



The Times of Nature

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

www.ndns.in

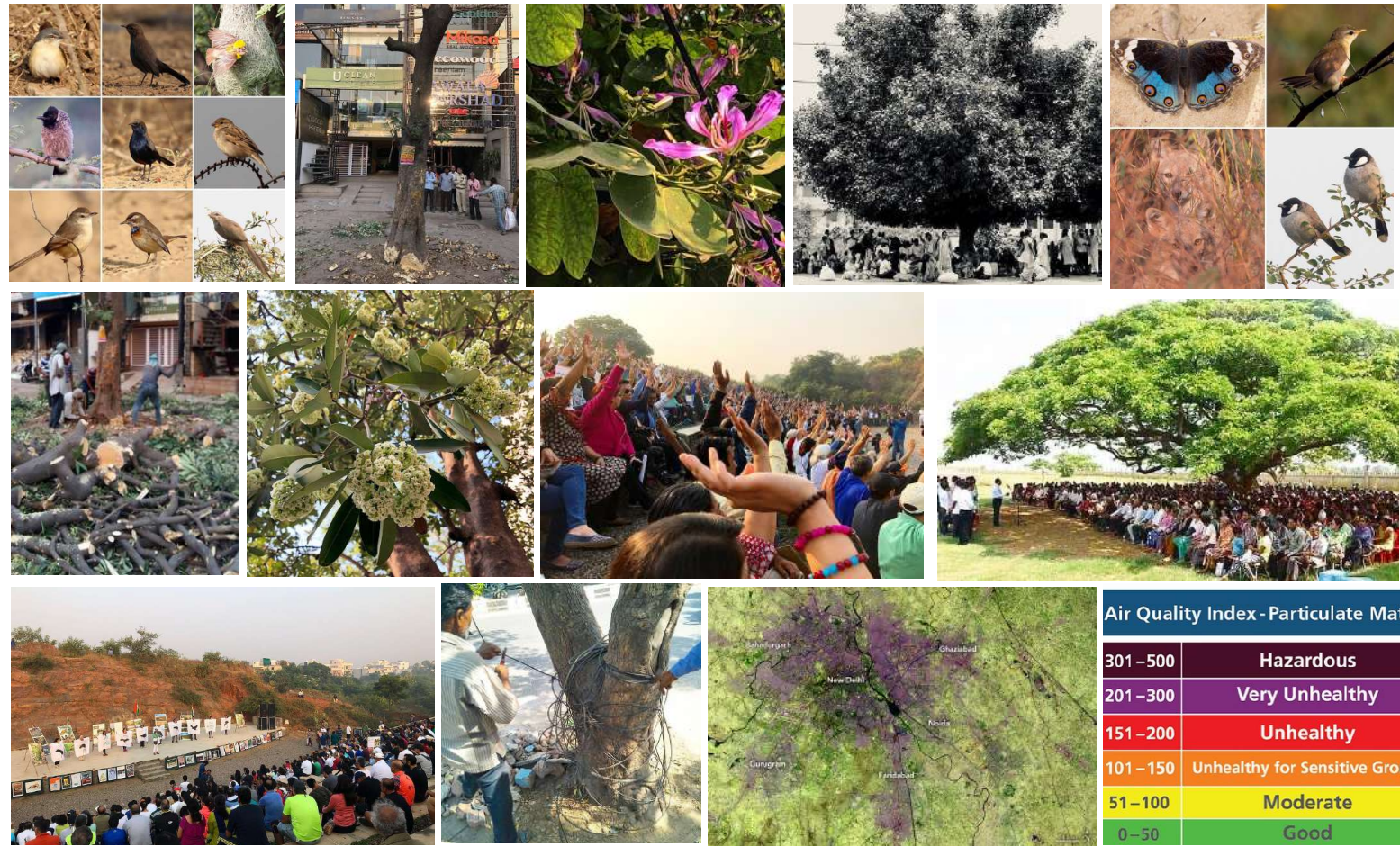
Issue # 16

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October, 2018

Highlights of the Month



Air Quality Index - Particulate Matter	
301 - 500	Hazardous
201 - 300	Very Unhealthy
151 - 200	Unhealthy
101 - 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
51 - 100	Moderate
0 - 50	Good

Visit our website

Checkout the blogs, comics and events on our website.

We would love to read your feedback.

www.ndns.in

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Hindustan Times

Forest dept denies Noida authority permission to cut more trees in Sec 91

Snehl Sinha
snehl.sinha@times.com

Noida: In a relief for residents and environmental groups, the forest department has denied permission to Noida authority for felling nearly 1,000 more trees in Sector 91 for the development of a biodiversity park.

This is probably the first time that the department has denied permission to the authority for felling trees in the city.

The authority had earlier sought permission to cut 4,000 eucalyptus trees but the department had capped it to 3,000. These were felled in August, after which residents and environmental groups had launched a series of protests.

According to officials, there are 900 more eucalyptus trees in the sector.

The authority had sought authorisation to fell these as well, but the department had reserved approval till the matter was resolved.

"We have decided not to allow the felling given the current situation and protests over the issue. It also seems manageable to start work on the biodiversity park while these trees remain," PK Srivastava, divisional forest officer, said.



• The authority had earlier sought permission to cut 4,000 eucalyptus trees but the forest dept had capped it to 3,000. HT FILE

The letter denying permission has said that, in future, only those requests should be sent where cutting of trees is absolutely necessary.

According to norms, the authority is allowed to fell trees only in lieu of compensatory afforestation. Usually, 10 new saplings have to be planted for every tree felled. Officials from the department said the authority has enough land for compensatory afforestation and has not defaulted in planting trees before. This is why permissions have always been granted in the

past. However, in this case, the chipko movement and protests by residents, followed by a case in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) made the department hold back on permissions. This is despite approvals being sought for felling of 30-year-old eucalyptus trees, which some say reduce groundwater levels as they require a lot of hydration.

The authority has plans for clearing the existing eucalyptus forest and plant about 5,000 native trees along with around

one lakh other shrubs and trees, including 19,625 ornamental plants.

Environmental activists have also appealed to the NGT against the park, and the case has been listed for hearing on November 14. According to activists, the felling of 3,000 trees in the area is in violation of environment laws, causing loss of habitat of several animal and bird species, including the nilgai (blue bull).

Activists also alleged other violations, including commencement of construction activities without permission, illegal extraction of groundwater, unsanitary storage of construction material in the open and large-scale concreting of open areas.

"It has been portrayed that we are against the biodiversity park and cutting of eucalyptus trees. However, all we want is that this area remains a city forest and the existing habitat and ecosystem are not disturbed. We request the court ensure that the tree cover is maintained, all legal permissions are sought and that there is no concreting of the area," Vikrant Tongad, environmental activist who had filed the petition in the green court, said.

The Times of India

Road project will affect 10 acres of Aravalis: NHAI

Dipak K Dash and Shilpy Arora | TNN | Oct 22, 2018, 01:37 IST

✉ 🖨 A- A+



Picture for representational purpose only

NEW DELHI: The first phase of the proposed six-lane Gurugram bypass passing through the Aravali Biodiversity Park will impact about 10 acres of land and will mostly pass through border areas, an NHAI official said on Sunday amid concerns that the new road will harm the "protected area". The park under the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram is spread over 350 acres.

[Read Full Article](#)

THE WIRE

POLITICS | ECONOMY | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS | SECURITY | LAW | SCIENCE | SOCIETY | CULTURE | OPINION | VIDEOS

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URBAN

East Kidwai Nagar Should Serve as a Warning, Not Model, for Delhi's Redevelopment

The NBCC 'model' project is hardly the totem of sustainability and responsibility. It has been fined for non-compliance of environment laws, and official planning documents expose its shaky claims of urban design and economic viability.



[Read Full Article](#)

NBCC asked to seek fresh environmental clearance

High court asks NBCC to seek fresh green nod for south Delhi projects

Construction work had been temporarily stopped by the courts following a series of citizen protests and litigations against the project. Updated: Oct 04, 2018 10:58:46

By HT Correspondent



[Read Full Article](#)

SAMVADA

MORE SNAP SHOTS

Point: The red lights at crossings are not visible as hoardings installed cover them. The same is the condition of important boards installed by the authorities which get covered with these hoardings. A large number of these are erected without any official permission where in strict action should be taken.

• "Compassion for Animals" Workshop:

An awareness workshop on "Compassion For Animals" was conducted in Cambridge School, Srinivaspuri. Verhaen Khanna, resident NFC and founder of New Delhi Nature Society conducted the workshop. The students were informed about their fundamental duty of protecting the environment under article 51a(g) Constitution of India. The do's and don'ts for several species were discussed in detail. It's a general observation that many adults today are not compassionate towards animals and it often leads to animal cruelty. Such habits get passed on to

children which is not good for their future. According to Verhaen, few adults in his colony as well as otherwise think that a dog wagging his tail is coming to attack, whereas throughout the world we all know that since hundreds of years dogs that wag their tails are happy and excited to meet you and will not attack you. It is important for children to not be afraid of animals unnecessarily, this fear is usually there because of lack of awareness about different animals. Children tend to understand the behaviour of animals and their body language whereas we adults often fail to. The student enjoyed the program and even pledged for being kind to animals.

(Compiled By Editorial Board)

RATHI POWER

'Lessen the air pollution'- Article by Verhaen Khanna



Do your bit to lessen air pollution in the festive season



The Indian Express

The winter season is welcomed with religious festivals being celebrated by burning fireworks. Here are some ways to do your bit in lessening the effects of air pollution, to which children and senior members are increasingly susceptible.

By Verhaen Khanna

It's a well-known fact around the world that Delhi has the highest air pollution on the entire planet. The winter months are especially worse because of several factors.

Most air pollution monitors can only read up to 999, but the air quality in Delhi is many times higher than 999 which cannot be read by most monitors.

0-50	is Good
51-100	is Moderate
101-150	is Unhealthy for sensitive groups
151-200	is Unhealthy
201-300	is Very unhealthy
301-500	is Hazardous

If you are waiting for somebody to come and fix the problem, you will be left waiting for a long time. You have to take necessary steps to protect yourself and your loved ones. During winters, cool air stays near the ground trapping all the pollution in our immediate atmosphere. In summers, the land heats up and the upward movement of air disperses the pollution particles elsewhere.

The winter season is welcomed with religious festivals being celebrated by burning fireworks, which have harmful chemicals and metals as ingredients. When air is heavily saturated with pollution particles, one may choke or even die. A lot of those harmful materials do not even get burnt and directly land on our skin, food and in our lungs.

- Due to colder temperatures, people outdoors usually burn garbage for warmth. They burn plastic wrappers, leaves, tire tubes, torn shoes and whatever they can find, without considering that the harmful fumes are saturating the very same air which children and elderly people are breathing. Children and senior members of our community have extra sensitive organs.
- All the pollution from cars, constructions and factories is not going anywhere far and is also damaging our health immensely.
- Farmers in nearby cities burn crops and that too adds to the pollution mix which sends thousands of humans to the hospital.
- Since many trees shed their leaves, the sweepers will just burn the leaves so that they have less work.

What can we do about this?

- Avoid burning any fireworks so that your loved ones can breathe clean air and live longer healthier lives. Educate your children, too, on the dangers of fireworks on air quality.
- If you see people burning garbage to keep warm, you can ask them nicely to extinguish the fire and gift them a blanket, jacket, gloves or socks to keep warm. If they are outside your home you can arrange an electric heater for them.
- Use your car wisely so that the pollution is minimised or use public transport or any eco-friendly mode of transport (walking, cycling, electric vehicles).
- The fallen leaves from trees can be kept around the tree which will turn into soil after some time, a process called mulching. This is the natural way that trees send nutrition to their roots in the forest, but in cities those leaves are swept away and burnt. Alternately, these leaves can be composted in a pit or a cage and later the final product can be spread around the base of trees as nutrition.
- DON'T CUT TREES, as each and every leaf on the tree is important, but some people in the city illegally chop the trees around their home to gain sunlight. To me, it seems that these people forget that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west; for them, the sun is stuck in one place and turns off and on like a bulb in the sky. Days are shorter and nights are longer in the winters, because the northern hemisphere of earth is pointing away from the sun (the path of the sun in our sky is slightly lower to the horizon in winters as compared to summer months). Leafy trees are the only way to reduce the existing pollution, but many inconsiderate people will be de-greening your neighborhood during these months of highest air pollution with an excuse for sunlight. Cutting any part of trees for sunlight is illegal and one may be penalized Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 by the Forest Department for each tree damaged. Roofs, balconies and public parks are great places to get sunlight. If you see anybody cutting a tree you must report it to the Forest Department.

To safeguard yourself and your loved ones during these high pollution months, one must try to avoid exposure to the pollution by remaining indoors, perhaps with an air purifier, grow lots of air purification plants inside and around your home, wear a good quality air pollution mask to step out.

If you see any large fires, please call 100 or 101 for immediate assistance. Report the issue with the exact location. You will receive a call back from somebody nearby so you can help them reach the location. Stay there till help arrives and click pictures to share on social media. This is a free service by the Delhi Fire Fighters and you do not need to pay anything or sign any documents. All it takes is one phone call and few minutes of waiting for them to arrive. A small heroic action by you can protect the health of crores of people living in the capital. Any small fire can be easily extinguished with water or mud.

Pollution affects not only one's physical health but mental health as well. It can affect one's mood or even have an impact on one's decisions. Some may feel depressed while others feel stressed, which is all due to the unhealthy environment being forced upon us. The capital of India has the highest air pollution on the entire planet, despite the Supreme Court and Parliament also being in this city. We have already seen how our leaders have allowed thousands of trees to be chopped, in a city with the highest pollution. The government even considered monkeys, donkeys, dogs, cats and cows as "birds" (this is not a typo) when they granted permission to NBCC for killing 16,500 beautiful trees full of wildlife.

Now that you are well informed about this matter, you can teach your children, other family members and friends so that we can all participate together in making our environment breathable for all. If we manage to keep the air pollution minimised, we won't even need to wear those masks anymore. We can see each other's smiles and even eat comfortably. The future is in our hands today. Let's stay healthy together.

(The writer is founder of the New Delhi Nature Society (NDNS), which organises regular events for children and families, such as tree climbing, nature walks and camping. Follow on social media @newdelhinaturesociety)

NGT Okays the Pragati Maidan Redevelopment

New Delhi: In a precedent-setting order, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) gave the go-ahead to the redevelopment of the ITPO complex at Pragati Maidan, Delhi. The nod came despite the fact that the project had taken off without statutory clearances under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

The project had not secured these two statutory clearances even on the date of the judgement by the principle bench of the tribunal lead by its chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel on October 24.

The order sets a precedent with the NGT refusing to initiate any penal action when a project developer is found to have carried out work without statutory clearances, instead handing the onus back to the erring authorities.

A project requires an environmental clearance under the environment protection Act, and consents at different stages under the air and water pollution laws. The petitioners in the case had contended that the environmental clearance had been given without application of mind by the Union environment ministry, based on deficient impact studies, and that the project had not secured the mandatory consent orders under the air and water pollution laws before beginning different stages of work. The latter two consents are meant to ensure the project does not pollute the air and water beyond permissible levels.

The NGT concluded that the environmental clearance was in line with regulations, but it also assessed that the petitioners were right – the consents under the air and water pollution laws had not been secured by the project developers even as they continued construction.

But it refused to order any penal action against these violations and the lack of two clearances. It concluded, “In our considered opinion, violations of the (laws) ... are governed by the provisions contained in the statutes that stipulates the consequences therefor and it is for the regulatory authority to take appropriate actions.”

The air pollution Act provides for jail term not less than 1.5 years and up to six years, along with fines for various infringements including failure to secure the statutory consent. Similarly, the water pollution Act too provides for both jail term and fines for infringement of the law.

Even though more than half the construction on the project has been completed without the statutory orders, the NGT said people could go to court over these violations only once the authorities decide retrospectively on the consent under air and water pollution laws.

The law itself does not provide for the retrospective grant of these consents.

The redevelopment of Pragati Maidan in the heart of Delhi, within a kilometre of the apex court and the NGT, commenced in April 2017 with the demolition of existing structure. The court noted that the project proponent had applied for one of these clearances only in 2017. For another clearance, records show the project developers applied for it only in September 2018, that too after the NGT authorities asked for the status of all clearances. Initially, the government said the clearances were in order, only to come back to the tribunal in October 2018 to admit that the project had carried on without the clearance so far. But the NGT has again left it to the authorities to decide what to do with these violations.

The decision of the NGT marks a substantial step away from its earlier interpretations of the air and water pollution Acts and its own powers. In August 2018 itself, the same bench of the NGT had passed a judgement involving the violation of the air and water pollution laws. It involved industries running in violation of these laws and polluting the river water by dumping hazardous material in the districts of Uttar Pradesh. The court had pushed for the filing of police cases. In that case, the tribunal had recounted that the laws provided for strict penalties and jail terms, and ordered that criminal prosecution of erring industries be carried out.



Things to do, if a tree is being cut :

- Click pictures
- Tell them to stop immediately
- Ask them to show the Forest Department permission letter
- No permission, then Call 100 and wait till help arrives.
- Write a letter to the APCCF and CC to the DCF of your area.
- If they have permission, take the supervisors details who must be present there and contact the Forest Department .

**ALL
TREES
MATTER**

SAVE Aravali Biodiversity Park

Houseful at Aravali Biodiversity Park!

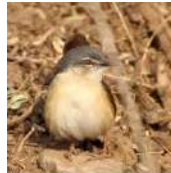
100's of people of all ages gathered at 7am to show solidarity for saving the flora and fauna which is under threat by NHAI.



[Teleport to the gathering : Click Here](#)



Wildlife at Aravali Biodiversity Park



This is the rare and beautiful Wildlife at Aravali Biodiversity Park which is going to be killed by NHAI to build a road.

PC:

Dr Virendra Sharma

Donations of the Month

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 1: Mr. Uday Nath | Rs. 5000/- |
| 2. Mr Kenneth Washington | Rs 5,000/- |
| 3. Mrs Abha Batra | Rs 2,000/- |

New Delhi Nature Society Is Grateful for The Donations Towards Our Initiative To Protect The Environment.

Tree Census

Start a Tree Census in your area to save trees.

Contact NDNS to get started.

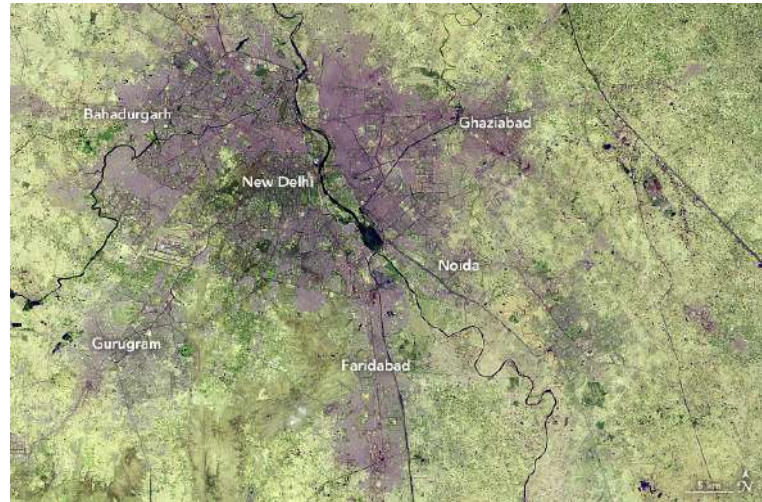


Urban Growth of New Delhi

These images show the growth in the city of New Delhi and its adjacent areas—a territory collectively known as Delhi NCR—from December 5, 1989, (left) to June 5, 2018 (right). The capital of India, New Delhi, has been experiencing one of the fastest urban expansions in the world. Vast areas of croplands and grasslands are being turned into streets, buildings, and parking lots, attracting an unprecedented amount of new residents. The massive environmental destruction has serious impacts today.

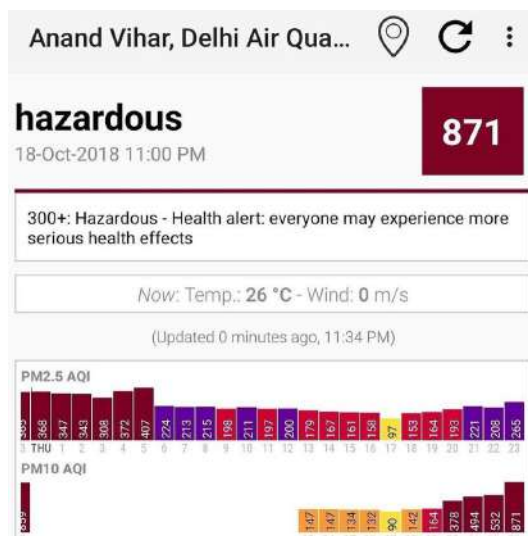


1989



2018

Air Quality 'hits' hazardous levels



Air Quality Index - Particulate Matter	
301 – 500	Hazardous
201 – 300	Very Unhealthy
151 – 200	Unhealthy
101 – 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
51 – 100	Moderate
0 – 50	Good

Support for Trees



SUPPORT ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

WHAT DOES NEW DELHI NATURE SOCIETY DO ?

Stop
Illegal
Tree Felling

Rescue
Existing
Trees

Planting
Native
Trees

Animals
Rescue
Rehab
Release

Extinguish
Garbage
Fires

Spread
Nature
Awareness

We DONT receive Government Funding or CSR Funds

Contribute towards protecting the environment.
 Axis Bank, New Delhi Nature Society,
 Account: 91820010738403, IFSC: UTIB0001326

Plantation with students & teachers



Plantation with the students and teachers of Soami Nagar Model School was a success. With the help of the Principal and Consumer Voice, students were made aware about the importance of tree plantation. The same program was also repeated at Mother Mary School, Mayur Vihar.

Compassion for Animals Workshop

A “Compassion for Animals” workshop at Nai Disha School for underprivileged children was conducted at Vasant Kunj.

The students enjoyed the session a lot and learned some bird calls to interact with the birds in the wild. They also pledged to take care of animals around them.



Saptaparni Tree



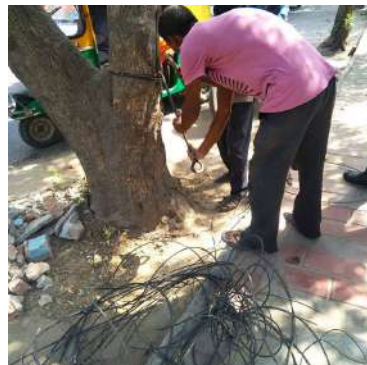
Saptaparni trees are flowering all over Delhi, zoom in for a closer look

Kachnar Tree



Scan your natural surroundings, the kachnar trees have started flowering.

Removing Wires from Trees



Writing to the Environment Ministry and Forest Department FOR YEARS had NO RESULTS, so we saved the trees by ourselves.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has ordered all departments to remove wires and signages from trees.

Pwd De-Choking Trees

Pwd dechoking trees on C V Raman Marg NFC.

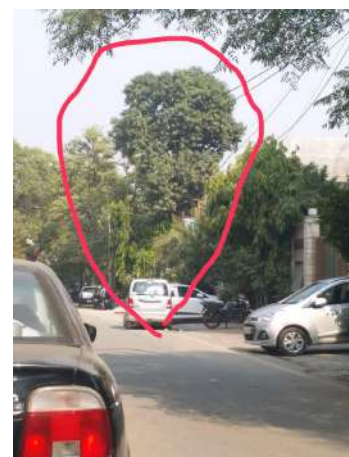
Writing to the Forest Dept for months yielded no action, but personally meeting the local pwd team and showing the court order which requires 1 meter soil space around trees finally got positive action to protect the existing trees.



Illegal Tree felling

“Jawala Parshad” (Wood Shop) on Bhishma Pitamah Marg (defence colony), felled a perfectly healthy tree to make space for car parking on the main road. This was permitted by the forest department who are supposed to protect the trees.

The 3rd picture on the right is of a full grown healthy mango tree, the forest department has taken money from the builder to allow this 35 yr old tree to be killed.



Greenzones of Delhi



Now that temperatures are cooler, we can start visiting the beautiful green areas of Delhi. Whatsapp 9711115666 if you are interested to join the nature walks or stay tuned to the events page on our website and social media pages.

Trees getting fresh Khaad



Trees in NFC getting fresh khaad for the first time in decades. This khaad was made by composting leaves.

Booklet of Native Trees

If you are trying to identify trees around your home or planning to plant some new trees, this is the best place to start.

This booklet covers 100 native trees of Delhi. Trees which are adapted to the environment, require minimum maintenance and sustain the wildlife. (Rs 50/-)



Buy Forever Plants

Buy forever plants from NDNS. These plants can outlive you and all your future generations if it is well taken care of. (Rs 100/-)

When you buy from NDNS, you are supporting our environmental conservation work.



A sip of Nature

Enjoy beverages in your very own NDNS mug.



COOL BAGS for Cool People



New Cool Bag Designs

Fits in your pocket easily.

Carry your laptop or groceries.

Buy 5 cloth bags for just Rs 200/-

Plastic bags are out of fashion.

Order now : 9711115666



Volunteer / Intern at NDNS

- Protect the environment
- Join the growing NDNS team
- Email your CV to newdelhinaturesociety@gmail.com



DONATE to NDNS

Bank Details :

Account: New Delhi Nature Society

Account number: 918020010738403

IFSC: UTIB0001326

Bank Address: Axis Bank, Shop no 6,
Ground Floor and Basement,
Community Center, New Delhi 110025



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October, 2018

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.

Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994

[Click here for the NGT Order](#)

[Click here for the Public Notice](#)

Website to Contact the Forest Department :


http://delhi.gov.in/wps/wcm/connect/DOIT_Forest/forest/home/rti/directory+of+officer+and+employees



Maybe your company has some CSR funds.

Maybe you want to support [New Delhi Nature Society](#).

Maybe your investment can save trees , animals and make the world a better place.

Sign Up 

Click the Sign Up button and fill up your details to receive regular updates about NDNS activities.

You can also ask your like minded friends to sign up this form.

Roadwatch App



SOS NUMBERS FOR TREES AND ANIMALS



NDNS - 9711115666

Fauna Police - 9212111116

Give Me Trees Trust - 8800326033

Wildlife Rescue - 9810129698, 9810639698

People For Animals - 011 23719293 / 9294.

For Cows -

Love for cow Trust - 9818434399

Doctor for cow - 9650048826

Dhyan Foundation - 9999099423

Kamdhenu Mangal Parivaar

(Free 24x7 Cow Ambulance with doctor on board) -

7503777888, 9911002200

Please Read the helpful documents
on the Animal Welfare Board of India website:
<https://awbi.org/>

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