

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 555 of 2024  
( I.A. No. 207/2025, I.A. No. 144 /2025

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

News Globle Forest watch indian Express dt. 13.04.2024

The State of Telangana

Respondent No. 20

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 20**

(STATE OF TELANGANA)

**Paper Book**

**ADVOCATE FOR THE RESPONDETS: SRAVAN KUMAR KARANAM**

**INDEX**

Sr.No.	Particulars	Page No.
1	Counter Affidavit filed on behalf of respondent No. 20. State of Telangana	1 - 6

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No.555 OF 2024  
(I.A.No. 207/2025, I.A. No. 144/2025)

IN THE MATTER OF News Item titled "India lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000 Global Forest watch" appearing in the Indian Express dt: 13.04.2024.

The state of Telangana through its  
Secretary Environment Forest &  
Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office  
Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change,  
Regional, 3rd Floor Room no.309 Aranya Bavan  
Opposite RBI Saifabad, Hyderabad - 500004. Respondent No.28

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF 28<sup>th</sup> RESPONDENT**

I, Dr. C. Suvarna, IFS , D/o Chandrappagari Narappa Chowdary, aged about 59 years, presently working as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Government of Telangana, having office at Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. I submit that herein the reply is being filed on behalf of the Respondent No.28 - The Prl. Secretary to the Government, Environment Forests Science & Technology Department, State of Telangana, Hyderabad and I am well acquainted with the facts of the case based on the official records of the Forest Department. I am therefore competent to swear to this affidavit.



2. This case is based on a Newspaper report titled as "India lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000 Global Forest watch" appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi, dt: 13.04.2024. While the findings highlight a subject of environmental concern, the interpretation of such results needs to be viewed in light of the technical and institutional limitations explained below.

3. It is respectfully submitted that the State of Telangana came into existence on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 following the bifurcation of the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh. Consequent to the reorganization of the States, 7 mandals, including 2,178.24 sq. km. of forest area were transferred to Andhra Pradesh. The present forest cover and geographical area figures of Telangana have been duly revised after bifurcation. That the diversion of forest land in Telangana State is undertaken strictly in accordance with the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (*Van Samrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam, 1980*) and the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2023 notified by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF &CC)

4. It is respectfully submitted that the details regarding felling and plantations of Trees in Telangana Forest Department are mentioned as under:

(Page-2)



**i. Forest land diversion and tree felling (2014-2024)**

From June 2014 to July 2024, Stage – II approvals were granted for 121 projects, involving diversion of 10944.3409 Ha of forest land and tree felling permission given for 18,23,745 trees.

Year wise details are as follows:

Sl.No.	Year	No. of projects	Area diverted (in Ha)	* Trees permitted for felling(No.s)
1	2	3	4	5
1	2014-2015	8	81.369	1845
2	2015-2016	8	1944.5787	294799
3	2016-2017	4	110.984	3713
4	2017-2018	10	4967.6938	1194338
5	2018-2019	8	2,421.1028	184273
6	2019-2020	23	485.7322	24499
7	2020-2021	14	545.9687	10759
8	2021-2022	11	63.8917	10917
9	2022-2023	23	257.1471	55498
10	2023-2024	9	197.2668	40831
11	2024-2025	3	47.6061	2273
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>10944.3409</b>	<b>1823745</b>

\* All such felling permissions were issued transparently through the online system.

**ii. Compensatory Afforestation (CA)**

To offset the tree loss, Compensatory Afforestation (A) has been under taken on:

- 11,255.755 ha in non-forest (CA) land, (NFL) and
- 16,491.044 ha in degraded forest land (DFL)

**Total 27,746.799 Ha**



### iii. Plantations under CAMPA

Additional plantations have been raised by using CAMPA funds. The Year-wise details are mentioned as under:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Plantation Area (ha)
1	2014-15	15695.00
2	2015-16	163358.50
3	2016-17	173858.50
4	2017-18	182902.18
5	2018-19	192305.27
6	2019-20	20936.17
7	2020-21	214984.35
8	2021-22	2210161.08
9	2022-23	2312399.02
10	2023-24	245943.92
11	2024-25	252083.03
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51627.02 ha</b>

### iv. Forest Cover Status

As per India state of Forest Report (ISFR) 2003.

- Forest Cover: 22,251 sq.km.
- Geographical area: 1,14,865 sq.km.

As per ISFR 2013:

- Forest cover: 21,759 sq.km.
  - Geographical area: 1,14,865 sq.Km
- After bifurcation (2014) with transfer of 2,178.24 sq.km. forest area to Andhra Pradesh, the revised figures for Telangana stood at:
- Geographical area: 1,12,102 sq.Km
  - Forest cover: 19,581 sq.km. (2013 baseline)

As per ISFR 2023:

- Geographical area: 1,12,122 sq.Km
- Forest cover: 21,179 sq.km.
- Thus from 2013 to 2023, forest cover in Telangana increased by 1,598 sq. km.
- Over all, from 2003 (20,073 sq.km) to 2023 (21,179 sq.km) forest cover increased by 1,106 sq.km.
- The following are the year wise details of plantation done by the forest department.





**VERIFICATION**

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of of this Counter Affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge derived from the official records of the case, which I believe to be true. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at Hyderabad on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
**DEPONENT**



**"ATTESTED"**

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
**G. LAKSHMAIAH, B.A., LL.B.**  
ADVOCATE  
NOTARY

Appointed by the Govt. of T.S.  
G.O.Ms. No. 943, Dt. 9-7-2011  
Plot No. 78/B, Bandlaguda (V),  
Sandaya Nagar Colony, Street No. 3,  
Raiendra Nagar (R.R. Dist)

**8 DEC 2025**