

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 129/2024**

IN THE MATTER OF:-

NEWS ITEM TITLED “FOREST LAND FIVE TIMES DELHI’S GEOGRAPHICAL AREA UNDER ENCROACHMENT GOVT. DATA SHOWS” APPEARING IN DECCAN HERALD DATED 05.01.2024.

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Filed by



RISHI K. AWASTHI
Advocate for the Respondent No. 6
A-21, Upper Ground Floor,
Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

New Delhi
Filed on: 24.04.2026

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 129/2024

IN THE MATTER OF:-

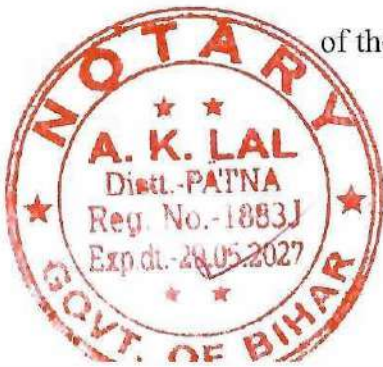
NEWS ITEM TITLED "FOREST LAND FIVE TIMES DELHI'S GEOGRAPHICAL AREA UNDER ENCROACHMENT GOVT. DATA SHOWS" APPEARING IN DECCAN HERALD DATED 05.01.2024.

AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO.6, STATE OF BIHAR

I, Abhay Kumar, S/o Late Sheo Dayal Sharma, aged about 51 years, working as Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Environment, Climate Change & Wetland, Bihar, Patna, Government of Bihar, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

That, I am the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Environment, Climate Change & Wetland, Bihar, Patna, Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of Bihar and have been authorized to file this affidavit on behalf of the state of Bihar and in my official capacity and I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the present matter and competent to swear the present Affidavit.

2. That I have read the contents and I submit that the facts stated in this Affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and are derived from the office records made available by the Department. I believe them to be true and that no part of the same is false or any material has been concealed therefrom.



Sr/Smt. Abhay Kumar who is identified by Advocate A.K. Lal as the person who has solemnly affirmed and declared contents of this affidavit apart from this nothing else as stamp/Court fees etc. U/s 3 & Sub rule 4 of rule of N Act 1986 before me.

A. K. LAL
Notary, Civil Court, Patna

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3. That in compliance of the order dated 09.02.2024 passed in suo motu jurisdiction in O.A. No. 129 of 2024, in the matter of the news item titled "*Forest land five times Delhi's geographical area under encroachment, Govt. data shows*" published in *Deccan Herald* dated 05.01.2024, the State of Bihar had filed the affidavit dated 28.10.2025 along with a detailed Status Report on encroachment of forest land and the steps taken to mitigate the same, containing district-wise particulars as well as a consolidated report for the entire State.
4. That thereafter, the MOEF &CC filed its report dated 30.01.2026 before this Hon'ble Tribunal wherein it was stated that some states have not filed the complete report as per the prescribed format and the State of Bihar was also placed in the said list.
5. That the instant matter was listed for hearing on 02.02.2026 before this Hon'ble Tribunal wherein the following directions were passed:

".....3. Learned Counsel for MoEF and CC has submitted that on receipt of the reports in the prescribed format from the remaining 7 States/UTs the updated information will be furnished. The 7 States/UTs from which the information in prescribed are awaited are Bihar, Telangana, Nagaland, Ladakh, West Bengal, New Delhi and Rajasthan

4. They are directed to submit the information in the prescribed format to the MoEF & CC within six weeks....."



6. That in compliance of the aforesaid order dated 02.02.2026, the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, State of Bihar vide its letter dated 23.02.2026 provided the details of the forest encroachment in the prescribed format to the MOEF &CC, New Delhi. Further, another letter dated 13.04.2026 was again issued by the State of Bihar providing the details of the forest encroachment in the prescribed format to the MOEF &CC, New Delhi. Copies of the letters dated 23.02.2026 and 13.04.2026 issued by the State of Bihar to the MOEF&CC are marked and annexed herewith as **Annexure A-1 (Colly)**.
7. It is most respectfully prayed that this affidavit, filed on behalf of the State of Bihar, may kindly be considered and taken on record. The respondent further craves the liberty of this Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional reports as and when directed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

Identify the deponent's signature who has signed in my presence
A.S.

Abhay Kumar
DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby verify that the facts stated in the above affidavit are true to my knowledge and belief. No part of the same is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at Patna on this 24th April, 2026.



Abhay Kumar
DEPONENT

भारत सरकार
Government of India

अभय कुमार
Abhay Kumar
जन्म तिथि / DOB : 17/03/1974
पुरुष / Male

आधार पहचान का प्रमाण है, नागरिकता या जन्मतिथि का नहीं।
इसका उपयोग सत्यापन (ऑनलाइन प्रमाणीकरण, या क्यूआर कोड/
ऑफलाइन एक्सएमएल की स्कैनिंग) के साथ किया जाना चाहिए।
Aadhaar is proof of identity, not of citizenship
or date of birth. It should be used with verification (online
authentication or scanning of QR code / offline XML).

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मेरा आधार, मेरी पहचान



Abhay Kumar

भारतीय विशिष्ट पहचान प्राधिकरण
Unique Identification Authority of India

पत्ता: आत्मज: शिव दयाल शर्मा, 401, गंगा-4,
जलालपुर नगर, रामजीपाल मार्ग, बेली रोड पटना,
दीनापुर कम खगौल, पटना, बिहार, 801503
Address: S/O: Shao Dayal Sharma,
401, Ganga-4, Jalalpur City, Ramjalpal Road,
Belly Road Patna, Dinapur-Cum-Khagaul,
Danapur Cantt, Patna, Bihar, 801503

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1947 help@uidai.gov.in www.uidai.gov.in

795 **5**
Government of Bihar
Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Aranya Bhawan, Peer Ali Khan Marg, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014
E-mail- cewbihar@bihar.gov.in

Letter No.-पर्या०/जल०/परि०(मु०)-21/2024 - 142

Date: 23 / 02 / 2026

From,

ANNEXURE A-1 (COLLY)

Abhay Kumar, I.F.S
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,
Environment, Climate Change and Wetland,
Bihar, Patna

To,

Assistant Inspector General of Forest,
FPD Division,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Government of India, New Delhi
e-mail – fpd-moefcc@gov.in

Subject: Meeting in the matter OA No. 129/2024 in the matter of Suo Motu matter in re: News item appearing in Deccan Herald dated 05.01.2024 entitled “Forest land five times Delhi’s geographical area under encroachment, govt. data shows” before NGT (PB), New Delhi-reg.

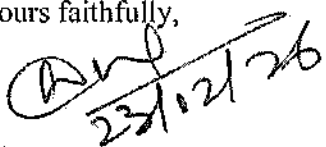
Ref.:- MoEFCC, New Delhi letter No. F.No. 8/4/2024-FPD, Dated – 25.11.2025

Sir,

With reference to the above mentioned subject and letter cited above, the details of forest encroachment in the prescribed format is attached here with for your kind information and necessary action.

Encl.: As above.

Yours faithfully,


(Abhay Kumar)

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,
Environment, Climate Change and Wetland,
Bihar, Patna

Details of encroachment of Forest (In ha.)

Sr. No.	State	Total Forest Cover (in Hectare)	Details in Encroachment of Forest (in ha.)						
			Protected Forest	Reserve Forest	Deemed Forest	Sanctuaries and Protected Areas	Total Encroachment up to March, 2025	Action Taken for removal of encroachment year wise	Percentage of Loss of Forest as on March-2025
1	Bihar	753245*	84.78915	5.9058	-	55.12925	150.95439**	As per the different laws	0.020

* The figure of Total Forest Cover (in ha.) has been sourced from ISFR, 2023.

** The figure of Total Encroachment (in ha.) has been obtained from respective forest division.



(Abhay Kumar)

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,
Environment, Climate Change & Wetland,
Bihar, Patna

Government of Bihar
Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change 7

Aranya Bhawan, Peer Ali Khan Marg, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014
E-mail- cewbihar@bihar.gov.in

Letter No.-पर्या०/जल०/परि०(मु०)-21/2024 - 249

Date: 13/04/2026

From,

Abhay Kumar, I.F.S
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,
Environment, Climate Change and Wetland,
Bihar, Patna

To,

Assistant Inspector General of Forest,
FPD Division,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Government of India, New Delhi
e-mail – fpd-moefcc@gov.in/
ravinder_adv@yahoo.com

Subject: Meeting in the matter OA No. 129/2024 in the matter of Suo Motu matter in re: News item appearing in Deccan Herald dated 05.01.2024 entitled “Forest land five times Delhi’s geographical area under encroachment, govt. data shows” before NGT (PB), New Delhi-reg.

Ref.:- MoEFCC, New Delhi letter No. F.No. 8/4/2024-FPD, Dated – 16.03.2026

Sir,

With reference to the above mentioned subject and letter cited above, the details of forest encroachment in the prescribed format is attached here with for your kind information and necessary action. It is also noted that information related to this subject was previously communicated to your office vide Letter No. 142, dated 23.02.2026.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,


(Abhay Kumar)

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,
Environment, Climate Change and Wetland,
Bihar, Patna

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Sr. No.	State	Total Forest Cover (in Hectare)	Details in Encroachment of Forest (in ha.)						
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** The figure of Total Encroachment (in ha.) has been obtained from respective forest division.



(Abhay Kumar)

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,
Environment, Climate Change & Wetland,
Bihar, Patna