

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 555 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF: -

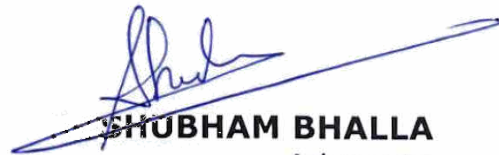
News item titled "India lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000 Global Forest Watch" appearing in The Indian Express date 13.04.2024.

NDOH: 09.01.2025

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PLACE: DELHI

DATE: 04.01.2025

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 555 OF 2024

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 date 13.04.2024.

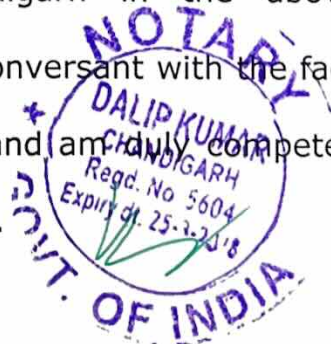
SHORT AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.

34/UNION TERRITORY OF CHANDIGARH.

I, Navneet Kumar Srivastava, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chandigarh Administration, Paryavaran Bhawan, Sector - 19B, Chandigarh being well conversant with the fact of the case in my official capacity and being competent to swear this affidavit on behalf of Respondent No. 34, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under: -

1. That I am the authorised representative of Respondent No. 34/Union Territory Chandigarh in the above-captioned matter and am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and am fully competent to file the present Short Affidavit.

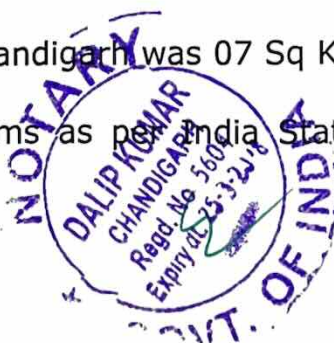
Navneet
Deputy Conservator of Forests
Forest Department
U.T. Chandigarh



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2. That the answering respondent is in receipt of the notice by this Hon'ble Tribunal issued vide order dated 18.11.2024 and due to paucity of time a short affidavit is being filed in terms of the aforesaid order.
3. That the aforesaid original application has been registered *Suo-motu* based on news item titled "India lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000 Global Forest Watch" appearing in The Indian Express newspaper dated 13.04.2024.
4. The answering respondent would like to humbly submit that the Forest and Tree Cover, in the country is assessed biannually by Forest Survey of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India [FSI].
5. That FSI started assessment of Tree Cover in year 2001. As per State of Forest Report 2001 the Tree Cover in UT Chandigarh was 02 Sq Kms which increased to 21.18 Sq Kms as per India State of Forest Report 2023.
6. That as per State of Forest Report 1997 the Forest Cover in UT Chandigarh was 07 Sq Kms which increased to 25.00 Sq Kms as per India State of Forest Report 2023.


Deputy Conservator of Forests
Forest Department
U.T. Chandigarh



7. That status of Tree cover and Forest Cover of UT Chandigarh, excluding Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary (SWLS), since 1997 to 2023 is as mentioned in the table below:

SFR/ ISFR Report (Year)	Forest Cover [FC] (Sq Km)	Tree Cover [TC] (Sq Km)
1997	07	-
1999	07	-
2001	13	02
2003	15	08
2005	15	09
2009	17	11
2011	16.78	10
2013	17.26	10
2015	22.03	09
2017	21.56	10
2019	22.03	25
2021	22.88	15
2023	25.00	21.18

8. It is pertinent to mention here that the Forest cover & Tree cover has gradually increased in the past years in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

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Deputy Conservator of Forests
Forest Department
U.T. Chandigarh

9. That Respondent No. 34 and other greening agencies takes pro-active action to further enhance & protect the Forest cover and Tree cover in the city of Chandigarh.



10. That the contents of the foregoing affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Navneet
DEPONENT
Deputy Conservator of Forests
Forest Department
U.T. Chandigarh

VERIFICATION

I, Navneet Kumar Srivastava, IFS, the deponent above-named do hereby verify and declare that the facts stated in the above affidavit from para no.1 to 10 are true to my knowledge and belief.

Verified at on this day of _____, 2025.

Navneet
DEPONENT
Deputy Conservator of Forests
Forest Department
U.T. Chandigarh

NOTARY
DALIP KUMAR
CHANDIGARH
Regd. No 5884
Expiry dt. 25-2-2018
GOVT. OF INDIA

Attested as identified
Navneet
03 JAN 2025
NOTARY CHANDIGARH

Certified that the Affidavit/SPA/GPA/RA has been read over & Explained to the deponent / Executant who framed directly to understand the same at the time of making & signing the document