

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**  
**PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI**  
**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 680 OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

VAISHALI RANA &amp; ORS.

...APPLICANTS

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA &amp; ORS.


...RESPONDENTS

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**Through**

**Ritwick Dutta**

**Rahul Choudhary**

**Shreepurna Dasgupta**

Advocates

Counsel for the Applicants

N-73, Lower Ground Floor, Greater Kailash-1

New Delhi-110048

Email id:- [Litigation@dclawchambers.com](mailto:Litigation@dclawchambers.com)**Place:- Delhi****Dated:- 25.04.2026**

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**RESPONSE TO THE STATUS REPORT DATED 24.01.2026 FILED BY  
THE RESPONDENT NO. 3**

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

1. That the above-titled Application is raising substantial question relating to the environment arising out of the arbitrary and indiscriminate felling of trees within the urban areas of Gurugram as well as permission granted without due diligence, application of mind and without assessing the necessity for the tree felling. Such mindless felling of urban trees raises to promote construction of multi-storeyed structures, raises substantial question concerning the pollution levels in Gurugram, which is significantly higher than other metropolitan cities in the country.
  
2. That vide order dated 6.11.2025, this Hon'ble Tribunal directed the Respondent No. 3 to file an affidavit disclosing the number of permissions for tree felling which have been granted in District Gurugram in last one year and number of trees which have been cut in pursuance to those permissions and saplings planted in compliance of the conditions imposed in felling permission and survival rate of those saplings. The relevant portion of the order dated 6.11.2025 is reproduced below:

*"4. Meanwhile, respondent no.3 will file an affidavit disclosing the number of permissions for tree felling which have been granted in District Gurugram in last one year and number of trees which have been cut in pursuance to those permissions and saplings planted in compliance of the conditions imposed in felling permission and survival rate of those saplings. Let these details be placed on record within eight weeks."*

3. That thereafter, the Respondent No. 3 filed its Status Report on 24.01.2026. The Applicant through this present Response is filing its objections to the present Report. At the outset the Applicants rejects the contents of the Status Report in its entirety unless expressly admitted or is part of matter of record. It is further submitted that the contents of the Original Application may be read as part and parcel to the present Response and the same is not being repeated for the sake of brevity.

**RESPONSE TO THE STATUS REPORT DATED 24.01.2026 FILED BY RESPONDENT NO.3:**

4. That the Respondent No. 3 in its Status Report has given a list of all tree felling undertaken in 2025, and has given a detailed list of compensatory plantations undertaken in lieu of the trees felled. At the outset it is submitted that:
  - i. From the list, it is evident that the majority of the entries mentioned in the table at Pg. No. 350 have not submitted any compliance report.
  - ii. The respondents have failed to verify the claims of compensatory plantation made by the permission holders.
  - iii. There is no clarification regarding the species that were planted or the survival rate of such plantations.

- iv. Respondent No. 3 has neither provided any details regarding action taken against user agencies for non-compliance nor sought any further clarification from them.
- v. It is unclear whether the list provided by the Respondent No. 3 also includes compensatory plantations undertaken by individuals or companies in cases of illegal felling of trees.
5. That further, the Column titled 'If, yes location of compensatory plantation & Survival %' has only given a vague list of areas where the compensatory plantation has been undertaken. However, no details on the survival rate of the trees have been mentioned anywhere. Neither detail of GPS locations of the compensatory planted trees have been given. This clearly shows that the Respondent No. 3 has undertaken a mechanical exercise in submitting the report, and have not taken proper steps to show compliance of directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal.
6. That also, the Applicant has personally visited few of the sites where compensatory plantation has been claimed to be undertaken. Accordingly, the Applicant found out that in those locations no evidence of compensatory plantation has been undertaken. Following are the details of the locations where the Applicant went as per the serial no. mentioned in the Annexure R-1 of the Report:

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>S.No. as per the Report</b>	<b>Name and date of permission</b>	<b>Location of Compensatory Plantation</b>	<b>No. of trees felled</b>	<b>Compensatory Plantation</b>	<b>Applicant's comment</b>
a.	12.	Xen Hort Hsvp Gurugram - 11.02.2025	Central VERGE,	38	190	The Applicant personally visited

b.	21.	Xen Hort Hsvp Gurugram - 2.04.2025	Sector 29, Gurugram	34	340	these sites, and found no such compensatory plantation undertaken at these sites. In the Central VERGE area, the Applicant went around the entire area, and found no compensatory plantation being done in the year 2025. A copy of the photographs showing no plantation undertaken is annexed herewith as <b><u>ANNEXURE A-1 (Colly).</u></b>
c.	27.	Xen Hort Hsvp Gurugram - 28.03.2025		48	480	
d.	81.	Xen Hort Hsvp- 27.10.2025		13	130	
e.	85.	Xen Hort Hsvp Gurugram - 12.11.2025		17	170	
f.	100	HUDA- 27.11.2024		66	660	
g.	107	HUDA- 30.01.2025		98	980	
h.	113	HUDA- 17.01.2025		19	190	
<b>Total trees claimed to be planted at Central VERGE, Sector-29, Gurugram</b>					<b>3140</b>	
i.	305	Executive Engineer Horticulture MCG	Malibu Town Park	3	30	
j.	314	Executive Engineer Horticulture MCG	Malibu Town Park	5	50	
k.	317	Executive Engineer Horticulture MCG	Malibu Town Kentwood	1	10	
<b>Total trees claimed to be planted at Malibu Town area</b>					<b>90</b>	
l.	53	Rajesh Jhingon	Club 4 DLF Phase IV	31	310	
<b>Total trees claimed to be planted at Club 4 DLF Phase IV</b>					<b>310</b>	

From the above table, it is clear that no compensatory plantation has been undertaken whereas claim of planting more than 3540 trees has been falsely made by the Respondent No. 3.

7. That further, one of the user agencies who had got permission for tree felling in Nirvana Country, Sector 50, Gurugram for felling of 106 dead trees, had sent an email dated 17.02.2026 to the Respondent No. 3 seeking information of area where they could undertake compensatory plantation. However, no response was given to the user agency by the Respondent No. 3 and the compliance could not be undertaken.

A copy of the email dated 17.02.2026 sent by the user agency is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE A-2.**

8. That as per a newspaper report dated 8.04.2026 in The New Indian Express Gurugram city has been declared the most polluted city in the country in March, 2026. Further, the continuous felling of trees without any adequate compensatory plantation does not aid any further, but becomes another cause for such pollution.

A copy of the newspaper report dated 8.04.2026 in The New Indian Express titled "*Gurugram tops March 2026 pollution rankings, Ghaziabad most polluted India in FY 2025-26 says report*" is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE A-3.**

9. That based on the above submissions, this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to reject the Status Report submitted by the Respondent No. 3.

10. Pass any other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the instant case.



**APPLICANT NO. 1**

THROUGH



**RITWICK DUTTA RAHUL CHOUDHARY SHREEPURNA DASGUPTA  
ADVOCATES**

COUNSELS FOR THE APPLICANT

N-73, LOWER GROUND FLOOR, GREATER KAILASH-I,  
NEW DELHI-110048

MOBILE NO: 9312407881

Email: litigation@dclawchambers.com

**Place: New Delhi**

**Dated:- 25.04.2026**

**VERIFICATION:**

Verified by Vaishali Rana, d/o Lt. Col. H.S. Rana, aged about 49 years, R/o 1403, T-10, Valley View Estate, Gwalpahari, Gurgaon Faridabad Road, Gurgaon122003 that the contents of Paragraphs 1 to 10 are true to my personal knowledge and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.



**APPLICANT NO. 1**

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

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 680 OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

VAISHALI RANA & ORS.

... APPLICANTS

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA & ORS.

... RESPONDENTS

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Vaishali Rana, d/o Lt. Col. H.S. Rana, aged about 50 years, R/o 1403, T-10, Valley View Estate, Gwalpahari, Gurgaon Faridabad Road, Gurgaon 122003, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am the Applicant No. 1 in the above titled Original Application and conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That the contents of the accompanying Response are true and correct and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

*Vaishali Rana*

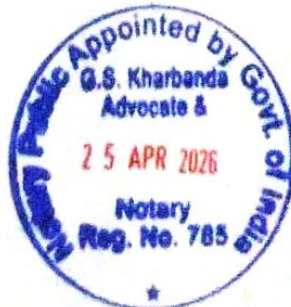
**DEPONENT**

**VERIFICATION**

25 APR 2026

Verified on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026 that the contents of the present affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

**ATTESTED**  
NOTARY PUBLIC



25 APR 2026

*Vaishali Rana*

**DEPONENT**

I, IDENTIFIED THE  
DEPONENT WHO HAS  
SIGNED IN MY PRESENCE

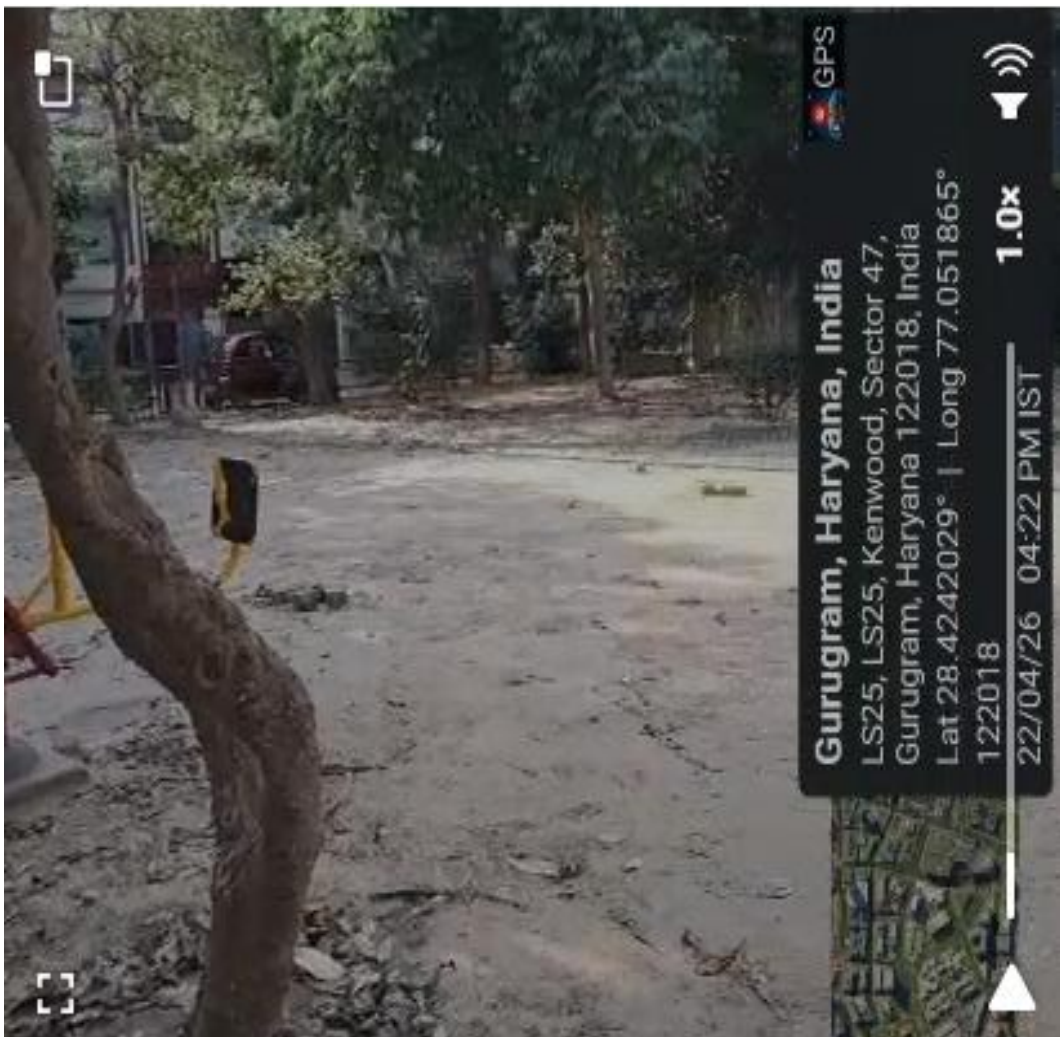
## ANNEXURE A-1 (Colly)

Following are the photographs of different locations wherein the Applicant personally visited and found no compensatory plantation being undertaken:

a. Central VERGE, Sector 29, Gurugram:



## b. Malibu Town Park:



c. Club 4, DLF Phase IV:



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Priya VK Singh** <[priyadhilonyksingh@gmail.com](mailto:priyadhilonyksingh@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, 17 Feb, 2026, 19:58

Subject: Plantation in lieu of dead trees

To: <[cf.gurgaon@gmail.com](mailto:cf.gurgaon@gmail.com)>, <[dfogurgaon1@gmail.com](mailto:dfogurgaon1@gmail.com)>

Cc: NRWA Office <[office.nrwa@nirvanacountry.co.in](mailto:office.nrwa@nirvanacountry.co.in)>, Vaishali Rana <[Vaishali2013.vrc@gmail.com](mailto:Vaishali2013.vrc@gmail.com)>, <[Bhartimanishharsana@gmail.com](mailto:Bhartimanishharsana@gmail.com)>

Dear Forest Department ,

Once in 2 years or so, the Forest Department gives permission to the RWA of Nirvana Country, Sector 50 Gurgaon, to fell **dead trees** , that is, trees which have naturally died because of disease, damage inflicted by storms etc.

Attached is 1 such letter, from December 2024 which requires the planting of 10 times the number ( 10x ) of dead trees felled.

1) The Forest Department is requested to clarify **where** replacement planting is expected to be done. Nirvana Country is a planned residential colony , with designated green areas where trees are already flourishing. At best ( but not always), the number of trees that can be planted is the number of dead trees that are felled. Within Nirvana Country, 10x trees cannot be planted.

2) It is also requested that details of the **monitoring mechanism** be shared :

2.1 who monitors whether replacement planting has been done

2.2 to whom are reports meant to be sent by the RWA

2.3 for how many years is the monitoring done by the Forest Dptt

3) Is there a list of **tree species** that the Forest Department encourages citizens/RWAs to plant ?

Once clarification is given by the Forest Dptt, residents of Nirvana Country can pursue the matter with Ward Councillor ( for help if trees are to be planted outside Nirvana ) and with the RWA ( for providing resources) to get trees planted.

Regards

Priya VK Singh

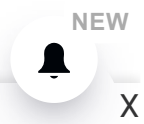
Resident, Nirvana Country



Advertisement

# ps March 2026 pollution ranking most polluted India in FY 2025–

owing improvement, nine cities in Uttar Pradesh  
'0% in PM10 levels compared to the NCAP base



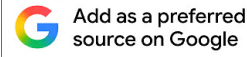
X

A metro train runs on a railway track amid low visibility due to a thick layer of smog, following Diwali celebrations in Gurugram. (File Photo | PTI)

**Harpreet Bajwa** 

Updated on: 08 Apr 2026, 6:31 pm · 3 min read

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**CHANDIGARH:** Gurugram has been ranked the most polluted city in the country for March 2026. Haryana accounted for four of India's top ten most polluted cities: Faridabad, Manesar, Bahadurgarh and Gurugram, as per the report of Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). It further noted that Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh remained the most polluted city overall for the entire 2025–26 financial year.

Data further showed that nine of Haryana's 24 monitored cities exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Gurugram recorded a monthly average PM<sub>2.5</sub> level of 116 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The millennium city consistently reported elevated PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations, largely attributed to construction activity and road dust.

"Other cities in the top 10 polluted list for March include Bahadurgarh, Faridabad, Singrauli, Mandideep, Ghaziabad, Manesar, Bhiwadi, Noida, and Nandesari. Haryana accounted for four of India's top 10 most polluted cities, followed by two cities each from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, and one each from Rajasthan and Gujarat. Haryana had the highest number of cities exceeding NAAQS, with nine out of 24 recording PM<sub>2.5</sub> higher than NAAQS, followed by Uttar Pradesh with eight out of 21 cities exceeding NAAQS," it read.

In 2025, both Gurugram and Faridabad frequently figured among India's most polluted cities. Earlier trends indicated that while Faridabad often recorded higher PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels, The findings come against the backdrop of persistently poor air quality in the region.

Ghaziabad recorded the highest annual average PM<sub>10</sub> concentration (FY 25–26) at 215 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, followed by Delhi (201 µg/m<sup>3</sup>), and Noida (195 µg/m<sup>3</sup>), all of

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the numbers being over three times higher than the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of  $60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

The report noted that in March 2026, 220 out of 251 cities with >80 per cent CAAQMS data reported PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels below India's daily national standard of  $60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . However, only three cities met the World Health Organization's (WHO) stricter daily safe limit of  $15 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

Among NCAP cities, seven of the 96 cities with sufficient data exceeded India's daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards, and 94 of 96 cities breached the WHO guidelines. Among 155 non-NCAP cities, 154 exceeded the WHO's daily limit, and 25 crossed the national standard.

Dehradun recorded the highest reduction in PM<sub>10</sub> levels — about 75 per cent compared to the 2017–18 baseline — while Delhi saw a modest 17 per cent decline.

Manoj Kumar, analyst at CREA, said, "Many cities are still far from meeting the revised NCAP targets, and some have even seen rising pollution levels, which is a serious concern. As the programme moves into its next phase, there is an opportunity to base interventions on robust, science-based solutions, with funding directed towards the major pollution sources identified in each region."

He added, "In recent years, more cities have slipped into non-attainment status, which means that revising NCAP to include emerging hotspots, adopting a regional approach, and enforcing stricter emission standards will all be essential."

When benchmarked against the NCAP baseline year (2017–18), PM<sub>10</sub> levels increased in 14 cities and remained unchanged in three. The remaining 79 cities showed improvements.

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**Copy of Response on behalf of the Applicant in O.A No. 680 of 2024 Vaishali Rana& Ors. Versus. State of Haryana & Ors.**

1 message

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**Litigation .** <litigation@dclawchambers.com>

Sat, Apr 25, 2026 at 1:25 PM

To: rkhranalegal@gmail.com, Bihu Sharma &lt;bihusharma@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Sir,

Please find attached- Copy of Response on behalf of the Applicant in O.A No. 680 of 2024 Vaishali Rana& Ors. Versus. State of Haryana & Ors.

Thanks & Regards  
Counsel for the Applicant

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 **Response on behalf of the Applicant.pdf**  
2096K