affidavit. And being authorized by the other applicants, I am also competent to swear this affidavit on their behalf.
2. That the accompanying application has been drafted by our counsel(s) on our instructions, and we have read and understood the contents thereof and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

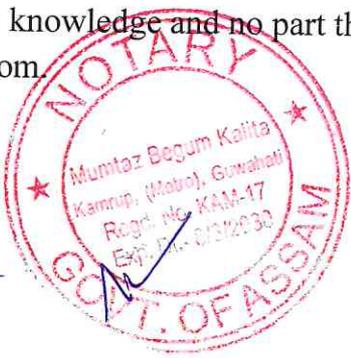
Apurba Kumar Baruah

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

I, the above named, deponent do hereby verify that all the facts mentioned in the affidavit are true to my knowledge and no part thereof is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom

IDENTIFIED BY
Arundh Jyoti Sakuma
ADVOCATE, GUWAHATI
ENR... 29 ... of ... 23
Date... 20.05.2025



Apurba Kumar Baruah

DEPONENT

20 MAY 2025

Muntaz Begum Kalita
NOTARY
Kamrup (Metro), Guwahati
Regd No. KAM-17

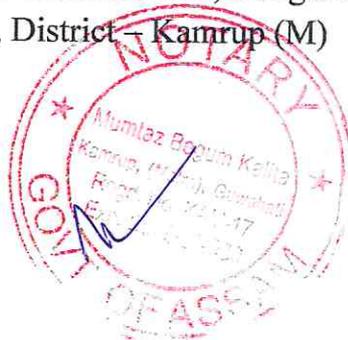
AUTHORIZATION LETTER

We, hereby nominate, constitute and appoint Dr. Apurba Kumar Baruah, son of Sri. (L) Rabindra Nath Baruah, aged around 78 years, resident of B/1-68, Larica Green Hamlet, Bongara, Guwahati 781015, in the district of Kamrup (M), Assam, as our authorized representative to do the following acts, things and deeds as given below, regarding the protection of trees and the environment of Guwahati city, in the district of Kamrup (M), Assam:

1. To file original application, interlocutory application, miscellaneous application and/or any other application/petition, before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata and/or any other appropriate bench of the said tribunal.
2. To engage or appoint advocates, lawyers, solicitors or counsels to conduct the case(s) in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench at Kolkata and/or any other appropriate bench of the said tribunal.
3. To sign and verify all complaints, pleadings, applications, petitions or documents before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, and to deposit, withdraw and receive documents from the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, or from the respondents.
4. To do generally all other acts, deeds and things for the conduct of the aforementioned case(s) as we could have done the same if we were personally present.
5. We further undertake to jointly pay all expenses towards the aforementioned case(s), including advocates/lawyers/counsels fees, travel/accommodation expenses, and all other expenses incidental thereto.

Signed and delivered by the within named on ..20.05.2025.... (date)

1. **Dr. Manorama Sharma**
W/o Apurba Kumar Baruah
R/o B/1-68, Larica Green Hamlet, Bongara
Guwahati 781015, District - Kamrup (M)
Assam



Signature

Manorama Sharma

2. **Dr. Indranee Dutta**

W/o Sri. Rabindra Nath Dutta
R/o Kharguli, Guwahati 781004
District – Kamrup (M),
Assam

Indranee Dutta

3. **Sri. Rabindra Nath Dutta**

S/o Sri. (L) Padma Kanta Dutta
R/o Kharguli, Guwahati 781004
District – Kamrup (M),
Assam

Rabindra Nath Dutta

4. **Sri. Ahmed Khabirul ~~Ahsan~~ Hazarika**

S/o Sri. (L) Khabiruddin Ahmed Hazarika
Milanpur Tiniali, Bamunimaidam
Guwahati 781021, Assam

Ahmed Khabirul Ahsan Hazarika

5. **Sri. Mahesh Deka**

S/o Sri. Dandiram Deka
R/o H.No.13, K.K Bhatta Road
Chenikuthi, Guwahati 781003
Assam

Mahesh Deka

6. **Sri. Jayanta Gogoi**

S/o Sri. Motilal Gogoi
R/o Rajgarh Road, Guwahati 781003
Assam

Jayanta Gogoi

7. **Sri. Chandan Borgohain**

S/o Sri. (L) Chitaranjan Borgohain
R/o Bhagaduttapur, Kahilipara
Guwahati 781019, Assam

Chandan Borgohain



VAKALATNAMA

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH AT KOLKATA

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. OF 2025/EZ

IN THE MATTER OF:

Dr. Apurba Kumar Baruah & Ors. : Applicants

Vs.

The State of Assam and Ors. : Respondents

Know all men by these presents that the above, named, Dr. Apurba Kumar Baruah, Dr. Manorama Sharma, Dr. Indranee Dutta, Sri. Rabindra Nath Dutta, Sri. Ahmed Khabirul Ahsan Hazarika, Sri. Mahesh Deka, Sri. Jayanta Gogoi and Sri. Chandan Borgohain, do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint Mr. Vikram Rajkhowa, Mr. Ankur Jyoti Sharma and Ms. Elizabeth C Vaipehi, Advocates, as shall accept this Vakalatnama to be their true and lawful Advocates to appear and act for them in the matter noted above and in connection therewith and for that purpose to do all acts whatsoever in that connection including depositing or drawing money, filing in or taking out papers, deeds of composition, etc., for them and on their behalf and We agree to ratify and confirm all acts to be done by the said Advocates as ours for all intents and purposes. In case of non-payment of the stipulated fee in full, no Advocate will be bound to appear and act on our behalf. In witness whereof we hereunto set my/our hand on this 20th day of May 2025.

Received from the executants
Satisfied and accepted as I/We
Hold no brief for the other side.

Apurba Kumar Baruah
Manorama Sharma
Indranee Dutta
Rabindra Nath Dutta
Ahmed Khabirul Ahsan Hazarika
Mahesh Deka
Jayanta Gogoi
Signature of Executant/s
Chandan Borgohain

Vikram Rajkhowa
Advocate
Ankur Jyoti Sharma
Advocate
Elizabeth Chongneihoi
Advocate



3k trees felled in last 3 yrs in Guwahati, surroundings

Oct 31, 2024, 04:21 AM IST



Guwahati: Around 3,000 trees were felled by the authorities for the construction of flyovers and the expansion of the national highway in Guwahati and its periphery in the past three years, transforming the capital city into a heat trap.

According to official sources, approximately 2,500 trees were felled in 2022, which existed along the 16.5 km stretch of National Highway 37 within the city limits, for upgrading the four-lane highway to six lanes. Previously, 254 trees were felled for the construction of roads in Palashbari, on the outskirts of Guwahati, under Kamrup East forest division, while at least 15 mature trees were removed for the construction of the Shraddhanjali flyover

connecting Commerce Point with Nursery on the RG Baruah Road in 2022.

Furthermore, at least 54 trees were removed for the construction of the flyover at Dispur, near the Assam Secretariat, while nine trees were felled for the construction of a foot overbridge at Fancy Bazar, and six trees were removed for the construction of a foot overbridge at Khanapara.

Authorities recently identified 21 ancient trees situated on the banks of the historic tank, Dighalipukhuri, for the construction of the approximately 6-km-long flyover, which will connect the Dighalipukhuri area with Noonmati. This provoked the city dwellers and nature enthusiasts, culminating in a protest against the govt's initiative. However, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma assured that the govt remains steadfastly committed to preserving the city's heritage and environment while advancing infrastructure.

Sarma on Wednesday appealed to all stakeholders to grant the PWD sufficient time to explore an alternative proposal and assess its viability.

According to the Global Forest Watch (GFW), Guwahati lost over 12 sq km of tree cover from 2001 to 2023, equivalent to a 4.3% decrease in tree cover since 2000. GFW is an open-source application to monitor forests and climate across the globe in near real-time and was initiated by a US-based non-profit organisation called World Resources Institute in 1997.

We also published the following articles recently

Karnataka Forest Minister orders probe into alleged illegal tree felling on set of Yash's film 'Toxic' Recent allegations of illegal tree cutting for the set of 'Toxic', starring Yash, have prompted Karnataka's Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre to investigate the claims. Forest land in Bengaluru's Peenya Plantation was reportedly transferred unlawfully and utilized for non-forestry activities. Authorities are instructed to take disciplinary action against those responsible for the unauthorized tree felling. 114759317

HC Orders Officials to Submit Records on Illegal Tree Felling at Ajni Station Project The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court has summoned Railway Land Development Authority officials and a Deputy Commissioner of Police regarding illegal tree felling for the Ajni station project. The court revealed 181 trees were cut illegally with plans to fell 200 more, despite a suspension. Authorities were criticized for sending lower-level officials for inspections. 114549636

'Toxic': Forest trees axed in Bengaluru for shooting of KGF star Yash's upcoming movie The ongoing dispute over 599 acres of forest land in Peenya-Jalahalli area, currently with HMT, escalated as forest minister Eshwar Khandre accused the company of allowing tree felling for a movie shoot. Khandre directed legal action against those responsible for the deforestation and instructed verification and disciplinary measures against any complicit officials. 114755417

ANNEXURE - B

Assam

Assam: Several trees felled for new flyovers in Guwahati

11:22 PM Aug 26, 2024 IST | user

Updated At: 11:29 PM Aug 26, 2024 IST

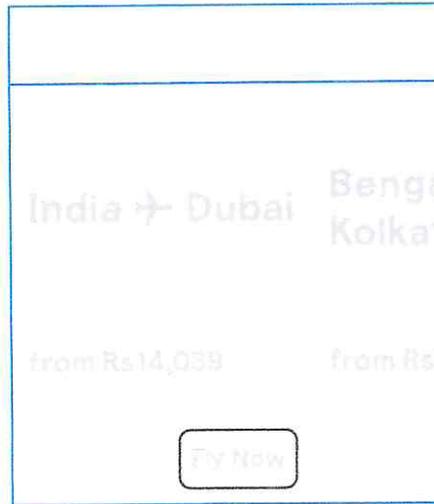


Representative image.

X

NEXT





Guwahati: The Assam government's ambitious development plans in Guwahati are raising concerns among residents as the city's green cover continues to dwindle.

The administration, which has already felled [hundreds of trees](#) for the construction of flyovers, has now planned to axe an additional 200 trees in the Six Mile-Rukminigaon and Downtown areas to make way for a new flyover on GS Road.

Last night, the Forest Department cut down at least 25 trees in the Down Town area, sparking reactions from residents.

Furthermore, a proposed highway project stretching from Baihata Chariali to Sonapur via Kuruwa threatens to decimate over 3,200 trees, including some within the [Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary](#). The highway will pass through 800 meters of the sanctuary.

Guwahati city has already lost approximately 7,000 trees due to flyover construction and upgrades to the National Highway from Jalukbari to Khanapara. This significant loss of green cover has contributed to a rise in temperatures, with recent maximum temperatures reaching 40 degrees Celsius.

"If the government continues to cut trees at this rate, it will become unbearable to live in Guwahati in the near future," warned Nabajit Barman, a local resident.

Environmental activists are calling for a halt to the indiscriminate felling of trees and urging the government to prioritize sustainable urban development that preserves the city's green spaces.

Related News



Meghalaya: Ecological threat to its mountain bastion

03:21 PM May 19, 2025 | Mongabay



RTI
18/11/24
Kamrup
18/11/2024

Date: November 16, 2024

Guwahati
16/11/24

To,
The SPIO,
Office of the PCCF & HoFF Assam
Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati - 37

Sub: Application under the RTI Act, 2005

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hereby request the following information under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act).

I would like to request the following information:

- Number of elephants that died in Assam during the past five years (2019-2024). Please provide a list categorized by wildlife division, including the date of death, location, and sex (male or female) of each elephant.
- Number of trees felled in Guwahati city under the Kamrup East Division during the last five years (2019-2024). Please provide a list specifying the date (with year), location, and reason for felling each tree.
- Number of trees planted in Guwahati city during the last five years (2019-2024) and their current survival rate.

I request that the information be provided to me within the stipulated time frame as per the RTI Act.

Requisite RTI application fee of Rs.10/- is enclosed herewith vide Indian Postal Order No 60F 931260 dated 16.11. 2024.

Thank you,

Yours Sincerely,

See
(Mahesh Deka)

Flat. No. 002, Indira Enclave
Milijuli Nagar, Namghar Path
Panjabari, Guwahati - 781037
Cell No. 9854271585
maheshdk3@gmail.com

NOTARY
Mumtaz Begum Kalita
Kamrup (Metrol), Guwahati
Regd. No. KA-17
Exp. Dt. 08/11/2030

28/11/24
2024
ASSAM GOVERNMENT

(TYPED COPY OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS)

To
The SPIO,
Office of the PCCF & HOFF Assam
Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati-37

Date: November 16, 2024

Sub: Application under the RTI Act, 2005

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hereby request the following information under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act).

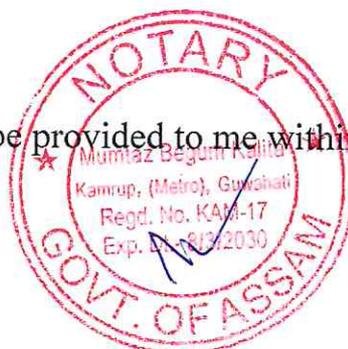
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I request that the information be provided to me within the stipulated time frame as per the RTI Act



Requisite RTI application fee of Rs. 10/- is enclosed herewith vide Indian Postal Order No 60F 931260 dated 16.11. 2024.

Thank you,

Yours Sincerely,

SD/-

(Mahesh Deka)

Flat. No. 002, Indira Enclave
Milijuli Nagar, Namghar Path
Panjabari, Guwahati-781037
Cell No. 9854271585
maheshdk3@gmail.com



To,

The First Appellate Authority

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) & Head of Forests Force (HoFF), Assam

Panjabari, Guwahati-781037

Subject: First Appeal under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005

Date: 15th January, 2025

Application ref: Application filed on November 16, 2024

Statement of Facts:

1. I had filed an RTI application dated 16th November, 2024 with the SPIO office of the PCCF & HoFF Assam seeking information regarding:
 - o Elephant deaths in Assam during 2019 and 2024.
 - o Felling of trees in Guwahati city under Kamrup East Division during 2019 and 2024.
 - o Trees planted in Guwahati city during this period.

A copy of the RTI application is attached herewith as Annexure-A.

2. While I received a reply from the office of some DFOs regarding elephant deaths in Assam, I have **not received any reply** from the office of DFOs of Eastern Assam WL Division Bokakhat, Mangaldoi WL Division, Kokrajhar Wildlife Division, North Kamrup Division, Cachar Division, Silchar, Karimganj Division, Karimganj, Aie Valley Division, Bongaigaon, Nagaon South Division, Hojai, Digboi Division, Digboi and Dima Hasao West Division.

Received
20/1/2025



3. I have also not received any information regarding tree felling and tree plantation in Guwahati city from Kamrup East (social forestry division).
4. I am, therefore, not satisfied with the reply as it is **incomplete and evasive**. The lack of response to crucial parts of my query hinders my right to information.
5. I believe that the denial/inadequate response constitutes a violation of my rights under the Right to Information Act, 2005.
6. I request you to:
 - o **Direct the Public Information Officer to provide me with the complete and correct information sought in my RTI application within the time frame prescribed under the Act.**
 - o **Inquire into the reasons for the delay/non-response regarding tree felling and tree plantation data.**

Yours Sincerely,
See
15/01/23
(Mahesh Deka)

Flat. No. 002, Indira Enclave
Milijuli Nagar, Namghar Path
Panjabari,
Guwahati – 781037
Cell No. 9854271585
maheshdk3@gmail.com



(TYPED COPY OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS)

To,

The First Appellate Authority
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) & Head of Forests
Force (HoFF), Assam

Panjabari, Guwahati-781037

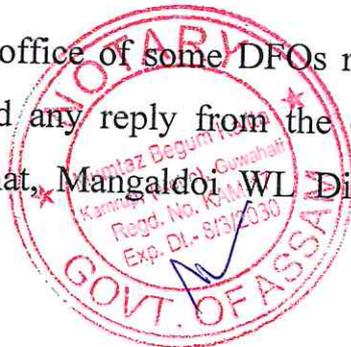
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 - Trees planted in Guwahati city during this period.
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Wildlife Division, North Kamrup Division, Cachar Division, Silchar, Karimganj Division, Karimganj, Aie Valley Division, Bongaigaon, Nagaon South Division, Hojai, Digboi Division, Digboi and Dima Hasao West Division.

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4. I am, therefore, not satisfied with the reply as it is incomplete and evasive. The lack of response to crucial parts of my query hinders my right to information.

5. I believe that the denial/inadequate response constitutes a violation of my rights under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

6. I request you to:

- Direct the Public Information Officer to provide me with the complete and correct information sought in my RTI application within the time frame prescribed under the Act.
- Inquire into the reasons for the delay/non-response regarding tree felling and tree plantation data.

Yours Sincerely,

SD/-

(Mahesh Deka)

Flat. No. 002, Indira Enclave
Milijuli Nagar, Namghar Path Panjabari,

Guwahati-781037

Cell No. 9854271585

maheshdk3@gmail.com



IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES NAGER VAN YOJANA (NVY)

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of India



About Implementation Guidelines

The Pilot Scheme of Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) was started in 2020 with some modifications in existing Nagar Van Udyan Scheme during launched in 2015. From the experience gained in its implementation and discussion held with the States/ UTs from time to time, it has been observed that it is very difficult to find forest land within Municipality limit and that too in the extent of minimum 10 ha, which resulted in slow implementation of Scheme.

The Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) has, therefore, been reviewed to bring more area under the scheme and to reach out to all cities with Municipality. The Revised Nagar Van Yojana aims at developing 400 Nagar Van and 200 Nagar Vatika with the objective to significantly enhance the tree outside forests and green cover in cities leading to better environment, enhancement of biodiversity and ecological benefits to the urban and peri-urban areas apart from improving quality of life of city dwellers.

The salient features of the revised scheme are as under:

1. All cities with Municipal Corporation / Municipalities/Urban Local Bodies (ULB) are proposed to be covered under the scheme.
2. For Nagar Van minimum area limit is 10 ha to any size, but the grant will be limited to a maximum of 50 ha.
3. In congested part of the cities minimum 1 ha to 10 ha can be taken up as Nagar Vatika.
4. Nagar Van site can be up to 5 km distance from the city limit, taking into account future expansion of cities and provide greener surroundings.
5. Area other than forest land can also be considered
6. The Scheme proposes development of 400 Nagar Van and 200 Nagar Vatika in four years i.e. 2021-22 to 2024-25.
7. Municipal Corporation/ Municipalities/ULBs and other Land owning agencies can also submit proposals through concerned State Forest Department for financial assistance.



8. Development and Management of Nagar Van and Vatika should encourage PPP mode with active participation of people, students and other stakeholders.
9. Selection of trees should be from the species best suited for local conditions with emphasis on enriching biodiversity, planting of fruit bearing, medicinal plants species to attract birds, butterflies etc., enhancing ecological values and pollution abatement.
10. All Nagar Van/ Vatika must be open to public subject to suitable restrictions.
11. At least two third area of Nagar Van/ Vatika must be under tree cover/ wood lands. Nagar Van/ Vatika may include components of Biodiversity Park, Nakshatra Van, Butterfly Conservatory, Waterbody, Smriti Van and Herbal Garden etc. to attract people and help in *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity.
12. The financial assistance component remains the same i.e. Rs. 4 lakh per Ha.

The above modifications have been incorporated in the guidelines appropriately.



Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAMPA	Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority
CER	Corporate Environmental Responsibility
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
GPS	Global Positioning System
KML	Keyhole Markup Language
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoEF&CC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
NA	National Authority
NAEB	National Afforestation and Eco Development Board
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NVY	Nagar Van Yojana
PCCF	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
PMU	Project Management Unit
RC	Regional Centre
SFD	State Forest Department
ULB	Urban Local Bodies
UT	Union Territory



Contents

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C	Guidelines for implementation of Nagar Van Yojana	1-5
C.I	General	2-4
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C.III	Formulation of proposal & its approval	4-5
D	Target under the scheme	5
E	Fund transfer mechanism under the scheme	6-7
F	Monitoring	7-8
G	Scheme Budget	8
H	Expected Scheme Outcome	9



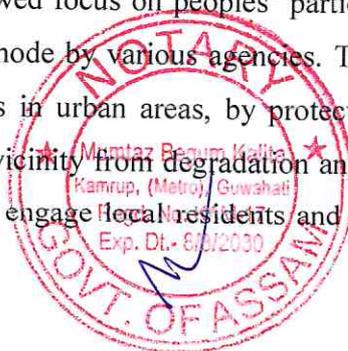
Introduction

The forests of India constitute the first line of defence against pollution resulting from economic activity, whether of agricultural or industrial origin. So there is a need to preserve this line with adequate policy interventions for protecting and enhancing India's forest cover and to counter the perils of climate change.

Urbanization is a global phenomenon, the degree of urbanization and the rate of urban growth varies in different parts of the world. This uncontrolled urbanization resulted in deterioration of natural resources and environment in urban areas in many of the cities in India as well as in the world. Nearly two third of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas by 2025. Increase in population has adversely affected the green cover in urban India. Due to this urbanization trend, distance between city inhabitants and nature is increasing. Rapid urbanization has led to severe depletion of forest cover in the last few decades. The depletion of forest cover has in turn adversely affected the ecological balance and the economic stability of the society. The health of the people has been affected as well.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is focused on enhancing forest quality and increasing tree cover for maximizing carbon stock as well as to tackle the ill effects of urbanization. With a view to achieve these objectives, Ministry has taken many initiatives to bring out transformational changes in our policies and programmes and implement several initiatives with the peoples' participation.

The Nagar Van Scheme was initiated during June, 2020-21 during 'World Environmental Day' Celebrations. The implementation of the revamped "Nagar Van" Scheme, from the Nagar Van Udyan Yojana implemented during 2015, aimed to develop 'Nagar Vans' across the country in next five years. The Scheme is revised with a renewed focus on peoples' participation, and is to be implemented in collaborative mode by various agencies. The primary objective is to create forest/green spaces in urban areas, by protecting forest/non-forest land within cities/towns or its vicinity from degradation and encroachment. The scheme is designed to actively engage local residents and different agencies in



developing bio-diverse forests for social and environmental benefits in an urban landscape.

The efforts so far made towards ameliorating the ill effects of climate change through afforestation/tree plantation programmes of the Ministry have succeeded to certain extent. Considering there is a need to move towards a holistic approach, necessary modifications in the existing interventions are inevitable. The implementations Guidelines of NVY have been revised based on the feedback from the implementing agencies. These implementation guidelines are expected to give clear idea of the scheme and to expand its benefits by covering more area under the scheme.



Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

NAGAR VAN YOJANA (NVY)

नगर वन योजना

“एक कदम हरियाली की ओर”

Urban forests are green infrastructure in an urban landscape where trees and associated vegetation provide an assortment of environmental services like cleaning the air, improving local environment, recreational and aesthetic value.

A. Vision: To create *Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika* in each City having Municipal Corporation/Municipal council/Municipality/Urban Local Bodies(ULBs) for providing wholesome healthy living environment for the residents and thus contributing to growth of clean, green, healthy and sustainable cities.

B. Objectives:

1. Creating green space and aesthetic environment in an urban set up.
2. Creating awareness about plants and biodiversity and developing environment stewardship.
3. Facilitating *in-situ* conservation of important flora of the region.
4. Contributing to environmental improvement of cities by pollution mitigation, providing cleaner air, noise reduction, water harvesting and reduction of heat islands effect.
5. Extending health benefits to residents of the city and
6. Helping cities become climate resilient.

C. Guidelines for implementation of Nagar Van/Vatika Yojana

A Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika is/will be a forested area in the city or in its vicinity. Nagar Van/Vatika should be accessible to the city dwellers/general public, and will be suitably managed for providing wholesome natural environment for recreation, education, biodiversity conservation and supported services like water and soil conservation,



pollution abatement, reduction of heat islands effect of the city with the essential elements for regular use.

C 1. General

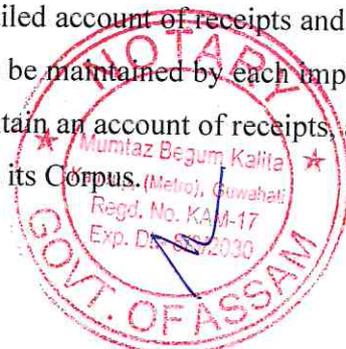
1. The scheme is proposed to be implemented for a period of five years starting from 2020-21 to 2024-2025.
2. The scheme aims at developing 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatikas across the country in cities having Municipal Corporation/Municipal Council/Municipalities.
3. Nagar Van may be developed over a minimum area of 10 ha and a maximum of 50 ha within 5 km limits of Municipal Corporation/Municipal Council/Municipality.
4. Nagar Vatika may be developed in an area of minimum 1 ha and maximum of 10 ha within the city limits.
5. The Scheme aims at development of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika primarily on forest or other land available for greening/tree planting within the limits of municipalities or in its vicinity located within 5 km limit. The purpose will be to improve the density of vegetation by planting judicious mix of different locally appropriate species of shrubs and trees as per local site conditions and protection of forest lands within and in the vicinity of cities which are getting affected/ degraded and are facing the threat of encroachment.
6. Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika may be developed on forest or other vacant non-forest public land.
7. The area selected shall be accessible to city dwellers/general public.
8. Nagar Van should have minimum of 2/3rd area under woodland/ tree cover and may be considered on lands other than forest land for expanding green cover in urban spaces.
9. Implementing agencies other than Forest Departments such as Municipalities may also be considered for development of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika based on recommendations of State Governments.
10. Educational institutions, Universities, Government/Non-Government organisations/ULB may also take up 'Nagar Van/Vatika' on land owned by them and the proposals are to be routed through State Government.
11. Participation of local people, students in plantations may be encouraged to create a sense of ownership. Innovative concepts like creation of Panchvati, Aushadhi



Vatika, Nakshatra Van, Oxyzones etc. may be taken up to attract people in plantation activities.

12. The financial modalities of the scheme will be as follows:

- a. The Ministry will provide one time development and non-recurring grant to the implementing agency for creation of an area of Nagar Van/Vatika to a maximum extent of Rs. 2.0 crores for 50 ha. Balance cost will be met by the implementing agency through its own resources.
- b. Financial assistance from Govt. of India under this scheme shall be provided as a grant to State Forest Department (SFD), and the SFD further release the portion of the grant meant for an implementing agency within a period of seven (7) days.
- c. The Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika may be developed in a collaborative mode involving forest and other departments of the State/UT Government, NGOs, Industries, Corporate bodies, Civil societies etc.
- d. The Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika may be developed with a participatory approach, adopting a PPP model, to ensure public participation in planning, implementation and management of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika. An agreement between different stakeholders should be signed as may be needed.
- e. For raising of plantations and developing other components of a Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika, NGOs, Corporate bodies, Industries, civil society, ULBs and other institutions may be involved.
- f. The Implementing Agency of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika may levy user fee, receive grants from other agencies etc. from Year-1 of the scheme itself.
- g. A Corpus of the entire funds received by the implementing agency shall be maintained as an interest bearing account in a government/ public sector bank.
- h. Financial assistance will be provided under this scheme to each Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika for the first two years only.
- i. Detailed account of receipts and Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika wise expenditure shall be maintained by each implementing agency. Likewise, the SFD shall maintain an account of receipts, and implementing agency wise expenditure from its Corpus.



- j. All funds received by implementing agency shall be subject to annual audit by a chartered accountant.

C.II Components of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika

Following items of work may be undertaken in a Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika -

1. Fencing of the area.
2. Establishment and maintenance of woodlots/tree cover with emphasis on locally appropriate tree/shrub species.
3. Theme based plantations, like Smriti Van, Rashi (Nakshatra) Van, etc.
4. Plants to include ornamental trees, shrubs and climbers, medicinal plants, flowering plants, fruit trees etc. to represent floral biodiversity.
5. Irrigation/ rain water harvesting facility.
6. Establishment and maintenance of public conveniences, drinking water facilities, benches, walkways/ footpath, jogging and cycle track etc.
7. Establishment and maintenance of Information and extension centre including I&E kiosk, display boards, signage, information brochures etc.

C.III Formulation of proposal & its approval

1. A detailed project proposal for establishment and maintenance of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika shall be formulated by the concerned implementing agency having possession of the proposed land.
2. The implementing agency shall submit the proposal to State Forest Department (SFD) and the SFD after due scrutiny will forward the proposal to National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, for further consideration.
3. The proposal should include:
 - a) Details of land identified for Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika, along with KML Map of the area on 1:10,000 or larger scale with clear boundary description (GPS coordinates).
 - b) A development cum Management Plan with year wise details of works under different components along with item-wise cost.
4. Implementation of the scheme and its monitoring at state level shall be the responsibility of the SFD.



5. A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be set up in the NAEB, MoEF&CC for coordinating, monitoring, publicity and training of staff in urban greens management under the Scheme.



D. Targets under the scheme

1. The scheme envisages development of 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatikas across the country during the period 2020-21 to 2024-25. An endeavour would be made to identify 400 such Nagar Vans/Vatikas by 2023 as a part of Bharat Ka Amrit Mahotsava.
2. Project proposals from SFD will be considered on a first come first serve basis. However, efforts would be made to spread the Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika at least one in each city of the country.



E. Fund transfer mechanism under the scheme

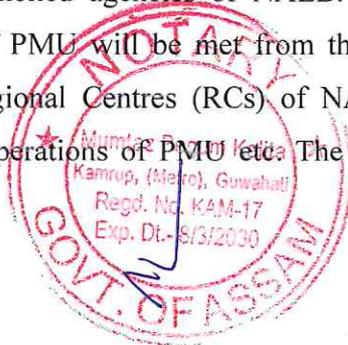
1. NAEB, on receipt of project proposals for establishment of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika from SFDs, will examine the same, and present it to the National Authority for release of funds. Each SFD project may be serially numbered. National Authority shall release funds as grant, as per Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and Rules made thereunder, directly to respective SFDs.
2. The Ministry will provide one time grant to the concerned State Government / land owning implementing agency based on the work requirement to the maximum Grant of Rs. 2.00 crores per Nagar Van/Vatika and @Rs.4.00 lakhs per ha.
3. The grant will be released in two instalments, first instalment of 70% of the sanctioned amount will be released to SFDs after the approval of the project by National Authority (NA) and remaining second instalment after 60% utilization of the first instalment and on submission of utilisation certificate and progress report.
4. For meeting the requirement of additional funds, the respective Agency should make necessary provisions for funding in advance. State/ UT Governments/ implementing agency can arrange funds from various resources including CER/CSR funds. Each implementing agency will, however, maintain record of funds received from various agencies and expenditure incurred against that. A commitment to bear the balance cost of the Project should be enclosed with the proposal.
5. Funding Pattern:
 - (a) The funds of Rs. 2.0 crore will mainly cover the following:
 - i. Cost of fencing
 - ii. Soil-moisture conservation measures and related activities
 - iii. Administrative cost
 - iv. Plantation and Maintenance cost of plantation
 - (b) NGOs, Corporate bodies, Industries, Civil Societies, urban Local Bodies may also be involved and contribute for developing other components, like:
 - i. Plantation including raising of nursery/sapling, composting, landscaping and tree planting and its maintenance.
 - ii. Other essential items including Public convenience, Signage, Jogging Track, Nature trail / Footpath, Benches.



- iii. Special components like arboretum/bamboosetum/ herbal/medicinal plants, etc.
6. Use of locally available material, energy conservation and waste recycling will be encouraged.
7. The M & E cost will be released to SFD for monitoring of the progress of the project. Each SFD will be allowed to engage one technical consultant at a cost of Rs. 40,000/- per month till the completion of the project for monitoring and other works and will also be given Rs.50,000/- per project as lump sum grant for M & E and meeting overhead expenses.
8. The implementing agencies may ensure sufficient revenue generation for maintenance and upkeep of the Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika. For revenue generation economic activities like sale of seedlings/saplings, value added/processed forest products, sale kiosks, recreation facilities, organizing fairs and festivals etc. with the involvement of local people may be promoted.

F. Monitoring

1. The agency involved in developing Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika will furnish Quarterly progress report and will also prepare comprehensive annual report of all activities, accompanied with photos, every year by December and submit it to the SFD for monitoring. These reports will also be sent to NAEB through PCCF/ SFD for further evaluation and consideration for release of funds for the next year. A completion report of the project also to be sent to NAEB through the same channel for monitoring and evaluation.
2. SFD will also carry out monitoring of the progress and completion of activities under the scheme and submit report.
3. A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be set up in NAEB, MoEF&CC for coordinating, monitoring and publicity of the Scheme by engaging technical consultant and attendant to operate the PMU. The PMU operation, third party monitoring and evaluation, preparation and publication of documents/ films etc. will be done through empanelled agencies of NAEB. The expenditure on the aforementioned functions of PMU will be met from the National Fund. NAEB may engage empaneled Regional Centres (RCs) of NAEB for monitoring and evaluation, for facilitating operations of PMU etc. The funds required for PMU



operations may be routed through RC as and when required for ease of disbursement.

G. Scheme Budget

The scheme will be fully funded by the National Fund under CAMPA, and its implementation will be governed by general and specific conditions (to this scheme) for similar works undertaken from the National Fund under CAMPA. The tentative cost of the scheme (2020-21 to 2024-25) is given below:

Total Cost

Sl. No.	Item of Works	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)
1	Nagar Vans (Total 400 in number)	800.00
	Nagar Vatikas (Total 200 number)	80.00
2	Grants to States/ SFDs (engagement of technical consultants, lump sum grant for monitoring and overhead expenses)	9.54
3	Operations of Project Management Unit, Monitoring and Evaluation, Workshops/Seminars, Publicity, Publication of report, Films and other Administrative expenses etc. for NAEB.	5.00
	Total	894.54 Crore (Say Rs. 895.00 crore)

Annual requirement of funds shall depend on the proposals received from states however it is expected to be about Rs.150 to Rs. 200 crores for the above scheme.



H. Expected Scheme Outcomes

A Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika is expected to have following outcomes:

1. Improved air quality, pollution abatement, carbon sequestration, reduction in temperature and urban heat island effect, water and soil conservation.
2. Creation of a green space having aesthetic value with cooling and calming effect on the minds of people.
3. Development of green spaces may also make cities climate resilient besides providing ecosystem services.
4. Indirect effects could be promotion of tourism and expansion of business and trade thus improving local economy.
5. Urban forests could offer several positive community physical and mental health benefits.





ANNEXURE - F - 59

News / Assam / Guwahati citizens protest against felling of trees for flyover, demand preservation of Dighalipukhuri's heritage

Guwahati citizens protest against felling of trees for flyover, demand preservation of Dighalipukhuri's heritage

Construction of a nearly six-mile-long flyover from Reserve Bank to Noonmati is already underway. However, the project has sparked widespread discontent among local residents and the people of Guwahati after a recent change in the flyover's design, which now includes the Tayabullah Road, potentially threatening the heritage and beauty of Dighalipukhuri.

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Construction of a nearly six-mile-long flyover from Reserve Bank to Noonmati is already underway. However, the project has sparked widespread discontent among local residents and the people of Guwahati after a recent change in the flyover's design, which now includes the Tayabullah Road, potentially threatening the heritage and beauty of Dighalipukhuri.

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Authorities on October 28 marked around 25 trees along the Tayabullah Road and in front of Handique Girls' College with yellow crosses for felling, including some trees that are reportedly over 200 years old.

In response to a Right to Information (RTI) query, the Public Works Department's (PWD) executive engineer acknowledged that no environmental impact study had been conducted regarding the potential effects of the flyover on the surrounding area of Dighalipukhuri, nor was any public hearing held. The marking of trees, which are home to many birds and contribute significantly to the city's ecology, has raised alarms among nature enthusiasts in Guwahati.

Also read: Children of infiltrators won't be given Adivasi status: Himanta Biswa Sarma

A group of 38 prominent citizens have voiced their opposition to the tree-cutting proposal and called for a protest on



October 29, 2024. In a statement, the group expressed concern, stating, "The construction of the flyover from Noonmati to Dighalipukhuri commenced without conducting an environmental impact study or considering the opinions of the local residents. Now, they plan to cut down trees that are 200 years old to make way for the flyover. This will adversely affect the biodiversity and heritage of Dighalipukhuri and will have a broader impact on the environment of the entire city. These trees not only provide a habitat for many bird species but also offer relief from the sweltering heat, acting as the lungs of the metropolis."

The group urged citizens to raise their voices against the tree-cutting activity and called for a protest event near Dighalipukhuri on Tuesday, October 29, at 11:30 AM. They invited all conscientious citizens of Guwahati to participate in the protest.

Protesters have been urged public to gather on October 28 to protest against the felling of trees.

Earlier, students from Cotton University protested the cutting of century-old trees at Dighalipukhuri for a proposed flyover. They urged the government to prioritize environmental preservation over infrastructure development



GAHC010231262024



2024:GAU-AS:11084-DB

THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT
(HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Case No. : PIL/64/2024

1: MAHESH DEKA AND 2 ORS
S/O- SRI. DANDIRAM DEKA, R/O- H.NO. 13, K.K.BHATTA ROAD,
CHENIKUTHI, GUWAHATI- 781003 ASSAM

2: SRI CHANDAN KR. BORGOHAIN
S/O- LATE CHITARANJAN BORGOHAIN R/O- H.NO. 24
BHAGADUTTAPUR KAHILIPARA GUWAHATI 781019 ASSAM

3: SRI. JAYANTA GOGOI
S/O- MOTILAL GOGOI
R/O- RAJGARH ROAD GUWAHATI 781003 ASSAM

VERSUS

1: THE STATE OF ASSAM AND 5 ORS REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM, DISPUR, GUWAHATI
781006

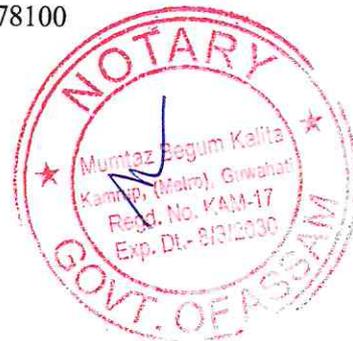
2: THE SPL. CHIEF SECRETARY GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT DISPUR GUWAHATI 781006

3: THE COMMISSIONER AND SECRETARY GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
PUBLIC WORKS (ROADS) DEPARTMENT DISPUR GUWAHATI- 781006

4: THE ASSAM STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD REPRESENTED BY
THE MEMBER SECRETARY BAMUNIM Aidam GUWAHATI 781021

5: M/S ANUPAM NIRMAN PVT. LTD. REPRESENTED BY THE MANAGING
DIRECTOR BHASKAR NAGAR BY-LANE 2 RGB (ZOO NARENGI) ROAD
GUWAHATI 781021

6: M/S GAUTAM CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. REPRESENTED BY THE
MANAGING DIRECTOR 4TH FLOOR AMAZE TOWER A.T. ROAD
PALTAN BAZAR BEAT NO. 14 GUWAHATI 78100



For the Petitioner(s) : Mr. K.N. Choudhury, Senior Advocate, assisted by Mr. V. Rajkhowa, Advocate.

For the Respondent(s) : Mr. D. Saikia, Advocate General, Assam, assisted by Mr. D. Nath, Standing Counsel, PWD.

- B E F O R E -

**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. VIJAY BISHNOI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE N. UNNI KRISHNAN NAIR**

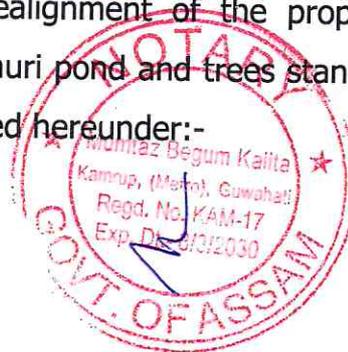
13.11.2024

(Vijay Bishnoi, CJ)

This PIL petition is filed by the petitioners essentially raising a grievance that the State Agencies have decided to construct two arms, i.e. Tayabullah Road (390 m) and West Dighalipukhuri Road (250 m) connecting the under construction elevated corridor/road on GNB Road from RBI Office in Ambari to FCI Godown in Noonmati. It is alleged that on account of construction of the above referred two arms, the old trees aged about hundred years or more in and around Dighalipukhuri pond are required to fell down. It is also stated in the writ petition that thousands of residents of Guwahati, who are concerned about the environment, are protesting against the action of the respondents of felling the trees which are hundred years old or more than that.

This Court, vide order dated 04.11.2024, issued notices to the respondent Nos.1 to 4 to clarify its stand though Mr. Saikia, learned Advocate General, Assam has submitted before this Court that the State Government is seriously considering to change the alignment of the road to avoid felling of the old trees.

Affidavit is filed on behalf of the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Public Works Roads Department, Dispur, Guwahati, wherein it is specifically stated that the matter was taken up at highest level and on 05.11.2024, Hon'ble the Chief Minister of Assam has announced about realignment of the proposed Flyover without affecting the two sides of Dighalipukhuri pond and trees standing thereon. The relevant portion of the affidavit is extracted hereunder:-



“The deponent states that matter was taken up at the highest level and accordingly, on 5.11.2024 the Hon’ble Chief Minister, Assam has announced about realignment of the proposed Flyover without affecting the two sides of Dighalipukhuri pond and the trees standing therein. As per the proposal, the design of the Flyover has been modified and now one side of the bridge will start from Lamb road point at GNB Road and the other side will start at GNB Road near Rabindra Bhawan point resulting both the banks of the Dighalipukhuri and trees will not be affected in any manner whatsoever. The realignment of the flyover has been decided, and, necessary survey and preparatory works are going on for the new design and the same is not yet finalized. It is pertinent to reiterate in most categorical terms that not a single tree on the bank of Dighalipukhuri will be affected under the modified design of alignment of the proposed Flyover in question.”

In view of the fact that now the State Government has decided to change the alignment of the two arms, which could have resulted into cutting of the trees, which are hundred years old or more, we are of the view that the grievance raised by the petitioners in this PIL petition has already been redressed. Hence, no further order is required to be passed in this petition.

Needless to say that if in future the petitioners or any other vigilant citizen feels that the stand taken in the affidavit by the State is not adhered to, he or she may be free to approach this Court by way of appropriate proceedings.

With the above observation, the PIL petition stands disposed of.

JUDGE

CHIEF JUSTICE

Comparing Assistant



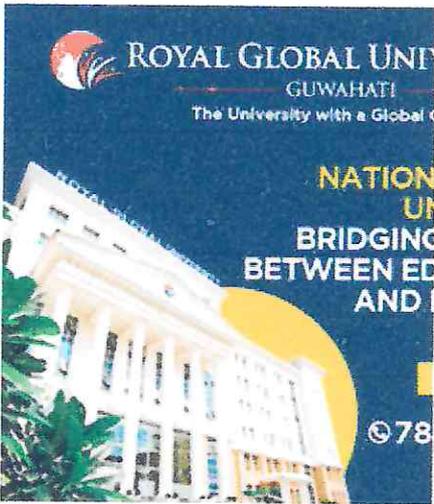


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Home > More > Guwahati > 30 to 35 trees to be...

30 to 35 trees to be translocated from Ambari for GNB Flyover: PWD

The 5053-metre GNB Road flyover will connect Dighalipukhuri with Noonmati FCI. It is being built at a cost of Rs 852.68 crore.;



By - The Assam Tribune

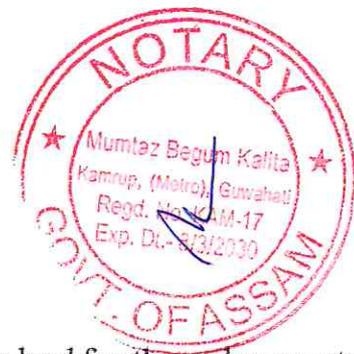
Update: 2025-05-14 06:00 GMT

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Construction site of Noonmati-Dighalipukhuri flyover (AT Photo)



Guwahati, May 14: The State PWD is transplanting trees to clear land for the under-construction GNB Road flyover. The exercise began from the Assam Textile Institute premises located at Ambari.

Though the total number of trees which will be translocated has not been finalised, officials said that the department will translocate as many trees as possible in the entire stretch.

“The process has begun at the textile institute. Other trees alongside the entire stretch of the flyover will also be removed. We feel we can translocate around 30-35 trees,” the official said.

-59-

An expert from a private agency, involved in similar tree transplanting works, has been roped in to oversee the exercise.

For drainage construction works, the textile institute has removed its trees and will replant them in its backyard.

The State Forest Department had also attempted a similar exercise when trees were felled for the Guwahati bypass six-lane project.

“Around 50 trees were transplanted, and around 40 percent have survived. Around 10 were properly transplanted, and six of them have survived well,” a forest official said, adding that survival of such trees depends on the post-transplant treatment.

The 5053-metre GNB Road flyover will connect Dighalipukhuri with Noonmati FCI. It is being built at a cost of Rs 852.68 crore.

By

Staff Reporter

Tags:

GNB flyover Guwahati Ambari Public Works Department (PWD)

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A Report
On

- 60 -



TREE TRANSLOCATION IN INDIA

Submitted to
Ministry of Environment, Forest &
Climate Change
(Govt. of India)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh
New Delhi-110003



BY
FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
DEHRADUN

**D. The Feasibility of Successful Transplantation:**

5.0 Based on the suitability of different trees for transplantation the feasibility of success can be graded as below-

-61-

5.1 Feasible with standard costs – Transplanting a young tree of smaller girth class & less crown density is deemed cost effective and is taken as standard. The standard cost may vary from State to State.

5.2 Feasible with significant cost implications –Transplanting an established or middle age tree having higher girth class (less than 90 cm), heavy crown density and elaborate root system is presumed to involve additional costs for tree preparation before, during & after transplantation. The cost implications may vary from tree to tree & species to species in this case.

5.3 Not Feasible – When the tree has multiple trunks or attains an over mature status (having completed its rotation period), having a deep and elaborate tap root system, or attains girth class over 90 cm; in such circumstances the transplantation/translocation is **NOT** feasible. If attempted the experiment is bound to promote slow death of an otherwise healthy tree.



GNB Road flyover contractor gets away despite repeated lapses

ANNEXURE - J

-62-

A 47-year old woman was injured after she came into contact with a live wire while crossing the road in the Chandmari area yesterday. She was admitted at a hospital. Official sources said the incident took place due to the negligence of the contractor concerned constructing the flyover

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 23: From flouting pollution control norms to hazardous construction works and now serious injuries caused to a pedestrian by a live wire at Chandmari area due to the utter negligence of the contractor building the GNB Road flyover goes to exhibit the free rein the contractor concerned is having in the capital city. The government and regulating agencies have been turning a blind eye, despite repeated complaints and growing resentments.

A 47-year old woman was injured after she came into contact with a live wire while

crossing the road in the Chandmari area yesterday. She was admitted at a hospital. Official sources said the incident took place due to the negligence of the contractor concerned constructing the flyover.

"APDCL had provided a temporary connection to the contractor for the construction works, like welding and lighting. The insulation of the one of the conductors connecting the meter was bad which led to the electrocution," the sources said.

APDCL, however, washed its hands off the incident, saying it is only responsible for the connection up to the meter.

"Beyond the meter -- as in residences and other connec-

tions -- it is the responsibility of the consumer," an APDCL official said, informing that the matter has been taken up with the PWD and the contractor.

The APDCL official said measures are being taken to prevent such incidents in the city, particularly during water loggings.

"After an electrocution incident on RG Baruah Road some years back, spacers were laid in the wires to ensure that they do not fall even if there is a snapping. In some stretches, particularly hilly areas, the wires are being insulated," he said.

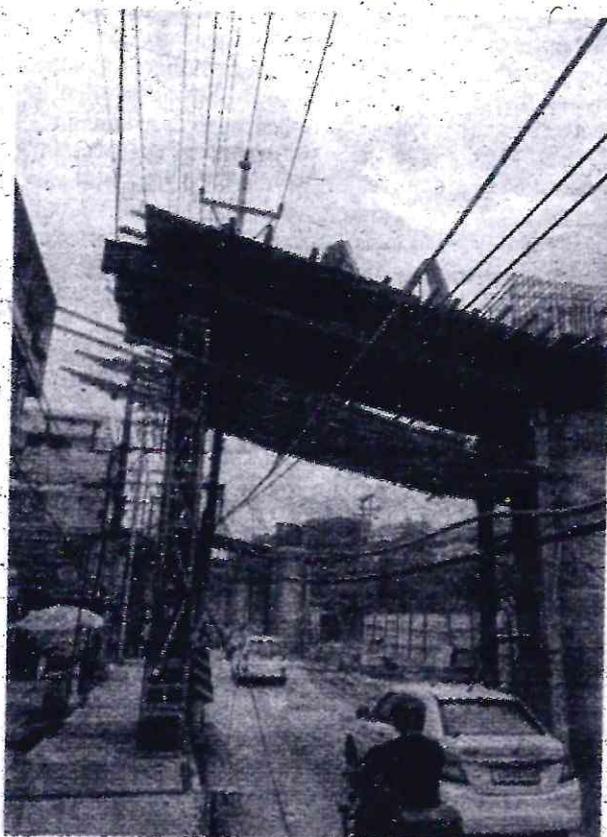
"The height of transformer in flood-prone areas like Rukminigaon has been raised. In Juripar yesterday, the APDCL disconnected power supply in some risky stretches. Power supply was routed through safer areas, bypassing the flooded stretches," he said, adding that awareness was also required on how to keep one safe during water-loggings, rain and thunderstorms.

This is not the first time that the flyover contractor has been caught on wrong foot.

Rising pollution in the city has been blamed on the unregulated activities during the construction works.

While the Pollution Control Board, Assam did little to check it, Assam State Human Rights Commission had issued a warning to the contractor, directing it to sprinkle water regularly.

There have been also reports of commuters sustaining injuries from construction materials in and around the site.



(THE ASSAM TRIBUNE DATED 24.04.2025)

The Assam Tribune

87 years of service to the nation

GUWAHATI

GNB Flyover site sees 2nd electrocution in a month, sparks fresh safety concerns

Saturday's incident is the latest at the GNB Flyover site. Less than a month ago, a woman was electrocuted near the same project site

By The Assam Tribune - 17 May 2025 5:28 PM





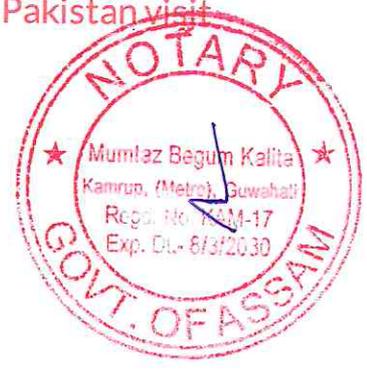
The injured construction worker being carried down at the GNB Flyover construction site on Saturday.
(AT Photo)

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Guwahati, May 17: A construction worker sustained critical injuries after being electrocuted at the under-construction GNB Flyover in Chandmari on Saturday.

The worker, identified as Saiful, reportedly came into contact with a live wire while on site, suffering a severe electric shock. He was immediately rushed to Guwahati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) for emergency treatment.

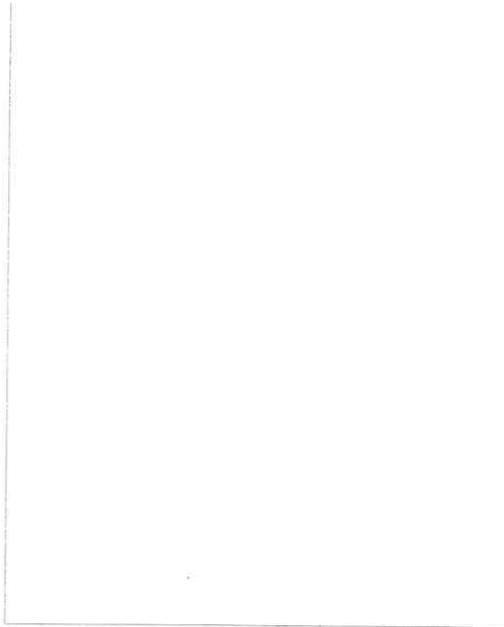
Also Read - 'Why the evasion?' MoS Margherita grills Gogoi over alleged Pakistan visit



“He has sustained injuries but is thankfully alive. We have shifted him for further medical assistance,” a senior officer from Chandmari Police Station confirmed Saiful’s condition.

According to eyewitnesses, Saiful was standing on a makeshift roof, measuring construction materials, when a live wire brushed against his back. He collapsed on the spot, unconscious.

Also Read - [Rs 12-Cr worth of stolen items seized from three scrapyards in Birubari](#)



“I was standing below and saw it happen right in front of me. The wire touched his back and he just fell. It was terrifying,” said Dipan Das, a resident of Silpukhuri.

The incident caused panic at the site. Passersby said several workers left the area immediately, visibly shaken. However, by evening, many had returned.

Also Read - Six Mile locals protest wastewater disposal by GMC, civic body unaware

“They were in shock. Some said they wouldn’t come back. But just hours later, they were back at work. Apparently, the company’s rules leave them no option. They fear losing their wages—and they have families to support,” said a pedestrian who witnessed the aftermath, requesting anonymity.

Also Read - Vanishing playgrounds: Guwahati’s children trapped in concrete’s grip

When contacted, a senior official from the Public Works Department (Roads) said they were unaware of the latest incident, citing that they were currently out of station.

“I will check with the office and try to gather more information once I return to Guwahati. At the moment, I’m on a site visit with the minister,” the official told *The Assam Tribune*.

Saturday’s incident is the latest in a growing list of safety lapses at the GNB Flyover site. Less than a month ago, on April 23, a woman was electrocuted nearby while navigating a waterlogged, debris-strewn stretch of road near the same project site.

These recurring incidents point to a deeper issue—insufficient safety measures at city construction sites. While Guwahati’s infrastructure is expanding rapidly, basic safeguards for the city’s blue-collar workers appear to be lagging far behind.

The flyover site, in particular, has become increasingly hazardous for both workers and pedestrians. Exposed rods, construction debris, and the absence of proper walkways are a daily concern. Despite multiple accidents, there has been little visible sign of improved safety protocols or official accountability.

As one onlooker bluntly observed, “No matter how many people die, the work won’t stop. This has to go on.” Unless safety of workers and pedestrians become a non-negotiable priority and real accountability is enforced, this grim statement may well prove to be a tragic prophecy, repeated one accident at a time.

By Nikita Naina Kalita



Cutting large number of trees worse than killing human beings: Supreme Court

“It will take at least 100 years minimum to again regenerate or recreate the green cover created by 454 trees which were cut without permission,” the Supreme Court said.

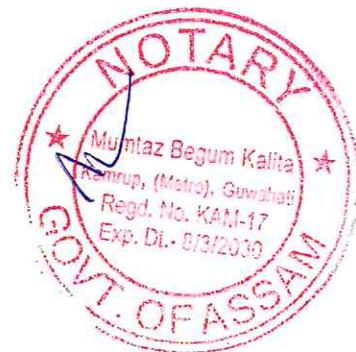
Updated - March 26, 2025 11:10 am IST - New Delhi

PTI



Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Shiv Shankar Agarwal, submitted that he has admitted the mistake. File | Photo Credit: The Hindu

“Cutting a large number of trees is worse than killing human beings,” the Supreme Court has said while fining a man ₹1 lakh for each illegally cut tree.



A bench of Justices Abhay S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan made the observation while rejecting the plea of a man who had chopped down 454 trees in the protected Taj Trapezium Zone.

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"There should be no mercy in environmental cases. Felling a large number of trees is worse than killing a human," the bench said.

The top court said it will take at least 100 years minimum to again regenerate or recreate the green cover created by 454 trees which were blatantly cut without permission.

The apex court accepted the report of the central empowered committee (CEC), which recommended a fine of ₹1 lakh per tree for cutting 454 trees in Dalmia Farms in Mathura-Vrindavan by one Shiv Shankar Agarwal.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Mr. Agarwal, submitted that he has admitted the mistake, but the court refused to reduce the fine amount.

The court said Mr. Agarwal should be allowed to do plantations at a nearby site and said the contempt plea filed against him would be disposed only after compliance.

The top court also recalled its 2019 order, which had removed the requirement of obtaining prior permission to cut trees on non-forest and private lands within the Taj Trapezium Zone.



BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Application No. 82 of 2013

Aditya N. Prasad Vs. Union of India & Ors.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SWATANTER KUMAR, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE U.D. SALVI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. D. K. AGRAWAL, EXPERT MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. G. K. PANDEY, EXPERT MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. R. C. TRIVEDI, EXPERT MEMBER

Present: **Applicant:** Mr. Rajiv Dutta, Sr. Advocate, Mr. Kumar Dushyant Singh, Advocate and Mr. Arijeet Singh, Advocate
Respondent No. 1 to 14: Ms. Neelam Rathore, Advocate along with Ms. Syed Amber
Respondent No. 2: Ms. Puja Kalra, Advocate
Respondent No. 3 & 4: Mr. Balendu Shekhar, Advocate
Respondent No. 5&12: Mr. D. Rajeshwar Rao, Advocate
Respondent No. 6: Mr. Sunil Satraparathi, Advocate
Respondent No.7: Mr. M. Dutta, Advocate
Respondent No.8: Ms. Sakshi Popli, along with Mr. Deshpal Advocate
Respondent No.10: Mr. M Tya, Advocate
Respondent No.11: Mr. Bharat Khanna, Manager Legal

Date and Remarks	Orders of the Tribunal
<p>Item No. 8 April 23, 2013</p>	<p>Service is complete, except to Respondent No.13.</p> <p>Learned counsel appearing for Respondent No.1 and 14 submits that she will take instructions from Respondent No.13 for appearing on their behalf on the next date of hearing before the Tribunal.</p> <p>The learned counsel appearing for the respective parties pray for time to file their Replies. Reply, if any, be filed within two weeks from today. Rejoinder, if any, thereto be filed within one week thereafter.</p> <p>The learned counsel appearing for the Applicant has placed on record a report on tree census conducted by the NGO wherein it is pointed out that nearly 89% of the trees at Sarvodaya Enclave alone suffer from concretization. He also brings to our notice an article appearing in the Times of India dated 22nd April, 2013, titled "Ads nail city's greens". In this article, it is shown that the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has fixed its Bus Stop boards in the and trees, advertising boards on the trees. Not only this, even electric line wirings of high tension have been tightened fitted on the trees. Apparently, from these indisputable facts, it is clear that all public authorities and Respondents have failed to discharge their</p>



statutory obligations. They have not only violated various statues but in turn have also infringed their legal obligations arising out of the Environment Act. It is the obligation of the State to provide healthy environment to the citizens and prevent reckless injury to the trees, which ultimately results in their felling. This is a clear infringement of law and failure on the part of the authorities concerned to discharge their statutory obligations.

The learned counsel appearing for Respondent No.1 and 14 submits that they have issued directions under the Central Laws but still the authorities concerned in this regard are not carrying out orders in true spirit.

In the light of the above and at the oral request of the applicant, DTC is also impleaded as Respondent No.15.

In the meanwhile, we direct all the public authorities, more particularly Municipal Corporation of Delhi, DDA, DTC, DMRC, NHAI and all Government respondents in this petition including the Director General of CPWD, the Chief Engineer, PWD, to ensure that

- (i) All the sign boards, names, advertisements, any kind of boards or signages, electric wires and high tension cables or otherwise are removed from the trees forthwith.
- (ii) They shall also ensure that the concrete surrounding the trees within one metre of the trees are removed forthwith and all the trees are looked after well and due precaution is taken in future so that no concrete or construction or repairing work is done atleast within one metre radius of the trunk of trees. The Vice-Chairperson, the Commissioner, the Chief Engineer, the Director General and all other senior most officers of the Departments/authorities concerned shall be personally responsible for carrying out this order.
- (iii) The Departments/authorities concerned shall



take all and every prohibitive measures to prevent the defacing of the trees in any manner whatsoever, save only its trimming in accordance with law.

- (iv) All the respondents whose boards are fixed on the trees shall be prosecuted by the respective authorities under in accordance with the relevant law.

Copy of this order be given Dasti today itself.

List on 17th May, 2013.

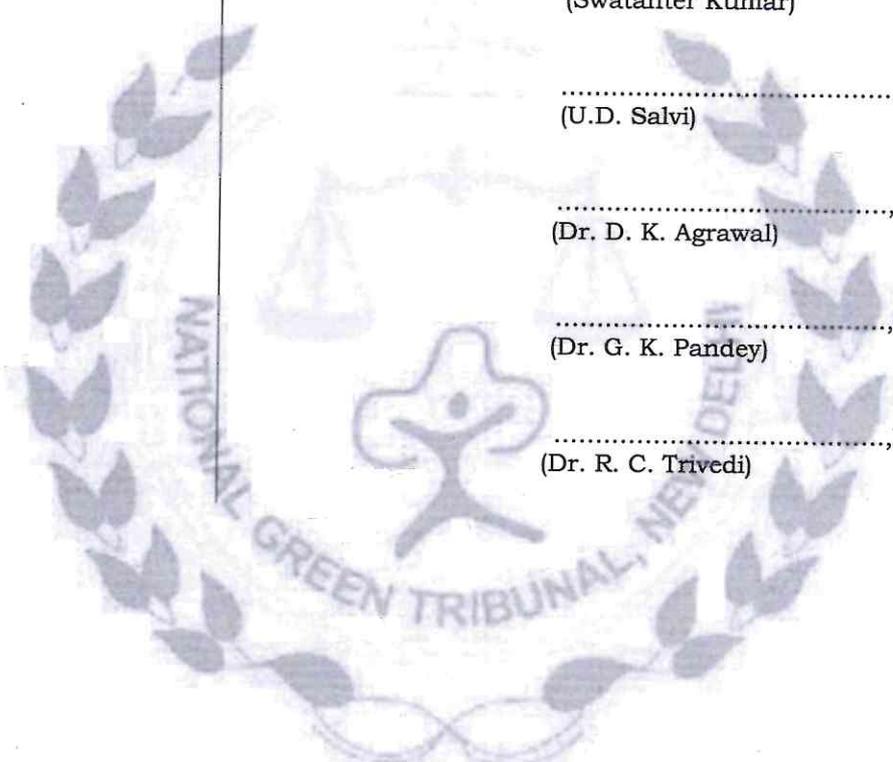
.....,CP
(Swatanter Kumar)

.....,JM
(U.D. Salvi)

.....,EM
(Dr. D. K. Agrawal)

.....,EM
(Dr. G. K. Pandey)

.....,EM
(Dr. R. C. Trivedi)





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