

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 726 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled "Nearly 6 Million Trees disappeared from Farmlands: Study" Appearing in The Hindu dated 18.05.2024


Versus

**REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 1
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HEAD OF
FOREST FORCE) MAHARASHTRA STATE, VAN BHAVAN
RAMGIRI ROAD, CIVIL LINES, NAGPUR**

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PAPER BOOK


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ADVOCATE FOR RESPONDENT: AADITYA PANDE

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 726 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled " Nearly 6 Million Trees disappeared from
Farmlands: Study" Appearing in The Hindu dated 18.05.2024

Versus

REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1 i.e.
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HEAD OF
FOREST FORCE) MAHARASHTRA STATE, VAN BHAVAN
RAMGIRI ROAD, CIVIL LINES, NAGPUR

I, Praveen A, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Forest Regulation) under
the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Protection) office of the
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)
Maharashtra State presently at Nagpur, do hereby solemnly affirm and
state on oath as under:-

1. It is submitted that, the present Original Application is registered
suo-motu on the basis of the news item titled "Nearly 6 Million trees
disappeared from farmlands: study" appearing in The Hindu daily
dated 18/05/2024.

2. It is submitted that the above titled Original Application was
filed before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 04/07/2024 when this Hon'ble



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Tribunal inter-alia passed the following order, relevant extracts is reproduced as under-

“Hence, we implead the following as Respondents in the matter.

*Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra, 3rd floor,
Van Bhavan, Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001.”*

Therefore, the present Respondent is impleaded as Respondent in the present matter.

3. It is submitted that on the basis of this order, the Notice to this effect received through the Consultant (Judicial), NGT to the office of this Respondent. Hence, this Respondent is placing the facts before this Hon'ble Tribunal about the news item mentioned in this Original Application.

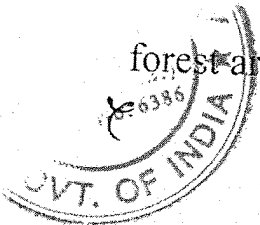
4. It is specifically submitted here that as per the news item published in The Hindu daily which highlights that “trees detected by Rapid Eye had an average crown size (the leafy outgrowth of tree) of 96 sq. m and such a high loss rate of mature trees over less than a decade is “unexpected”. Also it mention that “The disappearance of mature farm and trees was observed in many areas, but numbers rarely exceeds



five to 10%, except for areas in Central India, in particular in the State of Telangana and Maharashtra.”

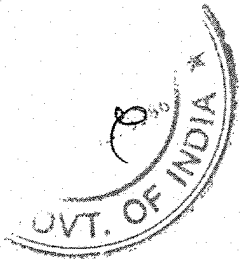
5. It is brought to the notice of this Hon'ble Tribunal that the trees mentioned in this news item, may have been felled from farmlands which are not directly under the control of State Forest Department. Though the State of Maharashtra is having Maharashtra Tree Felling (Regulation) Act, 1964 which deals to make better provision for regulating the felling of certain trees in State of Maharashtra, for the purpose of preservation thereof.

6. It is submitted that the Forest Department is granting permission to fell the silviculturally matured scheduled trees from non-forest areas to the owner of the farmlands wherein the trees are available. If such scheduled trees felled without permission of the Department, in that case the Department will penalise the owner/transporter. **The chart showing the scheduled trees felled without permission of the Department with effect from 2010-11 to 2023-24 is annexed as ANNEXURE-I to this affidavit wherein it is shown that in these 14 years about 1,65,582 trees felled without permission from the non-forest areas for which penalty from the concerned is recovered.**



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7. The news article Could also indicate the violation of the provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 Also the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It is submitted that this respondent is not directly dealing with all the provisions of Environment Protection Act.
8. It is also prayed to this Hon'ble Tribunal that if this Tribunal required more information about this, then, if possible, this Original Application may please be transferred to Western Zone Bench at Pune for the convenience of this Respondent.
9. That no new facts and grounds have been pleaded in this Affidavit.

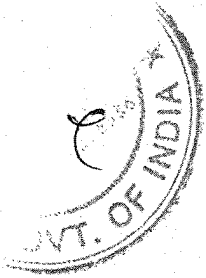


AP
AS
(Praveen A.)
Deputy Conservator of Forests
(Forest Regulation)
DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

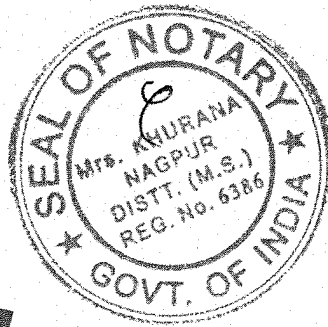
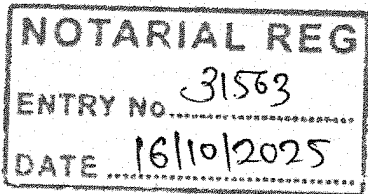
I, the above-named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and state that whatever stated herein above is true to the best of my knowledge and information derived from the records and files maintained in the office and I believe the same to be true.

Solemnly affirmed on this 16th October, 2025 at Nagpur.



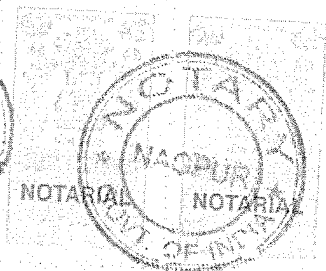
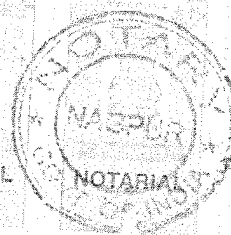
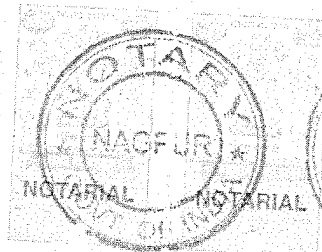
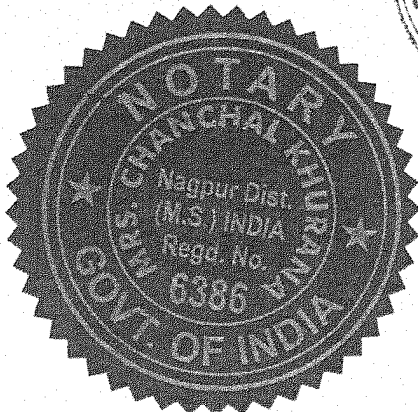
Praveen A.

(Praveen A.)
Deputy Conservator of Forests
(Forest Regulation)
DEPONENT



SWORN BEFORE ME ON THIS 16th
DAY OF Oct 20 25 AT NAGPUR BY
SHRI / SMT / Ku Praveen A
R/o NAGPUR WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY
SHRI / SMT. _____
ADVOCATE, NAGPUR

[Signature]
NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA
(M.S., INDIA)



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Annexure - I (Illicit Felling)

Maharashtra Tree Felling (Regulation) Act, 1964 and Amended in 1967

Sr. No	Year	No of Illicit Felling Cases of Scheduled Tree Species	No. of Trees						Volume						Penalty (Recovered in Rupees)
			Teak	Khair	Sandal	Others	Total	No.s	Cum	No.s	Cum	No.s	Cum	No.s	
1	2010-11	199	246	0	4	559	809	457	49	0	1	0	1131	164	88781
2	2011-12	197	306	43	14	266	629	481	20	1	14	77	281	94	109141
3	2012-13	207	503	3	2	488	996	457	32	0	12	1	2197	222	161769
4	2013-14	884	1770	363	9	37832	39974	1463	95.744	1042	16	0.100	4759	3981.182	985520
5	2014-15	777	1798	120	11	16592	18532	1946	117.655	111	8	0.888	5751	971.258	1081982
6	2015-16	940	2441	471	1	5124	8037	3058	219.661	619	0	0.000	3892	681.367	984100
7	2016-17	625	2103	348	16	4923	7390	2245	172.718	629	5	0.042	2563	907.342	1206015
8	2017-18	858	4244	559	12	4365	9180	4943	216	1049	26	0	3623	718	1421464
9	2018-19	1071	2372	671	2	10422	13465	4560	340	83	0	0	3791	1337	7128534
10	2019-20	984	2804	328	542	12902	16278	3153	270.254	382	1143	6.691	3160	675.037	1498012
11	2020-21	922	3930	415	3	6102	10466	6388	473.802	537	56	0.676	3597	799.802	1677823
12	2021-22	753	2473	341	25	12375	15214	4603	328.433	387	0	0.000	4371	705.572	1503387
13	2022-23	707	3272	219	3	5550	9043	5946	584.234	104	17.889	0	3542	20233.465	2363834
14	2023-24	908	3548	633	6	11382	15569	7233	534.117	752	50	0.687	4148	1114.533	2872737
	Total	10032	31810	4514	650	128882	165582	46933	3454	6309	1331	87	46806	32605	23083099

Praveen A.

Deputy Conservator of Forests
(Forest Regulation)

Praveen A.
/True Copy/