

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

Original Application No.1014/2024

Satbir Kichhana

...Applicant

Versus

State of Haryana & Ors.

...Respondents

I N D E X

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1.	Reply of Divisional Forest Officer, Kaithal respondent no. 2.	20.03.2026	1-4
2.	Affidavit of Virender Singh, Divisional Forest Officer, Kaithal.	20.03.2026	5
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4.	Copy of approval (Annexure R-2) Vernacular with English translation	14.06.2011	8-9
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Dated:- 20.03.2026
Place :- Kaithal

Virender
Divisional Forest Officer,
Kaithal.

Filed Through:

R. Khurana

Rahul Khurana, Advocate
Counsel for Respondent No. 2
9811894060
rkhuranalegal@gmail.com

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

Original Application No.1014/2024

Satbir Kichhana

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Versus

State of Haryana & Ors.

...Respondents

**Reply of Divisional Forest Officer, Kaithal,
Respondent no. 2.**

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

PRELIMINARY SUBMISSIONS:

1. That the present reply is being filed in compliance of order dated 17.12.2025 in OA no.1014/2024 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Principal Bench, New Delhi.
2. That in compliance of interim order dated 17.12.2025 passed by Hon'ble Court Deputy Commissioner, Kaithal constituted a Joint Committee consisting of (i) District Municipal Commissioner Kaithal, (ii) AEE, office of HSPCB, Kaithal (iii) Divisional Forest Officer, Kaithal (iv) Secretary, Municipal Council, Kaithal. The joint committee had submitted its report vide letter no. 1601 dated 12.02.2026. According to the report, the land in dispute does not belong to the Forest Department and no such trees as alleged by the applicant were never planted by Forest Department on the land in dispute. It is further submitted that the land in dispute relates to HSVP (HUDA) Department, Government of Haryana.
3. That with due respect to the order passed by this Hon'ble Court the answering respondent has carried out a fresh

U. K.

investigation, in this regard a letter for inspection of site was wrote to the complainant Sh. Satbir Kichana issued by O/o Divisional Forest Officer, Kaithal bearing endst. No. 6785 dated 13.03.2026, through this letter he was advised to remain present on the site on scheduled date and the dispatcher of Forest Division, Kaithal, Sh. Ashok Kumar, Peon reached at the residence of complainant Sh. Satbir Kichana on dated 13.03.2026 to intimate him about the inspection, but the complainant refused to receive the inspection letter, therefore this letter is forward to him through registered post bearing no. EH263134786IN. Thereafter, the Divisional Forest Officer, Kaithal along with its subordinate employees i.e. Range Forest Officer, Kaithal Sh. Mangu Ram and concerned Forest Guard Sh. Simarnjeet Singh had inspected the site on 17.03.2026 without the presence of complainant as he willingly did not join the inspection despite of the intimation. The site in question was duly inspected and there found no sign which can prove that trees were cut or uprooted as alleged by the complainant (two photographs of inspection taken on 17.03.2026 are attached herewith as Annexure R-1). It is pertinent to mention here that there was no sign of digging the earth to uproot the trees and further there was no sign of root of any tree present which could show that trees were cut rather the soil was settled which showed no sign of any malpractice occurred as alleged by the complainant.

4. That it is pertinent to mention here that proposal for widening of Kaithal-Karnal road was approved from Ministry of

Environment and Forest, Government of India vide their office letter no. 15355 dated 14.06.2011(Copy enclosed as Annexure R-2). Therefore in compliance of this approval a total number of 1371 trees and 400 plants were cut down on Kaithal-Karnal road (km 0-3 L&R side) during the year 2012-13. Thereafter widening of this road is done by PWD B&R Kaithal. Earlier during the pendency of this proposal, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India vide their office letter no. 12885 dated 03.11.2010(Copy enclosed as Annexure R-3) had raised two questions from the concerned authority, which are reproduced here below:-

1. Whether the entire tree cover along the road will be effected by this proposal or some rows of tree will be saved?
2. After widening, will there be any area of PWD left for plantation?

Thereafter this letter is forwarded to PWD B&R kaithal for information vide Divisional Forest Officer, Kaithal letter no. 2626 dated 18.11.2010. In response of this letter PWD B&R kaithal vide their office letter no. 872 dated 19.11.2020(Copy enclosed as Annexure R-4) intimated on the above questions that:-

1. All trees within PWD boundary will be effected by the proposal. No row of trees will be saved as far as PWD land is concerned.
2. No area of PWD land will be left for plantation after widening.

U: 11/11/20

5. Therefore from above mentioned facts it is crystal clear that there is no land of PWD is left for plantation on this site, hence, question of further plantation on this land by Forest department is not maintainable in the eyes of law. It is submitted that after widening of this road no plantation is done by Forest Department on the site in question.
6. That no question of law is involved in present application. It is pertinent to mention that no trees were planted on the concerned land by the forest department and further as per inspection done conclusively shows that there is no evidence with regard to cutting or uprooting the trees, hence the petition in hand is bereft of any merits and the same may kindly be dismissed as the same has been filed with ulterior motive and without any conclusive or credible evidence.

It is, therefore, respectfully prayed that the present Application, being devoid of merits, may kindly be dismissed, in the interest of justice.

Dated:-20.03.2026
Place :- Kaithal

U. L. S.
Divisional Forest Officer,
Kaithal.

VERIFICATION:

Verified that the contents of paras No.1 to 6 of reply are true and correct to my knowledge and information derived from official record. No part of it is false and nothing has been concealed therein.

Dated:-20.03.2026
Place :- Kaithal

U. L. S.
Divisional Forest Officer,
Kaithal.

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

Original Application No.1014/2024

Satbir Kichhana

...Applicants

Versus

State of Haryana & Ors.

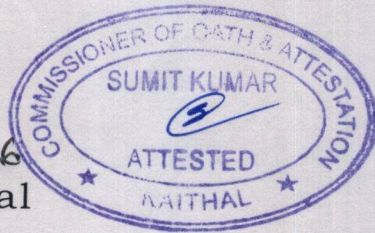
...Respondents

Affidavit.

I, Virender Singh, Divisional Forest Officer, Kaithal, Haryana, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under:-

1. That I, the deponent herein is well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case and has been impleaded as Respondent No. 2.
2. That the contents of the accompanying reply have been drafted and filed as per my instructions and the contents of the same is derived from official record, which I believe are true.

Dated:- 20.03.26
Place:- Kaithal



Virender.
Divisional Forest Officer,
Kaithal.

VERIFICATION:-

Verified that the contents of para No.1 to 6 of reply on merits are true and correct to my knowledge, no part of it is false and nothing has been concealed therein.

Dated:-
Place:- Kaithal

No. 495/26
Statement was Made on oath
Date. 20/3/26
By Sh. Virender Singh DFO Kaithal.
At Kaithal & Identified By
Sh. Akash Shekhar Assistant
The Name to be Correct.

Virender.
Divisional Forest Officer,
Kaithal.

20/3/26

I know the deponent/executant Personally & he/she has signed Thumb marked in my Presence



Latitude: 29.799234
Longitude: 76.420096
Elevation: 255.58±0.635 m
Accuracy: 30.18 m
Time: 17-03-2026 10:53
Note: kaithal karnal road

Powered by NoteCam

Nilu
True copy



पद	नाम	हाऊस न.	मोबाइल न.
Latitude: 29.799254	वीर सिंह	# 245	94161-30602
Longitude: 76.420161	मोरो	# 910	97296-27221
Elevation: 255.68±0.675 m	सिंह	# 335	98964-50585
Accuracy: 6.719 m	सिंह	# 467	94168-15530
Time: 17-03-2026 10:55	सिंह	# 248	94165-72851
Note: kaithal karnal road	सिंह	# 224	94666-94449

Powered by NoteCam

True copy

भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय
उत्तर क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय

346
27/6/11

बेज नम्बर 24-25
दक्षिण मार्ग
सेक्टर 31 ए
घण्टीगढ़ 160030
दिनांक 14.06.2011

फाईल नम्बर: 9-HRB466/2010-CHA

15356

सेवा मे,

वित्तायुक्त एवं सचिव (वन),
हरियाणा सरकार, वन विभाग,
लघु सचिवालय, सेक्टर-17
घण्टीगढ़ ।

विषय: Diversion of 1.664 ha. of forest land in favour of Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD (B&R), Kaithal for widening of Karnal-Kaithal road, Km 69.40 to 72, B/side, under Forest Division and Distt. Kaithal, Haryana..

महोदय,

मुझे निर्देश हुआ है कि आपका ध्यान उपर्युक्त विषय से सम्बन्धित आपके पत्र संख्या 5719-va-4-2010/9759 दिनांक 19/07/2010 एवं नोडल आफिसर हरियाणा सरकार के पत्र संख्या प्रशा-डी-तीन-4271/837 दिनांक 16.05.2011 की ओर दिलाऊँ, जिसमें वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 की धारा- 2 के अधीन केन्द्रीय सरकार की अनुमति मांगी गई है।

राज्य सरकार के प्रस्ताव का ध्यानपूर्वक अध्ययन करने के पश्चात् उपर्युक्त उद्देश्य हेतु 1.664 hec. वन भूमि के उपयोग के लिए सक्षम प्राधिकारी की स्वीकृति निम्नलिखित शर्तों पूरी करने पर प्रदान की जाती है:-

1. वन भूमि की विधिक परिस्थिति बदली नहीं जाएगी।
2. कम से कम वृक्ष/पौधे कटवाये जायेंगे एवं काटे जाने वाले वृक्ष/पौधों की संख्या प्रस्तावानुसार 1094 वृक्ष तथा 400 पौधों से अधिक नहीं होगी ।
3. प्रतिपूर्ति पौधारोपण प्रस्ताव के अनुसार कासन ड्रेन आर.डी.35-59 दोनो ओर प्रयोक्ता एजेंसी से प्राप्त 3328/60/-रूपये (रूपये सात लाख बत्तीस हजार एक सौ साठः) की राशि से 3328 पौधे लगाकर किया जायेगा । प्रतिपूर्ति पौधारोपण इस पत्र के जारी होने की तिथि से एक वर्ष के अन्दर हो जाना चाहिए ।
4. भारत सरकार पत्र संख्या 5-2/2006-FC दिनांक 20.05.2006 के तहत दिये गये अनुदेशों के अनुसार NPV तथा दूसरी सभी निधियां प्रतिपूर्ति पौधारोपण निधि प्रबंधन तथा योजना प्राधिकार के तदर्थ निकाय के लेखा संख्या CA-1590, कारपोरेशन बैंक (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम), ब्लाक-11 भूतल सी.जी.ओ.काम्पलेक्स, फेज-1 लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली-110003 या लेखा संख्या 344901010070128 भारतीय यूनियन बैंक, सुंदरनगर, नई दिल्ली में जमा करवाई जाये ।
5. वन भूमि का प्रयोग प्रस्ताव में दर्शाये उद्देश्य के अलावा अन्य किसी उद्देश्य के लिये नहीं किया जायेगा।
6. प्रयोक्ता एजेंसी द्वारा सड़क को चौड़ा करने के बाद सड़क के दोनो ओर IRC की गार्डडलाईन्स के अनुसार एवन्यू पौधारोपण का प्रावधान किया जायेगा ।
7. यदि कोई अन्य संबंधित अधिनियम/अनुच्छेद/नियम/न्यायालय आदेश/अनुदेश आदि इस प्रस्ताव पर लागू होते हैं तो उनके अधीन जरूरी अनुमति लेना राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेवारी होगी।

मन्त्रालय इस स्वीकृति को स्थगित/रद्द कर सकता है यदि उपरोक्त शर्तों में से किसी भी शर्त का कार्यान्वयन सन्तोषप्रद नहीं है। राज्य सरकार वन विभाग के माध्यम से इन शर्तों का पालन सुनिश्चित करेगा।

FA
27/6/11

भवदीय

(इश्वर सिंह)

वन संरक्षक (केन्द्रीय)

Vin
Tree copy

Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
Northern Regional Office

Bay No. 24-25
Dhakshin Marg,
Sector 31 A
Chandigarh 160030
Date: 14.06.2011

File No.: 9-HRB466/2010-CHA /5355

To,

Financial Commissioner and secretary (Forests),
Government of Haryana, Forest Department,
Mini Secretariat, Sector-17,
Chandigarh.

Subject: Diversion of 1.664 ha. of forest land in favour of Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD (B&R), Kaithal for widening of Karnal-Kaithal road, Km 69.40 to 72, B/side, under Forest Division & District Kaithal, Haryana.

Sir,

I am directed to refer your attention to your letter No. 5719-va-4-2010/9759 dated 19.07.2010 and Nodal Officer, Government of Haryana, letter No. Prash-D-three-4271/837 dated 16.05.2011 on the above-mentioned subject, seeking approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

After careful examination of the proposal submitted by the State Government, approval is hereby granted for the use of 1.664 hectares of forest land for the stated purpose, subject to the following conditions:

1. The legal status of the forest land shall not be changed.
2. The number of trees to be felled shall be kept to a minimum, as per the proposal (1094 trees and 400 plants).
3. Compensatory afforestation shall be carried out as per the approved scheme, using funds amounting to ₹7,32,160 (Rupees Seven Lakh Thirty-Two Thousand One Hundred Sixty only), for planting 3328 plants. This afforestation must be completed within one year from the date of this letter.
4. As per Government of India letter No. 5-2/2006-FC dated 02.05.2006, Net Present Value (NPV) and other charges shall be deposited in the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) account: Account No.: CA-1590, Corporation Bank (A Government of India Undertaking), Block- II, Ground Floor, C.G.O. Complex, Phase- I, Lodi Road, New Delhi- 110003 or Account No.: 344901010070128 Bank: Indian Union Bank, Sunder Nagar, New Delhi
5. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
6. After widening of the road, the implementing agency shall undertake avenue plantation on both sides of the road as per IRC guidelines.
7. If any other legal provisions, court orders, or regulations apply to this proposal, necessary permissions shall be obtained by the State Government.

The Ministry reserves the right to withdraw or cancel this approval if any of the above conditions are not complied with. The State Government shall ensure compliance with these conditions through the Forest Department.

Ull
True translated copy

Yours faithfully,

(Signature)
(Ishwar Singh)
Conservator of Forests (Central)

वन विभाग, हरियाणा
कार्यालय : वन मण्डल अधिकारी, कैथल वन मण्डल, कैथल
फायर ब्रिगेड के सामने, नजदीक पेहवा चौक, कैथल-136027, फोन व फैक्स -01746-228095

R 72

दिनांक:- 19/11/10

भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय
उत्तर क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय

बेज़ नम्बर 24-25
दक्षिण मार्ग
सेक्टर 31 ए
चण्डीगढ़-160030
दिनांक 03.11.2010

फाईल नम्बर:-9-HRB466/2010-CHA / 2885

सेवा में

नोडल आफिसर एवं वन संरक्षक (एफ.सी.)
कृते: प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक,
हरियाणा सरकार,
C-18, वन भवन, सेक्टर 6,
पंचकुला हरियाणा।

विषय:- Diversion 1.664 hec. of forest land for widening of Karnal-Kaithal road Km 69.40 to 72 B/side under Forest Division and Distt. Kaithal, Haryana

महोदय,

मुझे निर्देश हुआ है कि आपका ध्यान उपर्युक्त विषय में सम्बन्धित आपके पत्र संख्या प्रशा-डी-तीन-4271/6035 5296 दिनांक 01.10.2010 की ओर दिलाऊँ, जिसमें वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 की धारा-2 के अनुसार गैर वानिकी उद्देश्य के लिए 1.664 hec. वन भूमि की मांग की गई है।

कृपया इस प्रस्ताव से सम्बन्धित निम्नलिखित आवश्यक जानकारी भेजने का कष्ट करें।

1. Whether the entire tree cover along the road will be effected by this proposal or some rows of trees will be saved ?
2. After widening, will there be any area of PWD left for plantation ?

ऊपर की गई पूछताछ का जवाब इस पत्र के जारी होने के 60 दिनों के अन्दर प्रस्तुत करें जिसके प्रस्तुत न करने की स्थिति के अभाव में इस प्रस्ताव को रद्द किया जा सकता है।

भवदीय

(ईश्वर सिंह)

वन संरक्षक (केन्द्रीय)



प्रतिलिपि:- 1. Divisional Forest Officer Kaithal Haryana.

2. The Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD B&R, Br. Kaithal, Haryana.

प्र
न
10/11

पृ. सं. - 2626

दिनांक - 18/11/10

एक प्रति Executive Engineer Prov Div PWD B&R को वन
संरक्षक केन्द्रिय द्वारा मांगी गई सुचना भेजने के लिए प्रेषित है।
खास तौर पर बिन्दु 2 पर

वन मण्डल अधिकारी
कैथल
18/11/10

Ullr
True copy

वन विभाग, हरियाणा
कार्यालय : वन मण्डल अधिकारी, कैथल वन मण्डल, कैथल
फायर ब्रिगेड के सामने, नजदीक पेहवा चौक, कैथल-136027, फोन व फैक्स -01746-228095

कमांक:-

872

दिनांक:- 19/11/10

From

The Executive Engineer,
Provincial Division No.1 PWD B&R Branch,
Kaithal.

To

The Nodal Officer-Cum
Forest Conservator (F.C.),
Principle Chief Conservator Forest,
Haryana Govt., C-18, Forest Building, Sector-6,
Panchkula (Haryana).

Memo No.

Dated.

Subject:-

Diversion 1.664 hec. of forest land for widening of Karnal-Kaithal road km
69.40 to 72.00 B/side under Forest Division and Distt. Kaithal Haryana.

Reference:-

Forest Conservator (Central) bays No.24-25, Dakshin Marg, Sectot31-A,
Chandigarh dt.8.11.2010 memo No.9-HRB466/2010-CHA/2886 dated
03.11.2010 to you address & copy to others.

under :-

1).

As desired vide your letter under reference, the point wise reply is furnished as
All trees within PWD boundary will be effected by the proposal. No row of
trees will be saved as far as PWD land is concerned.

2).

No area of PWD land will be left for plantation after widening.

You are requested to take up the matter with Govt. of India for early sanction of
cutting of trees.

DA/Nil.

Executive Engineer,
Provincial Division, No.1 PWD B&R Br.,
Kaithal.

Endst.No.

Dated.

Copy of the above is forwarded to The Forest Conservator (Central), Bays
No.24-25, Dakshin Marg, Sectot31-A, Chandigarh.

DA/Nil.

Executive Engineer,
Provincial Division, No.1 PWD B&R Br.,
Kaithal.

Endst.No.

Dated. 18-11-2010

Copy of the above is forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Kaithal,
Haryana, for information and necessary action.

DA/Nil.

Executive Engineer,
Provincial Division, No.1 PWD B&R Br.,
Kaithal.

Endst. No.

Dated.

Copy of the above is forwarded to the Sub Divisional Engineer, Provincial Sub
Division, PWD B&R Br., Kaithal, for information w.r.t. to his letter endst. No.1723
dt.16.11.2010.

DA/Nil.

Executive Engineer,
Provincial Division, No.1 PWD B&R Br.,
Kaithal.

D/EXN.

True copy