

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.686 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

Pt. Girdhari Lal

...Applicant

Versus

Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors.

...Respondents

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NDOH: 11.11.2025

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RESPONDENT NO.4

THROUGH


Singhania & Partners LLP
Solicitors & Advocates
P-24, Green Park Extension
New Delhi-110016

Dated: 14.10.2025
Place: New Delhi

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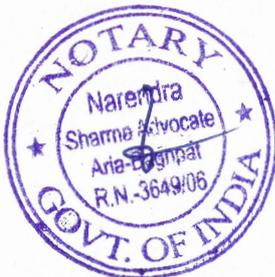
ADDITIONAL RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.4/NHAI

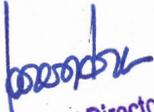
MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. The present Additional Response is being filed on behalf of Respondent No. 4, National Highways Authority of India, in compliance with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Tribunal's Order vide dated 24.09.2025, regarding the status of plantations in the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Project.
2. That as per the Indian Roads Congress ("IRC") Special Publication 84:2014 (IRC:SP:84-2014), the Concessionaire has to plant trees and shrubs of required number and type at the appropriate locations within the Right of Way and in the land earmarked by the Authority for afforestation. Section 11 of the IRC provides for plantation of median as well as Avenue plantation which is reproduced as under-

"11.1 General

The Concessionaire shall plant trees and shrubs of required number and type at the appropriate locations within the Right of Way and in the land earmarked by the Authority for afforestation keeping in view the IRC Guidelines on Landscaping and Tree Plantation. The Authority shall specify the number of trees which are required to be planted by the Concessionaire as compensatory afforestation or otherwise in Schedule 'C' of




Project Director
National Highway Authority of India
PIU-Baghpat

Concession Agreement. The Concessionaire shall also maintain the trees and shrubs in good condition during the Concession Period as per the maintenance schedule. The guidelines given in this Section shall be followed in plantation of trees and shrubs.

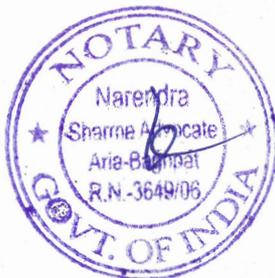
11.2 *Design Considerations in Various Locations*

11.2.1 *Set-back distance of trees and other plantation*

Trees on the roadside shall be sufficiently away from the roadway so that they are not a hazard to road traffic or restrict the visibility. Most vulnerable locations in this regard are the inside of curves, medians, junction corners and cut slopes. Trees shall be placed at a minimum distance of 14 m from the centre line of the extreme traffic lane to provide recovery area for the vehicle that runs off the road. A second row of trees 6 m further away will also be planted wherever possible. Preferably the first row of trees shall consist of species with thick shade and other rows of vertical type providing thin shade. Expansion of the Project Highway to 6-lanes shall be taken into consideration while locating the trees so that land is free of trees when further widening takes place. The distances for alternative rows of trees shall be reckoned from the nearest edge of the unidirectional carriageway. No plantation shall be allowed on the embankment slopes.

11.2.4 *Plantation in medians*

In the sections of the Project Highway where median width is more than 2.5 m, shrubs shall be planted and maintained to cut-off headlight glare from traffic in the opposite direction. Flowering plants and shrubs are eminently suited for the purpose. These shall be planted either in continuous rows or in the form of baffles. The height of shrubs shall be maintained at 1.5 m to cut-off the effect of traffic lights coming from the opposite direction. In the sections, where the width of median is less than 2.5 m, shrubs or flowery plants may be planted in between crash barriers or other means like metal/plastic strips to cut off glare shall be provided. The shape of shrubs and plants shall be suitably regulated so that there is no overgrowth either vertically or horizontally beyond the edge of the median. In the vicinity of road intersections and median openings, median plantation shall be avoided or restricted to low-growing varieties to ensure adequate visibility.



[Signature]
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National Highway Authority of India
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11.2.5 Spacing of avenue trees

The spacing of avenue trees will depend on the type and growth characteristics of trees, requirement of maintenance, penetration of distant views, etc. A range of 10-15 m would meet the requirement for most varieties."

3. As per Section 16 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988 the Authority shall develop, maintain and manage the National Highways and any other highways vested in, or entrusted to, it by the Government. Section 16 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988 provides as under:

"16. Functions of the Authority-

- (1) *Subject to the rules made by the Central Government in this behalf, it shall be the function of the Authority to develop, maintain and manage the national highways and any other highways vested in, or entrusted to, it by the Government."*

4. Section 5 of the National Highways Act, 1956 also specified the role of Central Government to develop, maintain, and keep in proper repair all national highways. Section 5 of the National Highways Act, 1956 provides as under:

"5. Responsibility for development and maintenance of national highways-

It shall be the responsibility of the Central Government to develop and maintain in proper repair all national highways; but the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that any function in relation to the development or maintenance of any national highway shall, subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the notification, also be exercisable by the Government of the State within which the national highway is situated or by any officer or authority subordinate to the Central Government or to the State Government."

5. It is submitted that the Answering Respondent has duly undertaken substantial median and Avenue plantation work in compliance with the mandate of Section 11 of the IRC Guidelines, Section 5 of the National



Narendra
Project Director
National Highway Authority of India
PIU-Baghpat

Highways Act, 1956, and Section 16 of the National Highway Authority of India Act, 1988.

- 5.1 It is stated that the Median Plantation has progressed robustly across the entire project. The Answering Respondent has planted 52,000 plants for the median strips as on date. The package wise details of the median plantation are as under:

Delhi – Dehradun Package	From km to km	No. of Median Plantation planted by the Answering Respondent
Package – I	0.00 – 27.00	21000
Package – II	27.00 – 56.500	1000
Package – III	56.50-82.00	16000
Package – IV	82.00 – 119.790	14000

- 5.2 The Avenue Plantation has also progressed robustly across the entire project, and the Answering Respondent has planted 6,300 plants towards Avenue plantation as on date. The work of Avenue plantation is however affected due to the ongoing construction because the balance strip land along the corridor during construction gest utilized for movement of heavy machinery. The package wise details of the Avenue plantation are as under:

Delhi – Dehradun Package	From km to km	No. of Avenue Plantation planted by the Answering Respondent
Package – I	0.00 – 27.00	400
Package – II	27.00 – 56.500	500
Package – III	56.50-82.00	5000
Package – IV	82.00 – 119.790	400



[Signature]
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National Highway Authority of India
PIU-Baghpat

6. It is submitted that in addition to the above plantations, keeping in mind the environmental progress and in order to increase the green belt on both sides of the highway, the Answering Respondent has planted 43,600 bheema bamboo plants. Additionally, the Answering Respondent has also planted Miyawaki Plantation technique in Package II of the Delhi-Dehradun Corridor in area of 06.44 Acre.
7. Thus, in view of the present project being an ongoing construction project, the Answering Respondent has planted a total number of 1,01,900 plantation across the entire project which includes Median, Avenue and Bheema bamboo plants.

THROUGH

RESPONDENT NO.4

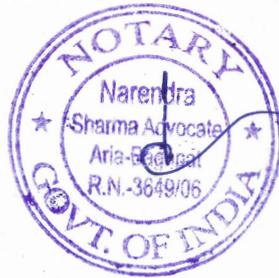
Madhu Arora
Singhania & Partners LLP
Solicitors & Advocates

Project Director

National Highway Authority of India

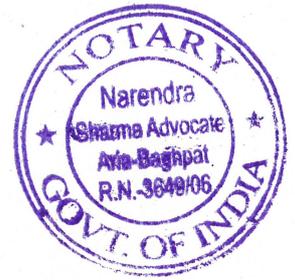
P-24, Green Park Extension
New Delhi-110016Dated: 14.10.2025

Place: New Delhi



BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
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IN THE MATTER OF:

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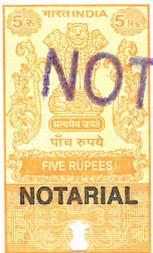
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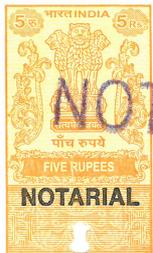
...Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

I, Narendra Singh S/o Sh. Birbal Singh aged about 37 years, working as Project Director at National Highways Authority of India, having office at PIU-Baghat, do hereby on solemn affirmation state and submit as under:



1 I say that I am duly authorized to initiate and pursue the present proceedings for and on behalf of Respondent No.4. I am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present reply on the basis of the records being maintained in the ordinary course of its business and hence, am competent to swear the present affidavit.



2 I say that the accompanying reply has been drafted by my counsel on my instructions and I have read and understood the contents of the same which are true and correct based on the official records maintained by Respondent No.4.

[Signature]
DEPONENT
Project Director
National Highway Authority of India
PIU-Baghat

[Signature]
NOTARY
08/10/25



VERIFICATION:

Verified at Baghat on this 8th day of October, 2025 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge based on the official records. No part of it is false and that nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

[Signature]
DEPONENT
National Highway Authority of India
PIU-Baghat

S.N-1488/2025
प्रमाणित किया जाता है कि Narendra Singh s/o Sh. Birbal Singh
नेवाही ग्राम Project Director at. N.H.A.I. - PIU - Baghat
जिसकी पहचान श्री Self
शपथ लेता शपथ पत्र में दिनांक 08-10-2025
को स्वीकार किया गया है।
समय Self
शर्मा एडवोकेट नोटरी Baghat
08-10-25

Rajesh Kumar

From: Rajesh Kumar
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 6:57 PM
To: 'secy-moef@nic.in'; 'rocz.lko-mef@nic.in'; 'ms@uppcb.in'; 'pccf-up@nic.in'; 'dfome-up@nic.in'; 'dfogz-up@nic.in'; 'dfobaghpat@gmail.com'; 'dfosa-up@nic.in'; 'moef.ddn@gov.in'; 'pccf-forest-uk@nic.in'; 'dfodoon@gmail.com'; 'msukpcb@yahoo.com'
Cc: Yash Kapoor
Subject: RE: Advance Service of Additional Response on behalf of NHAI in the matter of Original application no. 686/2024 in the matter Pt. Girdhari Lal Vs Govt. of NCT Delhi & Others.
Attachments: Additional Response by R4.pdf

Dear Sir,

Please find attached herewith the Additional Response on behalf of Respondent No.4/NHAI, filed in the subject matter for your reference.

Kindly accept the same as advance service.

Best Regards,

Rajesh | Executive Assistant



SINGHANIA & PARTNERS LLP
SOLICITORS AND ADVOCATES

T: +91 (11) 4747 1414 | D: +91 (11) 4747 1426
P – 24 Green Park Ext., New Delhi 110 016 INDIA
New Delhi | Bengaluru | Hyderabad
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2022 Guide

RECOMMENDED BY

From: Rajesh Kumar
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 1:28 PM
To: secy-moef@nic.in; rocz.lko-mef@nic.in; ms@uppcb.in; pccf-up@nic.in; dfome-up@nic.in; dfogz-up@nic.in; dfobaghpat@gmail.com; dfosa-up@nic.in; moef.ddn@gov.in; pccf-forest-uk@nic.in; dfodoon@gmail.com; msukpcb@yahoo.com