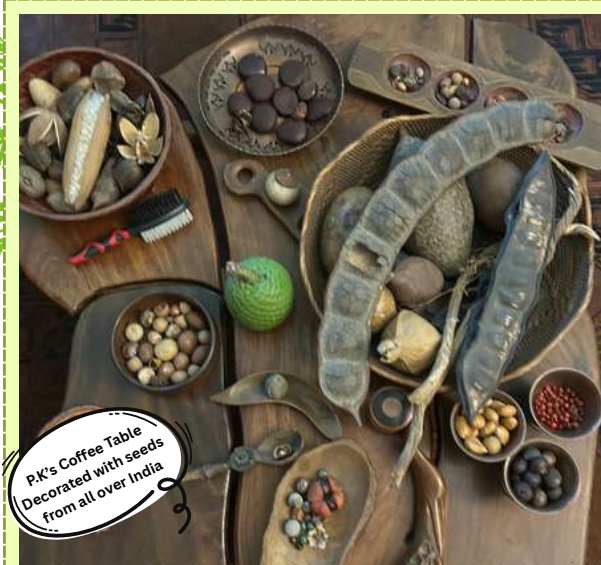


We Can Never Have Enough Of Nature



P.K.'s Coffee Table
Decorated with seeds
from all over India

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



[Click to Donate](#)

Please consider a small contribution

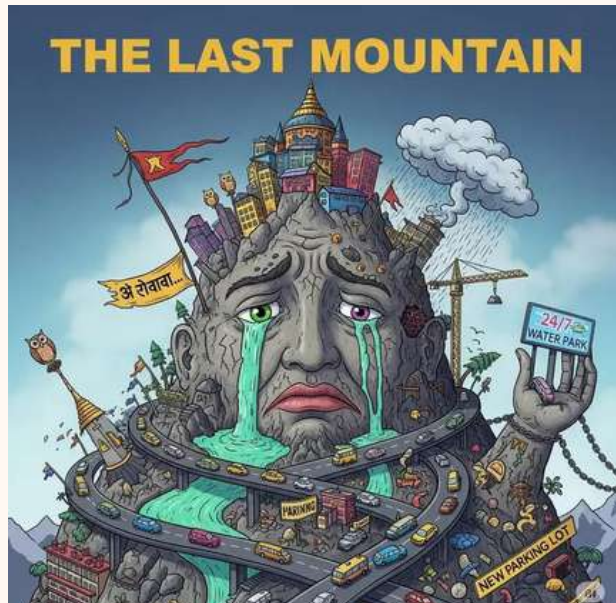
How do you feel about our work for nature conservation?

[SEND FEEDBACK](#)

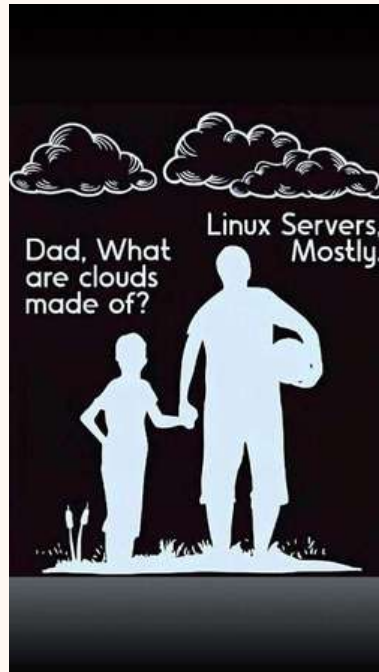
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Memes Of The Month



Memes Of The Month



If people don't like you,
it's okay.

If dogs don't like you.
Then it's time for some
self-reflection.

Waste to Art Workshop: Keychain Making Soami Nagar Model School

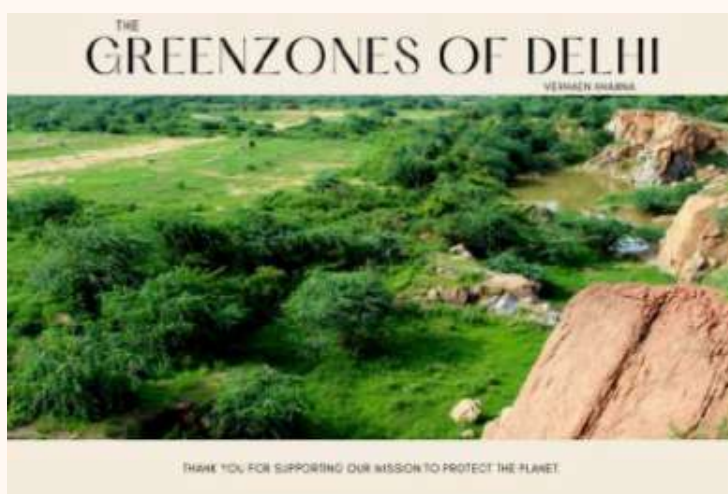


A keychain-making workshop was held at Soami Nagar Model School, engaging around 50 students in the art of upcycling. Using discarded plastic bottles, they crafted beautiful designs inspired by nature, such as butterflies, leaves, and flowers.

This fun activity not only fostered creativity but also promoted environmental awareness among the students.

[Watch Video](#)

Book Club Meet Greenzones of Delhi - Coffee Table Book



The Friends Club came alive during the book club meeting with the exciting showcase of 'Greenzones of Delhi - Coffee Table Book'.

Members dove into vibrant discussions on nature conservation and the rich biodiversity of our city.

The enthusiasm was contagious as everyone expressed a keen interest in joining upcoming nature walks to explore Delhi's beautiful green spaces.

[Buy Now](#)

Plantation Drives



Our recent weekend plantation drives at Tughlaqabad Biodiversity Park were a resounding success, with enthusiastic participation from people of all ages.

Over 1000 native trees were planted, nurtured by the monsoon rains.

Participants learned about the significance of native species and witnessed the fascinating local wildlife, including patterned lizards and dung beetles.

[6/07/25](#)

[13/07/25](#)

[20/07/25](#)

[27/07/25](#)

Fireflies Workshop



The monsoon season brought glowing fireflies to the nights of Delhi.

Our firefly workshops attracted many visitors who were eager to experience this wonder.

Many were amazed to witness this natural spectacle in the city for the first time.

The twinkling lights created cherished memories, showcasing the magic of nature.

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

[Video 3](#)

Nature Talks Podh-cast Ep. 74



In this inspiring episode of Nature Talks Podh-cast, the host dives into the remarkable story of Peter Singh and his wife, Neeno Kaur, who transformed their Delhi home into a sustainable oasis amidst the city's notorious pollution.

This episode explores their journey toward eco-conscious living, sparked by Neeno's battle with leukemia and the discovery of the health benefits of a sattvic diet.

Using innovative aquaponics, over 15,000 plants, solar power, and rainwater harvesting, the couple has created a self-sufficient haven with an indoor AQI of just 10-15 ppm, defying Delhi's smog.

They grow organic vegetables, fruits, and fish, while inspiring others through their online courses at [Aanant Aquaponics](#), where they mentor aspiring eco-enthusiasts to adopt sustainable practices and build their own green havens. Join their transformative journey and enroll today!

How Peter Singh Turned His Home Into a Self-Sustaining Forest

[Listen on Spotify](#)

[Watch on Youtube](#)

[Watch Reel](#)

Nature Talks Podh-cast Ep. 75



In this episode of the Nature Talks Podh-cast, listeners are invited to explore the enchanting world of nature through the eyes of Verhaen Khanna and Nadine Bader.

This episode delves into their inspiring efforts to preserve Delhi's green spaces and foster a deeper connection with the environment.

From creating firefly habitats to protecting urban forests and promoting stargazing as a way to reconnect with nature, Verhaen and Nadine share practical insights and stories of conservation.

This episode inspires listeners to embrace sustainable practices and rediscover the magic of nature in urban settings.

Nurturing Nature with Verhaen Khanna & Nadine Bader: Fireflies, Forest and Stargazing

[Listen on Spotify](#)[Watch on Youtube](#)[Watch Reel](#)

Van Mahotsav 2025



We celebrated Van Mahotsav by sharing fascinating facts about trees and listing some of their countless benefits.

This initiative reminded the community of the vital role that trees play in our lives.

Tree Care



[Open Pdf](#)

Van Mahotsav At Manava Bharati School



Manava Bharati India International School celebrates Van Mahotsav each year by planting a sapling, encouraging students to protect the environment.

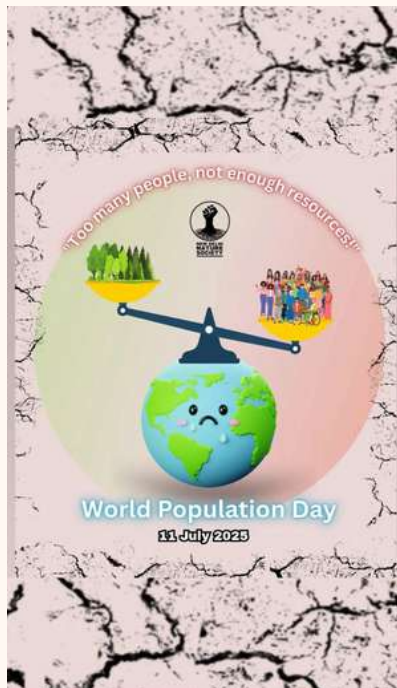
Mr. Verhaen inspired the students to care for trees and spend time in forests by sharing his own story.

The event featured wonderful dance and singing performances that showcased the students' love for nature.

[Watch Video](#)

Raising Awareness

World Population Day



World Population Day highlighted a stark truth — rising numbers and shrinking resources.

As the global population continues to grow, this day reminded us of the urgent need to balance growth with responsibility for our environment.

World Chimpanzee Day



On World Chimpanzee Day, we celebrated our closest relatives by showcasing the remarkable traits of chimpanzees, highlighting their intelligence, tool use and complex social bonds.

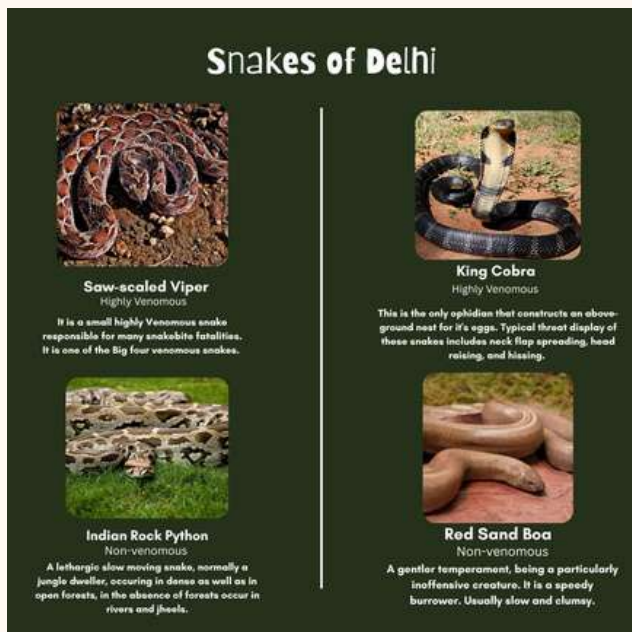
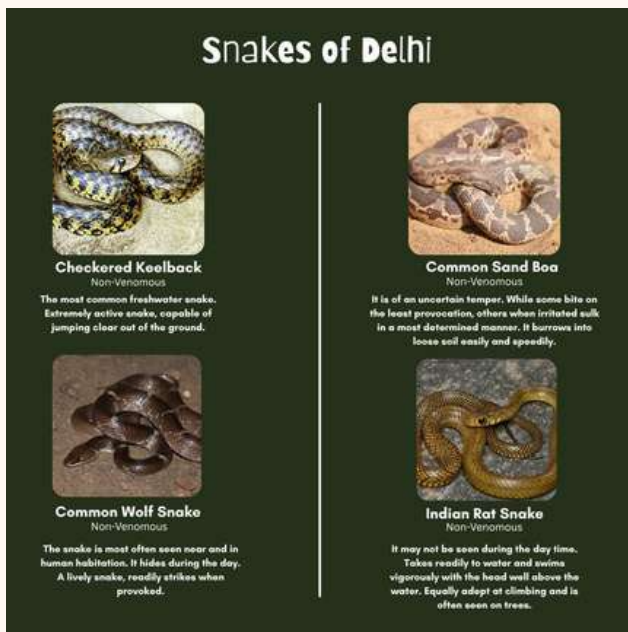
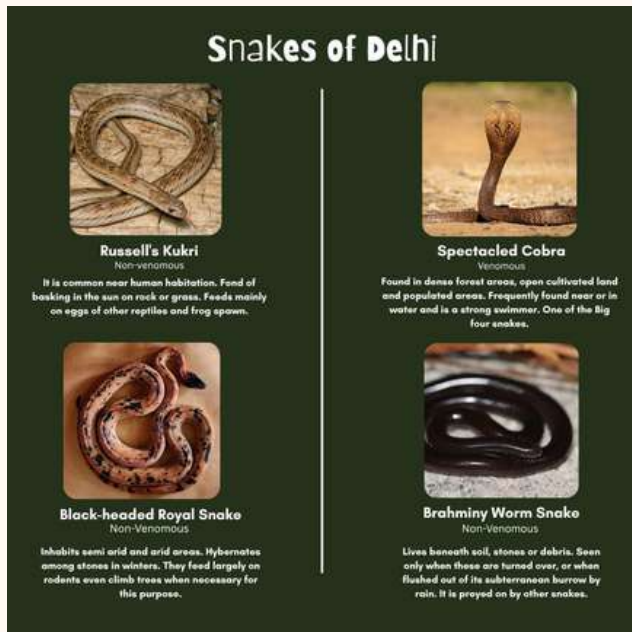
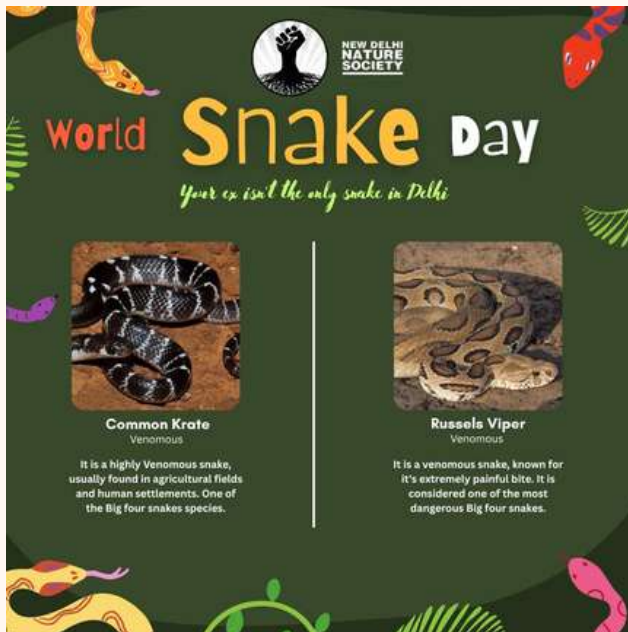
Shark Awareness Day



We celebrated Shark Awareness Day by highlighting the ancient linkage of sharks and their vital role as apex predators in ocean conservation.

This event raised awareness about the fact that 100 million sharks are killed each year for their fins, and how they are actually harmless and afraid of humans.

World Snake Day



On World Snake Day in June, we celebrated Delhi's fascinating snakes, from Indian Cobra to Common Krait.

The initiative highlighted their important traits and the chances of encountering them, captivating the community.

The enthusiastic response showed growing appreciation for these often-misunderstood reptiles.

[Open Post](#)

Online Quiz

Discovering India's Mangroves



On International Mangrove Conservation Day, we launched an exciting quiz to celebrate the vital role of mangroves.

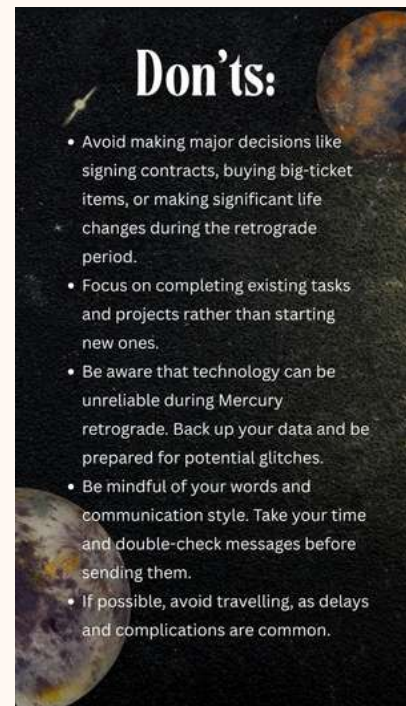
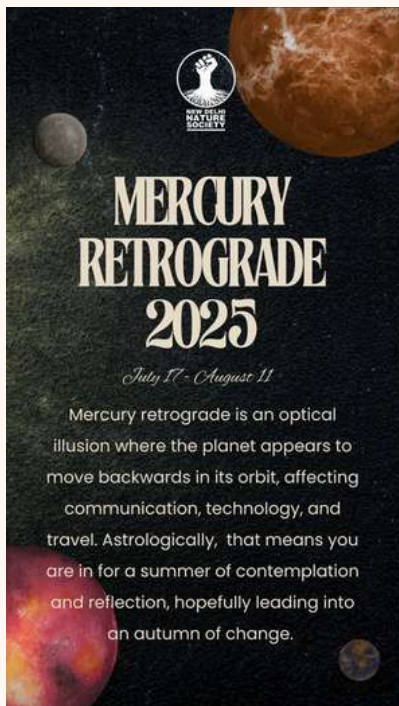
This engaging activity invited participants to test their knowledge about these essential coastal ecosystems, its contributions to biodiversity, climate resilience, and community livelihoods.

Through fun and insightful questions, our quiz highlighted the importance of mangrove conservation and inspired action to protect them.

Missed it? You can still dive in and explore!

[Take the Quiz](#)

Mercury Retrograde 2025



Mercury Retrograde is back — the cosmic culprit often blamed for tech glitches, travel delays, and communication mix-ups.

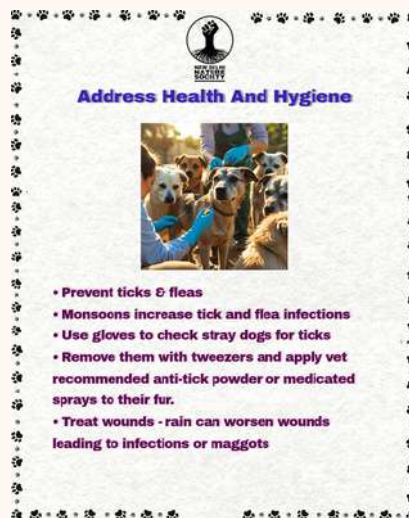
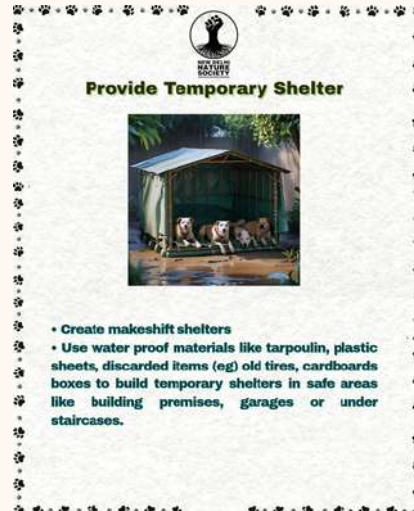
During this period, Mercury appears to move backward in its orbit, symbolically urging us to pause, reflect, and reassess.

Rather than fearing the chaos, it's a powerful time to revisit old plans, reconnect with people from the past, and tie up loose ends.

So if things feel a little off — don't panic. Breathe, double-check your plans, and ride the retrograde wave with a little extra patience (and maybe a backup charger).

Whether you're a believer or just curious, it's a great time to be mindful, patient, and open to revisiting what needs a second look.

Steps to Help Stray Dogs in Rainy Season



As the monsoon rains continue to fall, this post provides simple and actionable tips to help our stray dog friends thrive despite the wet weather.

We covered everything from building waterproof shelters using tarps or cardboard to providing dry food and clean water, addressing tick and flea issues, and promoting sterilization.

Every action counts when it comes to protecting these furry companions.

[Open Post](#)

Certificates of Appreciation



Honouring Green Heroes of the City

We proudly recognize residents whose beautiful homes contribute to a greener, healthier neighborhood.

Plants play a vital role in reducing pollution. They absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, filter harmful toxins from the air, and trap dust and smoke. Every plant adds to a cleaner, healthier environment.

These certificates celebrate individuals who grow the most flora, produce the most oxygen, and inspire others to make Delhi more breathable and beautiful.

Learnings from Bhagavad Gita



Nature Conservation Award



We are excited to celebrate Vijay Dhasmana and Anjali Gopalan as the recipients of the Nature Conservation Awards for their transformative work in preserving Delhi's natural heritage. Their diverse efforts are shaping a more sustainable future for our city.

Vijay Dhasmana, the "Master of Rewilding," works on restoring degraded landscapes into biodiversity havens, notably through his transformative work at the Aravalli Biodiversity Park, where he also inspires communities to value and flow with nature.

Anjali Gopalan, a devoted animal welfare activist, restores hope at her sanctuary, All Creatures Great and Small, caring for over 800 distressed animals and fostering community compassion for nature's creatures.

This award honors their inspiring leadership and tireless commitment to conservation.

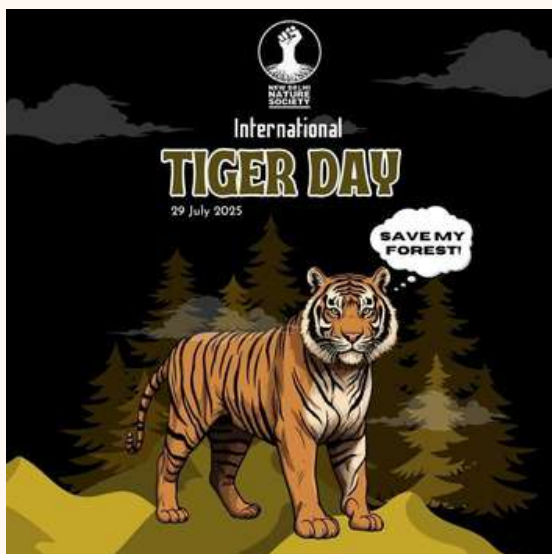
NDNS Office Visit By Law Students



Law students from Christ (Deemed to be University) visited the NDNS office to learn about local environmental issues, especially waste management.

They studied NDNS's legal cases to understand how environmental laws work in India and the challenges involved. The visit inspired the students to become environmentally aware lawyers, ready to make a difference

Tiger Day



On Tiger Day, we raise awareness about how the emphasis is on the increase in tiger populations over the past decade.

However, the reality is that tiger populations have declined by 91% since the 1900s due to hunting and neglect over a long period of time.

While conservation efforts are underway, it is important to remember the greatness of tigers and protect them.

The Karma of Tree Felling

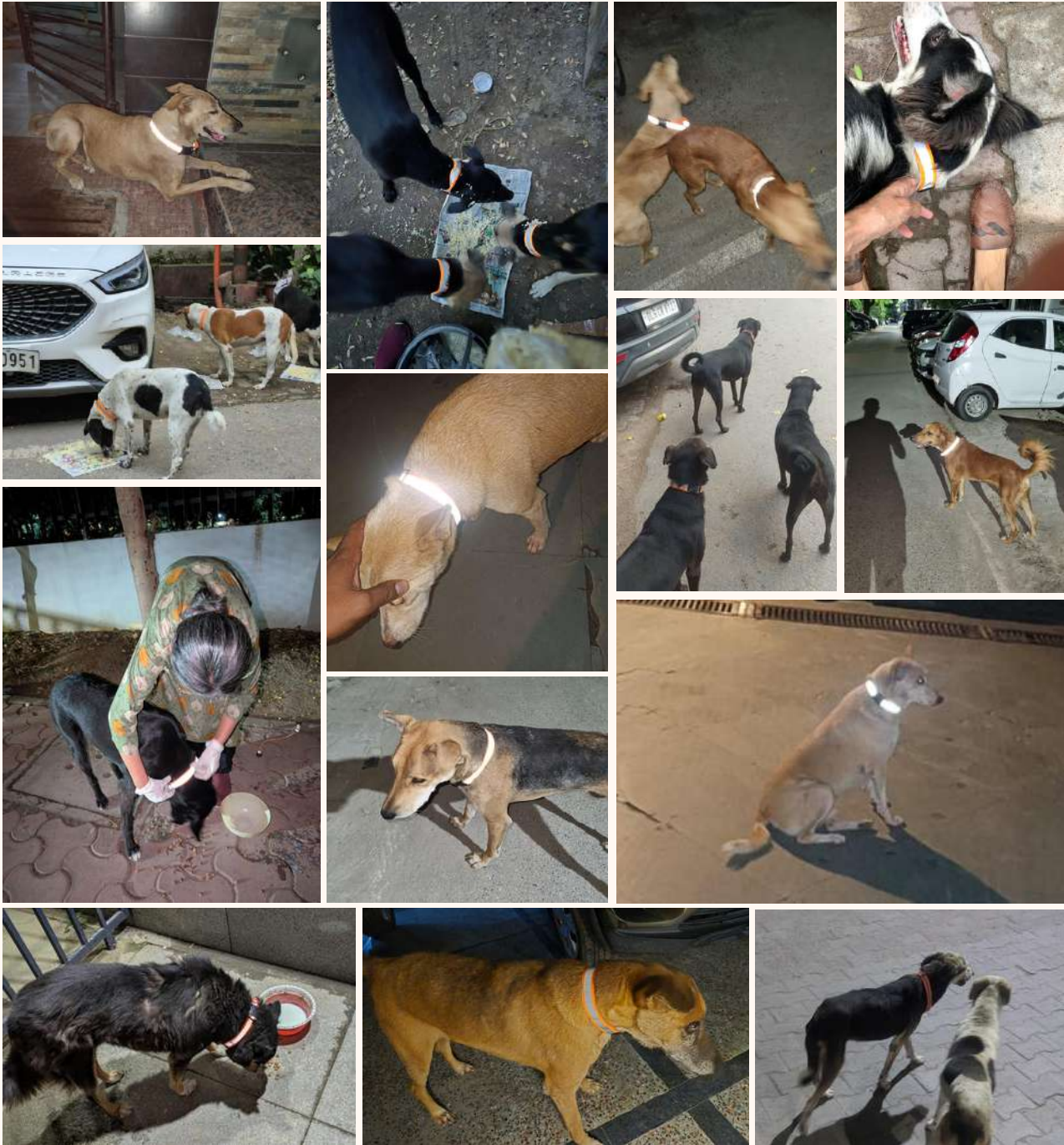


Trees are much more than what we can see on the outside. They bring harmony to our environment, not just helping but actually sustaining life. Unfortunately, some people cut down trees for their convenience without considering the consequences of disrupting such essential harmony.

In New Friends Colony, we observed a strange pattern: people who cut down trees faced unexpected hardships afterward. One person in the colony cut down a tree and later lost her mother within 30 days. After cutting down another tree, she also lost her husband within 30 days. What might happen if she does it again? Another resident even died after cutting down a tree.

This is not just superstition; it reflects karma and a respect for life. It's good news for tree lovers but troubling for those who fail to recognize the true significance of trees. Before deciding to cut one down, consider what will be lost and what you might miss, as nature will not tolerate any further destruction.

Reflective Dog Collar Distribution Drive



Our initiative to promote animal safety shone bright as we distributed 100 reflective dog collars to dog lovers, feeders, and anyone looking to keep dogs safe and visible at night.

The joy on the participants' faces while receiving these collars showcased the community's deep affection for their canine companions.

Help Trees & Animals



The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi in O.A. No. 62 of 2013 Aditya, N. Prasad & Ors. v Union of India & Ors., vide its Order dated 23.04.2013 directed:

"In the meanwhile, we direct all the public authorities, more particularly Municipal Corporation of Delhi, DDAs, DTC, DMRC, NHAI and all Government respondents in this petition including the Director General of CPWD, the Chief Engineer, PWD, to ensure that:

1. All the sign boards, names, advertisements, any kind of boards or signages, electric wires and high tension cables or otherwise are removed from the trees forthwith.
2. They shall also ensure that the concrete surrounding the trees within one metre of the trees are removed forthwith and all the trees are looked after well and due precaution is taken in future so that no concrete or construction or repaving work is done at least within one metre radius of the trunk of trees. The Vice-Chairperson, the Commissioner, the Chief Engineer, the Director General and all other senior most officers of the Departments/authorities concerned shall be personally responsible for carrying out this order.
3. The Departments/authorities concerned shall take all and every prohibitive measures to prevent the defoliation of the trees in any manner whatsoever, save only its trimming in accordance with law.
4. All the respondents whose boards are fixed on the trees shall be prosecuted by the respective authorities under in accordance with the relevant law."



Nails on trees



Wires on trees



Signboards on trees



Cementing within 1 meter of trees



Digging within 1 meter of trees

Green Helpline : 011-23378513

TREE CARE

1. Remove cement around the tree, soil space around the tree should not be less than 1 meter on all sides.
2. Remove nails, wires and signboards from trees.
3. In case of holes in the tree caused by nails, you can put wet soil in the injured parts of the tree.
4. Ensure no digging or construction is done within 1 meter of trees.
5. Give water to trees daily.
6. In the forest, trees shed their leaves on the soil floor, those leaves mix with the soil and turn into nutrition for the tree roots to absorb. But around the city streets, all the fallen leaves are swept away, so the trees are not receiving that important nutrition from the fallen leaves. This is why it is extremely important to put leaf compost around trees, to make the trees strong and healthy.
7. If you see a tree cut, or with nails, wires, signboards on it or if the tree is cemented within 1 meter, then please call the Green Helpline and report the issue with the exact location, then they will send you the complaint number by SMS for you to follow up.

HOW TO SAVE FALLEN TREES



HOW TO CONDUCT A TREE CENSUS :

1. Number on the Tree :
2. Common name of the tree :
3. Location of the tree :
4. Girth (in cms) :
5. Approximate height (in ft) :
6. Health of the tree :
(D-Dry, H-Healthy, I-Infected, L-Lopped, NI-Nails, Ch-Tree guard chocking)
7. Width of open soil around the tree :
(A- Up to 1 ft, B- 1 to 2 ft, C- 2 ftft, D-4ft, E- Over 5ft)
8. Ground condition, outside the open soil :
(S- loose soil, C- cemented, M-metalized, T-filled)
9. Remarks :

Download the form :



We're offering free reflective collars for street animals and tree care brochures to spread awareness and safety.

You can collect them from the NDNS headquarters, so simply contact us at newdelhinaturesociety@gmail.com

Let's work together to protect our animals and nurture our trees.

[Email us](#)

Planned Events

Fireflies Workshop



Join us at our fireflies workshop and immerse yourself in their beautiful glowing world.

If you're planning to start the month with something memorable, we've got you covered!

The event will take place on August 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10, near Green Park.

This experience is suitable for people of all ages, so hurry and register now!

[Book Your Spot](#)

Planned Events

Plantation Drive



Get ready to grow a greener future.

Join the plantation drive happening every weekend in August.

Let's make the most of the monsoon season and grow as many trees as we can.

Bring your energy — we've got the saplings ready!

Book your spot now and be part of the change.

[Book Your Spot](#)

Important Articles

Delhiwale

EXPERIENCE YOUR CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE



Mayank
Austen Soofi



Kautilya's gentle giant

Surveying the city's noteworthy trees

**{ PUBLIC
INTEREST }**

Consider this banyan. The tree's massive trunk looks like as if hundreds of separate snake-shaped trunks have fused into one another. These are, actually, the tree's aerial roots. Also known as prop roots, they grow out from the tree's branches, going downwards. This particular tree has to be among the Delhi region's most extraordinary banyans.

To be sure, the megapolis is full of dense ridges and forests, not all of which are easily accessible to citizens. Those unexplored spaces might be harbouring even greater banyans. That said, this banyan is extraordinary in its scope and beauty, and reaching it is easy. The tree stands by the roadside, on Kautilya Marg, beside Jammu & Kashmir House. Its stately view triggers shock and awe. The branches are super-long, extending over a good length of the adjacent pave. The same branches are also super-wide, spreading out over the busy road, forming a kind of bowery upon the non-stop traffic. Topping it all, the tree is so dense with leathery leaves that it must be hard for the sunshine to penetrate. This afternoon though, the monsoon sky is overcast with black clouds.

That the tree is truly a chosen one is ascertained

by the presence of a little park dedicated to it. The otherwise straight pavement discreetly bifurcates, the minor branch turning into a sideward track, which goes slanting towards the tree. A cement platform is built around the banyan. The ground underneath is currently covered with hundreds of thousands of fallen leaves, withered and brown. This sea of dead leaves is partly littered over with the souvenirs of our stubbornly persistent civic indiscipline: tobacco sachets, aloo-chip packs, pink plastics, paper cups, torn receipts, plus a bicycle tyre's flattened rubber tread, a half-eaten double roti, an empty Dettol bottle, etc. A hand-mirror is lying atop the brown leaves, its cracked surface reflecting the green leaves overhead.

The entire area, in fact, is full of gracious trees. Another remarkable banyan stands in nearby Malcha Marg Market. A few more places in the city to spot noteworthy banyans include a stretch along the Teen Murti Marg, a spot near Kalkaji Temple, and a tiraha near St Stephen's College. At the Gurugram railway station, the platform no. 2 has a banyan so huge that more than a dozen folks would have to hold hands to make a circle around its trunk.

Suddenly, a light falling sound is heard, here in Kautilya Marg. It is the rain. The rainwater is finding it unable to crack through the banyan's solid foliage. This is being a perfect shelter, so far.



READ:
For more
stories by
Mayank
Austen
Soofi,
scan the
QR code

Important Articles

[E. COLI IN WATER] NGT INFORMED

'83% samples in Janakpuri contaminated'

Jasjeev Gandhiok

litten@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Five out of six water samples lifted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) from Janakpuri's A block, west Delhi, were found contaminated with Total Coliform and E. Coli, the pollution body has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The latest report by CPCB indicating that sewage is still impacting drinking water comes despite the tribunal's strict direction to the Delhi Jal Board to address the issue, which was first flagged in February. In a plea, local residents alleged that drinking water was being contaminated with sewage, making it impossible to use.

Water samples lifted by CPCB in May revealed that around 30%, or six out of 20 samples collected, had E. Coli and faecal coliform. NGT had then pulled up DJB for failing to provide clean water to residents and inaction for nearly three months, despite complaints.

In its order dated May 30, NGT had further directed the water utility agency to provide clean drinking water to residents through alternate sources until the issue was fully addressed. The tribunal had also ordered fresh sampling to be carried out on June 30 by CPCB at six specific households, the report for which was submitted on July 15.

In its latest report, CPCB said it collected water samples from

five houses on June 30, stating that residents from the sixth house did not allow water sampling. "Thus, samples were collected from another house in the same block."

"Total Coliform and E. Coli have been detected in 05 samples..." the report added. E. Coli ranged from 7.8 Most probable number/100 ml to 280,000 units per 100ml, it said.

The Drinking Water Standards of Bureau of Indian Standards - IS 10500:2012 prescribes that Total Coliform and E. Coli shall not be detected in 100ml of drinking water samples, according to CPCB.

Locals claim that they have to often buy drinking water bottles as supplied water remains contaminated for days.

"It starts to smell and you know the water is not fit for use. The water is so bad that it chokes filters of installed water purifiers. Bathing too becomes a challenge," said a local resident, on condition of anonymity, adding they were reliant on DJB's water tankers these days.

The DJB said it would respond to the submission in the NGT. Previously, it said it had carried out an examination of the area, which revealed water and sewer pipelines in and around A block were nearly 40 years old and had corroded. This, it said was the reason behind contamination and mixing, stating a long-term solution is to replace both the drinking water and sewer lines.

'WHEN I ARRIVE IN CITY, I START THINKING WHEN WILL I LEAVE'

Pollution levels in Delhi reducing life expectancy, says Gadkari

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, JULY 8

UNION MINISTER for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday that pollution levels in Delhi are reducing the life expectancy of the people of the Capital.

"Main Delhi mein do ya teen din rehna hun... jab aata hun toh sochta hun kab wahai se jana hai... Mein pehle ticket jane ka nikalta hun... Aap iss ko gambheerta se lo ki Delhi mein jo pradesh hai uss ke karan aam aadmi ka jeevan kam hota ja raha hai... (I stay in Delhi for two or three days only, and when I arrive, I start thinking about when will I leave. I book my return tickets first. You should take this issue seriously. The pollution in Delhi has led to a decrease in the life expectancy of common people)," he said while taking part in a plantation drive, 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0', at Faridabad-Noida International Airport Road in Gautam Buddha Nagar. Highlighting the alarming levels of pollution in Delhi, Gadkari said, "The oxygen level here is very high today, and once the airport (Noida International Airport) is built and more vehicles enter this area, the environment could further deteriorate."

"Safeguarding (the environment) is our responsibility. We

The Union minister acknowledged that at 40%, the transport sector is the largest contributor to pollution in country

are making aviation fuel and I have taken a vow that when the first flight takes off from here, I will be supplying aviation fuel," he added.

"When I first became minister, India was ranked 13th or 14th globally in the automobile sector. Today, we have overtaken Japan and hold the third position in the world and the automobile sector contributes to Rs 22 lakh crore to the economy," Gadkari said, adding that while this growth has provided employment to over 4.5 crore youths and generated substantial GST revenue, it also poses a serious environmental challenge.

Acknowledging that at 40%, the transport sector is the largest contributor to pollution in the country, he said: "We are number one in pollution too. Hence, our department is committed to mitigating it through plantation and transplantation efforts."

The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative -- a National Highways

Authority of India (NHAI) campaign -- aims to promote environmental consciousness by encouraging tree plantations in honour of one's mother. "Just as we respect our mothers, we must show the same reverence to Mother Earth. This programme has both cultural and moral significance," Gadkari said.

Speaking about NHAI's efforts to expand green cover, he said, "NHAI has taken several initiatives for green highways. We have also built a 20-km stretch of crash barrier using bamboo. Now, we do not need permission to fell bamboo... and by planting bamboo, NHAI will earn several crores."

He further said that about 80 lakh tonnes of waste from four Delhi landfills are used for highway construction. "We have reduced the height of the Ghazipur landfill by 7 m," he claimed.

Gadkari mentioned how Artificial Intelligence was leveraged for the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign. He noted that all plants under the campaign will be e-tagged to ensure the long-term care of the trees. "This will help us to ensure the proper development of a sapling. The world is changing rapidly. If we do not act now, we risk losing the natural life that exists in places like this (Noida). It is our job to protect it," he added.

Delhi Air Foulest Among Serial Offenders

Most Polluted Among 130 Non-Attainment Cities Despite 15% Improvement In PM10 Levels In 7 Yrs

Kushagra Dixit
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi remains the most polluted among the 130 non-attainment cities (those that have consistently failed to meet air quality standards) in the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), despite a 15% improvement in PM10 levels over seven years. The city also utilised only 22.5% of the funds released to combat air quality under NCAP and 15th Finance Commission.

The Union environment ministry provided this information while replying to questions asked by two members of the Lok Sabha. The ministry's reply said that the annual average PM10 level in Delhi had dropped from 241 micrograms per cubic metre

in 2017-18 to 203 micrograms per cubic metre in 2024-25. This is still the highest in the country, second only to Patna, which recorded 167 micrograms per cubic metre. The national standard for annual average PM10 concentration is 60 micrograms per cubic metre. PM10 pollutants the coarser aerosols that penetrate deep into the lungs and sources may vary from transport and dust to industrial emissions and burning.

The reply, however, dubbed the improvement "notable". In four of the major non-attainment cities, Delhi did better than Chennai (12% improvement), even if it had a PM10 concentration of a mere 58 units. "As per recent data, there has been notable improvement in PM10 levels in major Indian cities. Mumbai

WHAT ARE YOU SMOKING?



1 Delhi has seen a 15% reduction in PM10 between 2017-18 and 2024-25... Yet it remains the most polluted among 130 non-attainment cities that are part of NCAP

2 PM10 concentration in Delhi in 2024-25 was 203 micrograms per cubic metres... Down from 241 units in 2017-19

3 ₹ 62 crore sanctioned to Delhi under NCAP in 2019-20 Only ₹ 13.9 crore utilised till date

...Patna with PM10 concentration of 167 units was the second most polluted

has shown improvement in PM10 levels with a 44% reduction in 2024-25 compared with 2017-18, followed by Kolkata (37%) and Delhi (15%)," stated the ministry reply.

The reply also stated that Rs 62 crore was sanctioned for action under NCAP and the 15th Finance Commission in 2019-20. Of this, just Rs 13.9 crore has been utilised to date.

The reply listed measures taken to control pollution in Delhi, including the use of cleaner fuel and formulation of Graded Response Action Plan. "To address vehicular emissions, govt has taken proactive measures such as the introduction of BSVI fuel norms for vehicles from April 1, 2018, in Delhi and from April 1, 2020, for the rest of the country; introduction of a vehicle scrapping policy and the promotion

of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure through various central schemes," the reply stated.

It added that the Commission for Air Quality Management also directed Delhi govt to migrate public transport services, especially buses in NCR, to cleaner modes and ordered other anti-pollution measures, like getting brick kilns to adopt zig-zag technology; banning pet coke and furnace oil as industrial fuel; use of piped natural gas for industries and installation of anti-smog guns and dust control measures in the city.

Launched in Jan 2019, NCAP aims to reduce PM10 concentrations by 30-30% by 2024, 2017 being the base year. It was later extended to 2026 with a revised target of a 40% reduction against the 2017 level.

Important Articles

Delhi 2nd most polluted city this yr, has breached annual safety norms already

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi, which ranked as India's second most polluted city with PM2.5 levels averaging 87 micrograms per cubic metre in the first half of 2025, crossed the WHO annual PM2.5 limit as early as Jan 10, and surpassed the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) by June 5.

Due to this, Delhi will remain in violation of both standards for the remainder of the year, regardless of subsequent pollution trends, says a new report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

The "overshoot day" is defined as a day when the average pollution levels preceding that

day are so high that even a 0.1 g/m³ daily concentration of the pollutant for the remaining days of the year would ensure non-compliance of the city to the prescribed annual standard or guideline. CREA, which analysed air quality across India for Jan to June, stated that by June, 259 out of 293 cities (over 88%) had already overshoot the WHO's annual PM2.5 standard, indicating that non-compliance is widespread and not limited to a few hotspots.

The analysis identifies Bynihat, on the Assam-Meghalaya border, as the most polluted city in the country during the first half of 2025, with an average PM2.5 concentration of

Delhi will remain in violation of both standards for the remainder of the year, regardless of pollution trends, says CREA's report

133 micrograms per cubic metre. Delhi ranked second as the most polluted city with PM2.5 levels at 87 micrograms per cubic metre. "Delhi air pollution is not just from vehicles or seasonal biomass burning, but also from year-round emissions across sectors. Yet, enforcement remains uneven. For example, despite Supreme Court directives, most thermal po-

wer plants near Delhi still lack Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) systems. As of mid-2025, only two of eleven plants within 300 km have operational FGDs. Such enforcement gaps undermine vehicle policy gains and leave major sources largely unchecked," said Manoj Kumar, analyst at CREA.

In terms of average PM2.5, most days in Delhi were in the moderate category (63), followed by the satisfactory category (52), poor category (31), very poor category (29), and both severe and good categories on three days each. Other cities in the top 10 most polluted list include Hajipur, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Sasaram, Patna, Talcher, Rourkela, and Rajgir.

{ VAN MAHOTSAV 2025 } CM INAUGURATES EVENT

'Working to change Delhi from a gas chamber to green Capital'

Aaditya Khatwani

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Chief minister Rekha Gupta inaugurated this year's Van Mahotsav event on Thursday at the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan. Gupta, accompanied by ministers Manjinder Singh Sirsa and Parvesh Verma, and BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj, also planted a sapling on the occasion.

The government plans to plant 700,000 saplings across Delhi, Gupta announced, adding that it is also developing Miyawaki forests across an area of 20 acres.

She exhorted Delhi citizens to work alongside the government to transform the city from a "gas chamber into a green capital".

"The festival symbolises our joint responsibility towards our mother Earth. It is a resolution through which we want to give the gift of life and greenery to the future generations," she said.



CM Rekha Gupta, MP Bansuri Swaraj, and ministers Manjinder Singh Sirsa and Parvesh Verma plant a sapling. SANCHIT KHANNA/HT

As part of the event, a two-day exhibition has also been organised at the Bharat Mandapam, in which over a hundred stalls showcasing different species of plants and eco-friendly products have been set up.

The Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary has set up a stall showcasing the biodiversity of

the Aravalli range. Under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0" campaign, all visitors of the exhibition will be given a free sapling by the Delhi government.

Delhi chief secretary Dharmendra also attended the inaugural event on Thursday, along with school students and other dignitaries.

Important Articles

BARAPULLAH FLYOVER PHASE 3 PROJECT

Got nod to fell trees, work will start soon, says PWD

DEVANSH MITTAL
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

THE LAST hurdle in the way of completion of the long-delayed Barapullah Phase 3 flyover has now been cleared with the Public Works Department (PWD) receiving permission from the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to fell 250 trees that are required for the project to progress, officials said on Wednesday.

"We have received in-prin-

ple approval for felling of trees from the CEC," said a senior PWD official.

"As the CEC has given permission to fell trees, work on the ground will start soon. The trees are located near the Humayun's Tomb stretch and near Mayur Vihar," the official added.

The CEC is a five-member committee formulated by the Supreme Court to monitor afforestation and tree-cutting permissions in big projects.

The project will be completed within six months after



At the Barapullah flyover

The Phase 3 project was approved in 2014 and launched in April 2015 with a target to complete work in 2017

the permission to fell the trees is granted. PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh had earlier said. Singh has also said that the government plans to operationalise the project by December.

The Barapullah Phase 3 project – a 3.5-km elevated corridor – envisages seamless connectivity between Mayur Vihar in East Delhi and AIIMS in South Delhi.

The new flyover, which will merge with the existing Barapullah flyover at Sarai Kale Khan, is also expected to significantly enhance east-west connectivity.

Once operational, the flyover is likely to ease traffic congestion at key choke points, such as Nizamuddin Bridge, Bhairon Marg, Ashram Chowk, and

Ring Road.

The Phase 3 project was approved in 2014 and launched in April 2015 with a target to complete work in 2017. The initial cost of the flyover was Rs 964 crore, but the sanctioned cost significantly increased over the years.

The project was delayed due to a range of issues – delays in land acquisition, the Covid-19 pandemic, seasonal floods, and pending forest department approval for the relocation of over 250 trees.

HC refuses to grant interim stay on felling in DLF project

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 4

Just about a fortnight after the Punjab and Haryana High Court took suo motu notice of *The Tribune* report alleging felling of 2,000 trees across 40 acres, reportedly to make way for a real estate project, a Division Bench today did not grant stay in the matter. "There is no question of any stay. We will take it up next week," the court asserted.

The Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry said it was prima facie clear on record that DLF had "legitimate" permission. "Now, if you insist, I can reject your interim prayer," the Chief Justice said.

The Bench, at the same time, directed DLF to place before the court the licence granted for developing the project. "... this court is of the considered view that the relevant licence granted in the favour of respondent-DLF by Haryana Town and Country Planning sometime in 1995-96 is required to be produced. Therefore, DLF is directed to produce the licences for the area in question

'PRODUCE RELEVANT LICENCES'

This court is of the considered view that the relevant licence granted in the favour of respondent-DLF by Haryana Town and Country Planning sometime in 1995-96 is required to be produced. Therefore, DLF is directed to produce the licences for the area in question in regard to which the permission for felling of trees has been granted. – HC Bench

'IT'S DAVID VS GOLIATH'

They have already cleared off 50 acres, and now, hardly 40 acres is left. You need to give an ad-interim stay.... It's a fight between a David and a Goliath. You have to take consideration to the fact that they are very powerful people and in nexus they are more powerful.

– Amita Singh, ADVOCATE

in regard to which the permission for felling of trees has been granted," it said.

The Bench said the forest department had given respondent-DLF permissions. "Now, either you challenge those permissions, which appear to be prima facie lawful... If you get a favourable order from the higher court, well and good, otherwise (you have to see) the next remedy against permission to fell trees. There must be an appeal or something."

A counsel appearing for one

of the applicants seeking intervention submitted earlier during the course of hearing that a "designated place" on the government land in the area earmarked for a school had been converted into a stockyard for the builder for keeping construction material.

Seeking ad-interim stay, retired professor-cum-advocate Amita Singh claimed 40,000 trees had been removed. "They have already cleared off 50 acres and now hardly 40 acres is left. You need

to give an ad-interim stay. Kindly appoint an amicus and a local commissioner so that we proceed little more legitimately. It's a fight between a David and a Goliath. You have to take consideration to the fact that they are very powerful people and in nexus they are more powerful."

Another applicant Lt Col Sarvadamani Singh Oberoi also raised certain issues while seeking appointment of an amicus curiae.

In its reply, the forest department said the permission granted was conditional and not absolute. "Permission has been granted for felling of 2,788 trees, of which 1,623 are of 'prosopis juliflora' or kikar trees. Further, the concerned applicant (DLF) has been asked to transplant 79 trees after taking into consideration their species, age, other factors, which primarily includes peepal and 'bargad' trees," the report added. Referring to "commensurate afforestation", it said the applicant had been directed to plant 10 times the number of trees to be felled. The case will next come up on July 10.

Important Articles

HOUSING PROJECT IN MORPHOLOGICAL RIDGE

Fake permission issued in Forest dept's name to fell trees, SC told

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, JULY 18

THE DELHI Forest department has told the Supreme Court that "fake permission" was issued in the name of the office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests or the Tree Officer (West Division) to fell trees in a "morphological ridge" land – an ecologically sensitive zone – in Vasant Kunj for a housing project.

This came to light in a July 10 counter affidavit filed before the SC by the Department of Forests and Wildlife's Deputy Conservator of Forests/Tree Officer (West Division) in response to a plea seeking contempt of court proceedings against it for felling trees and levelling a piece of land in Vasant Kunj for the project.

The plea filed by environmental activist Bhavreen Kandhari, through advocate Manan Verma, contended that said land is a morphological ridge, which is protected by the SC's May 9, 1996 order, and as such would require the court's prior permission before any diversion can be made.

"That to the best of the petitioner's knowledge, no permission has been sought from this hon'ble court before undertaking the said contemptuous activities. It is also evident that the officials of the Forest department, GNCTD, and the Ridge Management Board took no action to prevent the said activity or stop the same," the plea said.

Responding to this, the counter affidavit filed by the Tree Officer (West Division) said the land on

which the alleged construction activities were being carried out falls in the South Forest Division. "It is pertinent to mention that it had come to attention... that a fake permission was issued for tree felling in the name of the office of Deputy Conservator of Forests/Tree Officer West Forest Division, which was found issued to the owner of the plot..." it added.

It further said that the West Division official "had written to the Vasant Kunj police station SHO to take cognizance of the issue and register an FIR under Section 173 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sahinta". The affidavit added that a reply was received on February 17 from the SHO, "through Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI)... that the alleged forged permission is illegible".

The affidavit added, "...it is also informed by the ASI that the location cannot be found."

During questioning, the plot owner "refused the allegation regarding forged permission for felling/damaging of trees", the department said.

"The ASI has requested the original copy of the forged permission to process the matter further; otherwise, the complaint shall be closed," it added.

"It is pertinent to mention that in response to the report of the ASI, a letter has been issued to the SHO... on 13.03.2025... stating that the earlier provided copy of the forged permission/documents is the only copy which is available in this office," the department said.

The court will hear the matter next on July 21.

Inclusions and exclusions in India's forest governance

Thirty years ago, when a landlord approached the Supreme Court decrying deforestation in the Nilgiris Hills, little did he know that his petition would deeply entrench the role of judiciary in forest governance. Since then, the Court has delivered orders and judgments in the continuing case of *TN Godavari Thirumulpad v. Union of India* and has shaped India's forest policy. Responding to interlocutory applications, the Court has made decisions with respect to timber trade, operation of saw mills and the functioning of national parks. It also created the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to monitor the implementation of forest-related orders, and decided the price of forests and rules for compensatory afforestation. *Godavari* orders have expanded the role of the State, especially the Centre, in forest conservation.

However, forest-dwelling people are equally important stakeholders. Their land rights and participation in decision-making on forest management are key to successful conservation. It is in this context that two recent judgments of the apex court in the *Godavari* case (In *Re: Aman Singh*, December 18, 2024; and In *Re: Zudpi Jungle Lands*, May 22, 2025) offer compelling insights into the evolving direction of forest governance. In both cases, the Court considered the question of protecting landscapes that are not usually imagined as forests – grasslands known as Orans in Rajasthan and uncultivated grazing and scrub lands in Vidarbha, Maharashtra known as Zudpi lands. Orans, historically protected by agro-pastoral communities, are now threatened by renewable energy projects in the Thar desert. In the case of

Zudpi lands, whether they are a forest at all has been a matter of conflict between the state of Maharashtra and the Centre for several decades.

The question of what is a forest has been inextricably linked to the question of who owns and who should govern forests. The colonial State saw vast uncultivated landscapes as a source of valuable timber and reserved them as State-owned forests in the 19th century. However, their imagination of forests as tree-covered land ignored the complex mosaic of ecosystems that existed, from grasslands and shrublands to savanna and deserts. We call this an arboreal imaginary as the colonial forest department favoured commercially valuable trees like teak, pine and sal over shrubs and grasses. They and their postcolonial successors forced a binary between forest and non-forest land and prioritised legal ownership over complex histories of informal, customary uses of the forest.

The Supreme Court's first *Godavari* order (1996) extended protection under the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) 1980 to all areas that adhered to the dictionary meaning of forests and "any area recorded as forest in the government record irrespective of ownership". Thus, *Godavari* continued with the idea that only an agglomeration of trees made a forest and neglected other terrestrial ecosystems. Such landscapes, known as Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs), are critically important and harbour several endangered spe-

cies. ONEs are often recorded as wastelands or village commons in public records and are easily diverted for industrial and infrastructure projects. The narratives of degradation and deforestation that underpinned the *Godavari* judgment also privileged the view of forests as stable end points of ecological succession that are always negatively affected by human activities. Within ecological science however, this view has been challenged. Forests are seen not as pristine nature but as dynamic ecosystems that respond to both natural and human-induced disturbances. From the Terai grasslands to the dry deciduous forests in central India and the evergreen forests of the Eastern

Himalayas, the ecosystem structure and function of forests have been shaped by centuries of human use including fire, livestock grazing, and shifting cultivation.

Godavari legitimised the role of the Centre as the pre-eminent institutional agent of forest conservation through the FCA. After 1996, any landscape covered by the dictionary definition of forest is protected by the FCA and the Centre's approval is required for its diversion for non-forest purposes. This centralising tendency in forest governance runs opposite to community-based models of conservation and national legislations such as Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA) that recognise the habitation and livelihood rights of forest dwellers.

The Supreme Court has now expanded the definition of forests beyond the original *Godavari* view. It has extended the applicability of FCA to Orans and Zudpi lands. Telling the Rajasthan government that all Orans must be classified as forests, the Court approved the recommendation of the CEC viz. "In Rajasthan, large arid areas with sparse vegetation, grasslands and unique desert ecosystems,

including rocky outcrops and stony deserts, should be considered as 'forestland'". For the Court, the way forward seems to be that ONEs and other terrestrial ecosystems should be classified as forests and brought under the ambit of FCA. While seeing the forests beyond the arboreal imaginary is welcome, is FCA the most appropriate way of extending statutory protections to ONEs? Especially, when, from 2008 to 2023, the Centre allowed the diversion of 300,000 hectares of forests to build highways, large dams and mines. In the case of Orans, despite noting the local community's role in their conservation over centuries, the court does not seem to favour community ownership and governance. Although it recommends that they may be declared as community reserves under the Wildlife Protection Act, the emphasis of final directions is on statutory protection under FCA. In the case of Zudpi lands, the court has directed they should be handed over to the forest department and be used for compensatory afforestation, seeing them as degraded forests to be reforested under State control.

This perpetuates the arboreal imaginary and excludes community-based conservation of ONEs. Unfortunately, the court did not acknowledge the dependence of tribal communities on Zudpi lands and their protests against the classification of these lands as State-owned forests. In both the judgments, the court did not invoke FRA to promote community-based conservation. This goes against overwhelming research that local communities have a greater stake in ONEs and have frequently performed better than State in conservation of forests. It is time to recognise and prioritise the social, cultural and ecological forest over the legal forest.

Budhaditya Das is assistant professor, and Nikita Samarnath is doctoral candidate, School of Human Ecology, Dr. BR Ambedkar University, Delhi. The views expressed are personal.



Budhaditya Das



Nikita Samarnath

Important Articles

Give timeline for southern ridge notification, says NGT

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THE BENCH SAYS
On the perusal of the affidavit by the DCF, we find that no timeline for issuing the final notification under Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act has been disclosed

New Delhi: National Green Tribunal has directed Delhi govt to provide a timeline for the notification of the southern ridge under Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act within two weeks.

Despite NGT passing an order for notifying the southern ridge as a reserve forest in 2021, only a small portion has been notified so far.

Based on a plea filed by activist Sonya Ghosh, the tribunal, in an order dated Jan 15, 2021, directed Delhi govt through the chief secretary to ensure the Section 20 notification within three months. However, Ghosh filed an executive application in 2024, seeking compliance with the NGT's 2021 order.

TOI has reported earlier that the southern ridge was notified under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act in 1994. For full legal protection, the Section 20 notification should be followed by notification under Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act after demarcation and settling of land rights. The final notification under Section 20 is pending even after 31 years.

The oversight committee, which was constituted to address encroachment and notify ridges under Section 20, proposed to notify the southern ridge, spread over 6,200 hectares, in three phases.

Referring to the minutes of the 16th meeting of the

Oversight Committee dated Dec 24, 2024, the amicus told the NGT in the hearing held on July 4 that at that stage, Phase-I was found to be free from encroachment, and no pending litigation before the court was found. "It was also noted that Phase-I approximately constituted 3,630.04 hectares and 58.4% of the southern ridge, and in respect of two villages, final notifications under Section 20 were issued. In respect of the area of 3,526.98 hectares in 13 villages, the notification was proposed. He said that after that meeting, sufficient time has passed, and the final notification in respect of the area of the ridge falling in Phase-I has not been issued," observed the tribunal.

The amicus further told NGT that even on March 23, 2021, in the minutes of the second meeting of the oversight committee, the status of the draft notification of Phase-I, covering the area of 3,934.26 hectares, was noted.

"Referring to the latest affidavit of the deputy conservator of forests (protection & monitoring), dated June 18, he has submitted that again a decision has been taken in the me-

eting to do the ground verification exercise of Phase-I to ascertain if the area falling in Phase-I is encumbrance-free. He submitted that this is the fourth such ground verification exercise, whereas Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act does not refer to encroachment at the stage of notification under Section 20," NGT said.

The tribunal observed that the amicus' submission is that the matter is being unnecessarily delayed by the respondents, and though substantial time has lapsed, the notification even in respect of Phase-I has not been issued.

"On the perusal of the affidavit by the DCF, we find that no timeline for issuing the final notification under Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act has been disclosed," said the bench headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava. It granted two weeks to Delhi govt to file an affidavit disclosing the timeline for issuing the notification under Section 20 and also for disclosing the need for identification/verification of encroachment for issuing the final notification under Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act. The matter will be heard on July 25.

In key step before it can be notified as reserve forest, ground verification sought of 3,200 hectares of land in Southern Ridge

SOPHIYA MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

THE DELHI Forest department has written to the district authorities seeking a ground verification of over 3,200 hectares of land in the Southern Ridge — a key step before notifying it as a reserve forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

In a compliance affidavit uploaded to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) website on Monday, the Forest department stated that it had submitted a revised draft notification for 3,287,076 hectares — spread

across 12 villages including Asola, Bhatti, Dera Mandi, Jaunapur, and Tughlakabad — for government approval on April 3.

A high-level meeting was chaired by Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena and attended by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, and senior officials on May 23. In the meeting, it was decided that the Forest department, along with the Revenue department, would carry out a ground verification "to reconfirm" that the land in Phase I is free of encroachments and under the clear possession of the

Forest department.

On June 17, the Forest department wrote to the District Magistrates of South-East and New Delhi, requesting them to undertake the verification exercise "on an immediate basis," according to the affidavit filed by Deputy Conservator of Forests (Protection & Monitoring) Ankit Kumar.

The affidavit was filed in a matter ongoing since 2013, when petitioner Sonya Ghosh sought legal protection for the Ridge.

The NGT in January 2021 directed the Chief Secretary of the GNCTD "to ensure that requisite

notification... is issued within three months in respect of the area about which there is no controversy".

The tribunal had noted that there is an "urgent need to take necessary steps to protect the Ridge." This, it said, would be enabled "by taking necessary steps to finalise the notification under Section 20 of the Forest Act for reserved forest and protection by appropriate measures". "The land about which there is clarity can be included in such notification, and the remaining process can be undergone separately but expeditiously," it said. It underlined that

no non-forest activity is permissible in the Ridge area.

However, due to the pendency even after four years, the NGT in April this year noted that "more than four years have passed" since its earlier directions to notify the Ridge's undisputed, unencroached portions under Section 20. The tribunal asked for the current status and a timeline for issuing the final notification.

Once completed, the notification will grant legal 'Reserve Forest' status to the Southern Ridge Phase I, shielding it from development and encroachment activities.

Important Articles

NGT raps DPCC on green fund spend: 'How does an ad help the environment?'

Rs 130.53 cr collected in 10 years, Rs 8.2 cr spent on ads in 24-25

SOPHIYAMATHEW
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

EVEN AS the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) collected around Rs 130.53 crore as the Environment Compensation (EC) fund between April 2015 and June 30 this year, the regulatory body has spent only Rs 59.39 crore so far. While there was no expenditure on air pollution monitoring in 2024-25, a total amount of Rs 8.2 crore was spent on "advertising and printing" during the period.

"How is an advertisement helpful for the environment?" the National Green Tribunal (NGT) asked the DPCC Thursday as it analysed the submissions and rapped the regulatory authority over its spending pattern. Drawing an analogy, the bench constituted by Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and Dr Alroz Ahmad made another sharp remark as it said the expenditure on ads is like "giving Louis Vuitton vouchers to a starving person" — a reference to cosmetic and misdirected use of funds while the core problem persists.

Invoking the principle of inter-generational equity, the bench said the misuse of EC funds undermines long-term ecological justice.

According to the data submitted by the DPCC in the green court, it registered a steep rise in expenditure under the category — "honorary or technical consultants" (Rs 5.7 crore) in 2024-25, a jump from Rs 0.2 crore in the previous year.

Last year, DPCC had spent Rs 15.09 lakh on air pollution monitoring and Rs 3.6 crore on "advertising and printing".

In a marked exception, while no expenditure was incurred for the rejuvenation of water bodies from 2015 to 2023-24, the year 2024-25 saw a spending of Rs 19.62 crore — the highest in all categories.

Other areas where EC funds, collected from violators of environmental laws, are generally used are research and study projects, procurement of instruments for labs, installing recycling units in government schools, and setting up noise monitoring stations, among others.

The green court was hearing a plea filed in 2022 on air pollution caused by a hot mix plant in West Delhi's Najafgarh, and had asked the DPCC to provide details of the EC funds. The NGT also sought the details of the SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for the utilisation of such funds in a December 2023 order.

While DPCC submitted a SOP on June 3 for timely EC recovery and utilisation, the Tribunal, remaining unconvinced, noted a serious gap between policy and implementation.

Even as the DPCC counsel cited awareness under Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guidelines as justification on Thursday, the Tribunal appeared dissatisfied and countered that "the purpose of EC is twofold: to deter potential violators... and to remediate actual environmental damage" — neither of which is achieved through disproportionate spending on publicity.

The NGT said the pattern emerging in multiple cases showed the EC is often not realised or, even when collected, remains unutilised for extended periods, causing irreversible environmental damage.

The NGT has asked its Registry "to list all pending cases involving EC fund utilisation" before the bench before the next hearing in August.

Meanwhile, the DPCC stated in its submission that it issued the SOP "to streamline the procedure for imposition or recovery, or realisation of EC".

Counsel for the DPCC and Secretary, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) will have to furnish responses too.

Walkers to decide if Nehru Park should get air purifiers; activists aren't so sure

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New Delhi: Delhi Pollution Control Committee is conducting a three-day on-site survey to gather feedback from morning and evening walkers on the installation of air purifiers at Nehru Park, Delhi environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said.

The minister said the final decision about installation will be based on the analysis of public response. Sirsa earlier announced plans to set up 100 outdoor air purifiers at Nehru Park, where breathable air is available to people the entire year, especially during the peak winter season.

The survey, which began on Sunday, will continue till Tuesday after which the feedback of walkers and joggers will be analysed. "The initiative of installing air purifiers is designed for the people, especially for walkers. Hence, their feedback is crucial in this exercise," said Sirsa. He said if the public disapproves of the idea, they may consider alternative spaces. "We are also exploring busy markets. The plan is to create clean spaces where the air quality is within permissible limits throughout the year, especially during winter months when pollution is high," said Sirsa.



DPCC is conducting a three-day on-site survey

The DPCC has set up a kiosk at Nehru Park, asking the public to fill out a form with a question: "Would you like to have an air purifier in your park?" The question includes four responses: "Yes, any day"; "Yes, when low maintenance and low cost"; "No"; and "Only want trees."

However, experts and some walkers opposed the plan. They said the focus should be on eliminating regional and local sources of pollution. Sunil Dahiya, founder and lead analyst at think tank Enviro-Catalysts, said: "While the use of air purifiers at sensitive locations in closed envi-

ronments such as hospitals can be recommended, using purifiers in open environments is not the scientific approach to reducing air pollution."

Green activist Bhavneet Kandhari said Delhi's plan to install 100 outdoor air purifiers in Nehru Park is a troubling repeat of past policy failures. "The Rs 25 crore among towers at Connaught Place and Anand Vihar were deemed ineffective. DPCC confirmed they reduced PM2.5 levels by just 12% within a limited 300m radius, while costing Rs 15 lakh per month to operate. Scaling such techno-

logy across the city would cost over Rs 11 lakh crore, a huge misuse of public funds. Worse, this project is being tried in Nehru Park, one of the city's few green lungs, where air quality is already better than surrounding zones. This reflects a fundamental policy disconnect," said Kandhari.

She added that what Delhi needs is tough enforcement against pollution sources, not cosmetic fixes in isolated green spaces. "Citizens don't need more purifiers in parks. We need clearer air across the city," she said.

Scuffing at the idea of air purifiers being planned for an open place like Nehru Park, a regular walker said, "Forget big air purifiers, water purifiers at Nehru and Lodhi Gardens don't work very often. If anything, only more trees should be planted, whenever possible, across polluted urban areas... So, maybe, only big ticket spending ideas catch the fancy of the powers that be."

Sirsa had earlier said that the air purifiers can be installed in a small area of just two square feet. Each unit will consume nearly 1,500 electricity units in a month for 24x7 operation. He added that if the technology is feasible, govt will try bringing a private player and get the purifiers installed.

{ DDA PILOT PROJECT } HAUZ KHAS

Drone survey to map 4 green spaces

Snehil Sinha

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is set to launch a pilot project to carry out a drone-based photogrammetry survey of four prominent green areas in Hauz Khas area of south Delhi, with one of the aims being preventing encroachment of ecologically significant spaces, officials said.

DDA owns and maintains most of the green areas and parks in Delhi. Officials said the move is part of a broader strat-

egy to digitise and document Delhi's green zones, and initiative will enhance monitoring and ensure clear demarcation.

"This is a pilot project that we are trying to adopt to ensure that we have 3D images of the green areas under DDA. These surveys will help us maintain updated records of green cover, map land usage, and establish boundaries to guard against any unauthorised occupation or misuse. Records of many of these areas have been lost over the years due to persistent encroachment," said a DDA official.

The four sites include the District Park opposite RK Puram, Rose Garden, MP Green Area, and the Picnic Hut zone in Hauz Khas. The agency selected for the project will have to deploy advanced drones and Differential Global Positioning Systems (DGPS) to conduct high-resolution surveys, the official said.

Officials said photogrammetry is a technique that uses photographs for surveying and mapping. It helps in obtaining information by recording, interpreting, and measuring images and turning them into 3D

images. The selected agency will be responsible for conducting aerial surveys, generating geo-referenced orthophotos, creating digital terrain models and integrating the data with GIS platforms, officials added.

Based on its success, the initiative could be extended to other green areas across Delhi, forming a standardised model for urban ecological monitoring.

Delhi has over 16,000 acres of green area under DDA. This includes 729 public parks, biodiversity parks and Yamuna floodplains.

Important Articles

45 birds dead, 28 injured as Thane hsg soc trims trees

Manoj Radgeri
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Thane: Around 45 sub-adult and juvenile birds—mostly pond herons and egrets—were found dead, and around 28 others, including a raven, were rescued with injuries after falling from their nests during a reckless tree-trimming operation at Ruti Enclave Society in Anand Nagar, Ghodbunder Road, Thane. The trimming was done without relocating the birds or their nests. Civic and forest authorities have launched separate investigations and were preparing to file charges.

The incident came to light Thursday afternoon after a concerned resident and animal lover alerted Mypalclub Foundation, an animal welfare NGO. Volunteers rushed to the scene and found dead and injured birds, shattered nests, and scattered eggs. Some birds were found in a decomposed condition, indicating they may have died a day earlier. Shockingly, some bird carcasses were found stuffed into sacks allegedly by the society contractor workers, while others—injured and alive—were dumped into a nearby gutter.

Forest officials and rescue teams said the death toll may rise, as several birds are believed to be trapped after the rescue operations were stopped late Thursday evening.

Aditi Nair from Mypal-



Dense greenery in the compound served as a nesting ground for birds

club Foundation said. "Most of the fledglings were too young to fly. They crashed from nests high above or were crushed by falling branches. We managed to rescue 24 live birds, many of them in critical condition, suffering fractures, open wounds, and shock." Roshan, a rescue worker, said many dead birds had internal injuries and smashed skulls. A detailed autopsy could reveal the species and

age of the birds.

Rohit Mohite of NGO Wildlife Welfare Association said their rescuers had recovered 45 dead and 28 injured birds from the society premises and drains. The toll could increase, he hinted, as large amounts of branches remained uncleared.

A resident said the compound's dense green cover had long served as a nesting ground for various bird species.

Rare Great Hornbill sighting in Ezhimala sparks renewed calls for biodiversity conservation

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

In a rare and remarkable sighting, the Malamuzhakki Vezhambal (Great Hornbill), Kerala's State bird, was spotted in the coastal belt of Kakkampara, near Ezhimala, in Kannur, an area far from its usual forested habitats.

The bird was first observed perched on a fig-laden *Ficus exasperata* tree on May 24 and later it flew towards the Ezhimala Naval Academy's campus.

Birdwatchers Manoj Karingamathil, P. Jameela and Abhinav Jeevan, a student of the Forestry Department in Sir Syed College, Taliparamba, confirmed the sighting and



Piqued interest: The Malamuzhakki Vezhambal (Great Hornbill) seen near Ezhimala in Kannur recently. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

said the bird spotted was a male.

The hornbill remained in the area for about two weeks, foraging from fruit-bearing trees and occasionally flying to neighbouring regions, said Mr.

Manoj, adding that the bird was first noticed by Abhinav's relatives, who without knowing the rarity of the bird sighting, used its photos for WhatsApp status update.

Typically found in Kera-

la's evergreen and moist deciduous forests such as the Silent Valley, Nelliampathy, Athirappilly, Aralam and Parambikulam, the hornbill is rarely seen in coastal areas, Mr. Manoj said, adding that its unexpected presence is hailed as an ecological indicator.

There were very few reports of the birds being sighted near forest regions of the Aralam and Karimbam farms. However, there is no public documentation, Mr. Manoj said.

Ramanthali grama panchayat president V. Shyma said the sighting is significant proof that the region remains a biodiversity hotspot despite human habitation.

"This reflects the eco-

logical richness of the area," she said.

Sneha Subhash, head of the Department of Forestry, Sir Syed College, emphasised the need for further studies on the Great Hornbill's movement to coastal hills. "Such occurrences near the sea are unusual and point to the broader ecological value of the region," she said.

Listed as Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and protected under Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, the Great Hornbill's appearance in Ezhimala has sparked both excitement and renewed calls for conservation efforts in the areas.

Media Coverage**दैनिक जागरण**

‘एक पेड़ मां के नाम’ मुहिम के तहत बदरपुर में रोपे गए पौधे



बदरपुर के परशुराम पार्क में सेमल का पौधा रोपती भाजपा दक्षिणी दिल्ली जिलाध्यक्ष माया सिंह बिष्ट, साथ में अन्य पदाधिकारी • सौ. जिह्वा भाजपा

जासं, दक्षिणी दिल्ली: मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता के आह्वान पर ‘एक पेड़ मां के नाम’ मुहिम से दिल्लीवासी जुड़ रहे हैं। इस कड़ी में भाजपा पूर्वोच्चल मोर्चा पौधारोपण कर लोगों को प्रेरित करने के लिए इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म पर जागरूक भी कर रही है। ओबीसी मोर्चा की ओर से सोमवार को बदरपुर विधानसभा के परशुराम पार्क में भाजपा दक्षिणी दिल्ली की जिलाध्यक्ष माया सिंह बिष्ट, ओबीसी मोर्चा के प्रदेश महामंत्री राम खिलाड़ी यादव, मोर्चा के वरिष्ठ प्रदेश मंत्री एस राहुल व ओबीसी मोर्चा के जिला अध्यक्ष पुष्पेंद्र सिंह राठी ने आम, अमरुद, सहजन, नीम, अशोक, पीपल आदि के पौधे लगाए गए।

युवाओं ने जैव विविधता पार्क में किया पौधारोपण

जासं, दक्षिणी दिल्ली: न्यू दिल्ली नेचर सोसायटी की ओर से तुगलकाबाद स्थित जैव विविधता पार्क में रविवार को पौधारोपण अभियान चलाया गया। इसके तहत युवाओं ने मिलकर दो सौ पौधे लगाए और इनके संरक्षण का संकल्प लिया। सोसायटी से बेखेन खन्ना ने बताया कि मानसून में शुरू हुए इस पौधारोपण अभियान में टीम के सदस्य हर सप्ताह अलग जगह का चुनाव करके पौधे लगाने में जुटे हैं। अब तक छह सौ पौधे लगाए जा चुके हैं।

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Here are some hot nature gossip tweets from our @NDN_HQ page in July.

Dive into these juicy stories by clicking the links and get ready to be wowed!

Follow our Twitter page for your daily dose of nature and conservation buzz!

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Air pollution - The greatest environmental health risk of our time

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"Not a single tree will need to be cut" says GMDA engineer, but tree felling continued

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Development threatens heritage trees in Pune - People watch the development unfold

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NCR trio in top-5 polluted cities

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How green is the metro? Gurugram metro gets nod to fell 501 'more' trees

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30 Egrets died after falling from trees while pruning was underway in Thane

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Development is important, we must ask at what cost, asserts CJI Gavai

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2000 trees cut overnight in precious forest land for DLF project

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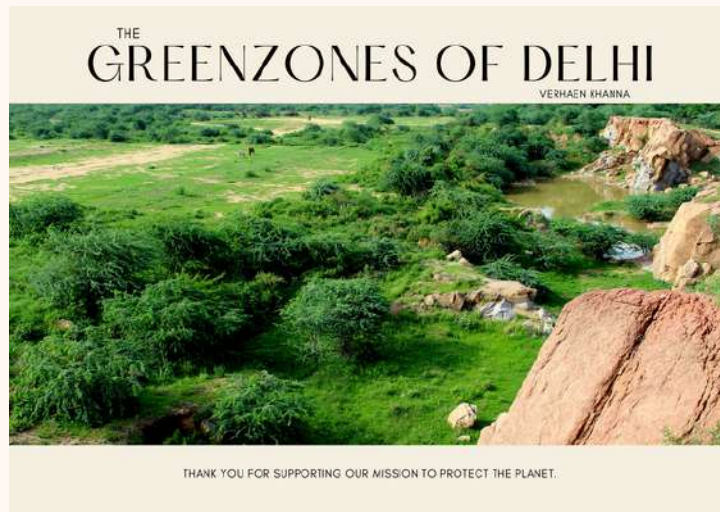
State bird of Delhi, almost extinct in Delhi

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Delhi remains India's most polluted city under NCAP

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NDNS Coffee Table Book



This beautifully illustrated book showcases the lush greenery and vibrant ecosystems found in the heart of India's capital. Each page offers a glimpse into the diverse flora and fauna that thrive in Delhi's green zones, from bustling parks to serene gardens. By purchasing this coffee table book, you not only bring a piece of nature's beauty into your home but also support the efforts of NDNS (New Delhi Nature Society) in their mission to protect and conserve these precious natural habitats. Your contribution helps promote environmental awareness and ensures that future generations can enjoy the city's green treasures.

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Adoption Alert!

These Cuties have been rescued and are now looking for a happy home. If you can provide them a home please fill up the form.



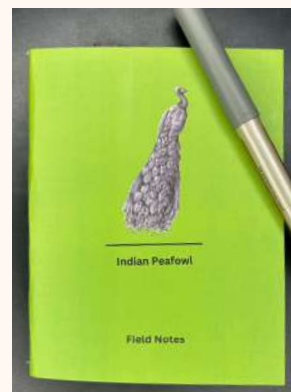
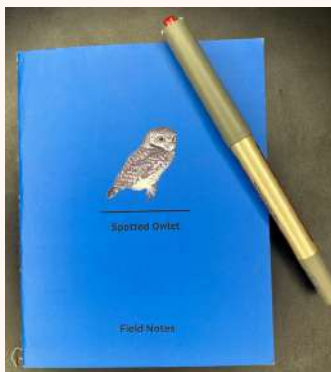
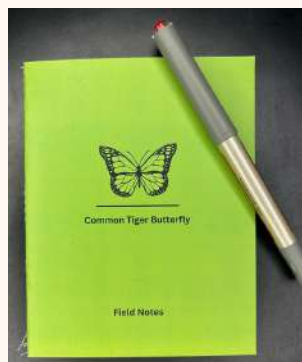
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NDNS Diary



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Volunteer, Intern Or Membership At NDNS

Join NDNS in our mission to conserve nature and make a positive impact on our planet! We are looking for dedicated individuals to volunteer or intern with us. Whether you're passionate about saving trees, spreading awareness through social media, editing impactful videos, organizing workshops, contribute your skills in your free time as a volunteer or commit to a two-month internship, there are many ways to get involved. Click the button if you're interested in joining us. Together, we can make a difference!



Membership Benefits:

- 1.Exclusive Invites to Members-Only events.
- 2.For every other event, members get a 15% discount (nature walk, workshops, etc.)
- 3.Members can avail of a 15% discount on NDNS merch.
- 4.Members are granted access to the NDNS library.

Internship Form

Membership Form

Volunteer Form

Cost for a 1-year membership is Rs 1500/- After submitting the form, we will verify your details and then send you a link for the online payment.

Donate a book to the NDNS library



We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the amazing individuals who have donated nature-related books towards the #newdelhinaturesociety library. Your generosity will help us in building a comprehensive library that will be a valuable resource for nature enthusiasts and students alike. If you too would like to contribute to our library, we welcome book donations and encourage you to get in touch with us for more information. You can visit our website at www.ndns.in to learn more about our organization and our various initiatives.

De-Choke Trees

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its order dated 23rd April 2013 has directed all Public Authorities to ensure that all the sign boards, names, advertisements, any kind of boards or signage's, electric wires and high tension cables or otherwise are removed from the trees.

They shall also ensure that the concrete surrounding the trees within one meter of the trees are removed and all the trees are looked after well and due precaution is taken in future so that no concrete or construction or repairing work is done at least within one meter radius of the trunk of trees.

NAILS, WIRES (10,000 RS. FINE).

NGT ORDER FOR DE-CHOKING TREES

DELHI PRESERVATION OF TREES ACT



SOS NUMBERS (TREES AND ANIMALS)

- NDNS - 9711115666
- Wildlife Rescue - 9810129698, 9810639698
- People For Animals - 011 23719293 / 9294.
- For Cows - Dhyani Foundation - 9999099423

A TREE IS BEING CUT?

- Click pictures
- Tell them to stop immediately
- Ask them to show the Forest Department permission.
- No permission, then Call 100 and wait till help arrives.
- Report the matter on the Green Helpline 011-23378513
- Write a letter to the Forest Department
- If they do have permission, then take the supervisor's details who must be present there and contact the Forest Department .

FOREST DEPT. EMAILS

SIGN UP!

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