

Its Raining Fireflies.



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PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



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Nature Talks Podhcast

Let's Talk About Nature!

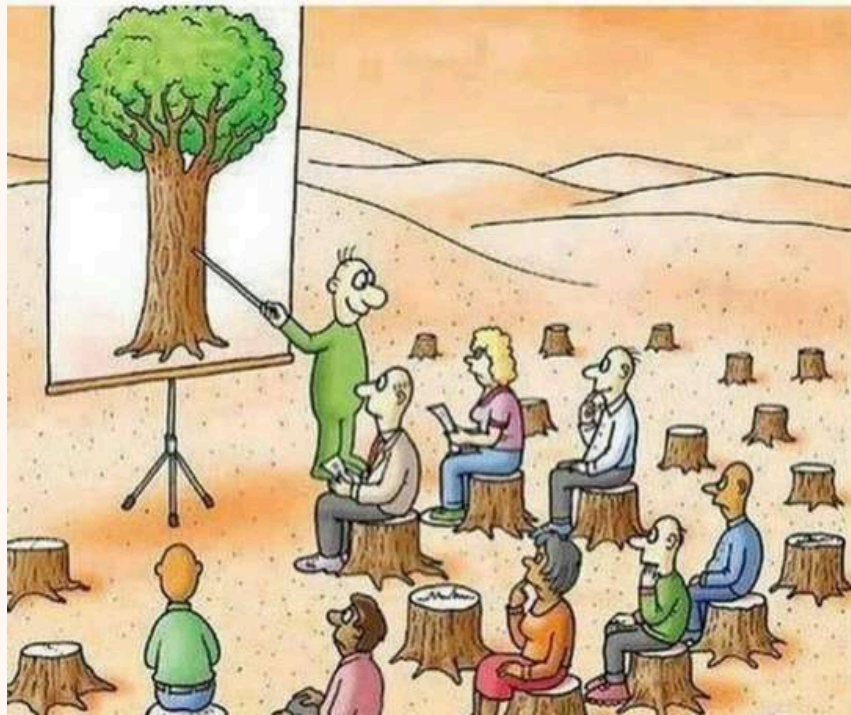
[Listen Now on Spotify](#)

[Watch now on Youtube](#)



[Save Trees in 9 Languages](#)

Meme Of The Month



Saving Animals

On our way back from the nature walk, we spotted an injured buffalo on the road. We stopped and tried to help however the injured animal couldn't move. We called the police and NGO's with cow ambulance but there was no help. The NGOs with cow ambulance refused to come since it was a buffalo.

After 2.5 hours of waiting, SGACC was able to convince one of the cow ambulance. The animal was then taken to the SGACC and was finally treated.



Workshop with Soami Nagar Model School



[Watch Video](#)

NDNS recently organized a nature walk for students from Soami Nagar Model School, aiming to deepen their connection with the environment.

The children experienced the positive energy of trees, sampled a variety of fruits, and engaged in playful activities amidst nature.

They observed the intricate patterns of leaves and trees, sparking curiosity and appreciation for the natural world.

This hands-on experience not only provided enjoyment but also instilled a sense of responsibility toward preserving our environment for future generations.

Nature Walk @ Tilpath Valley Biodiversity Park



NDNS organized a nature walk in Tilpath Valley Biodiversity Park, where participants encountered a vibrant array of birds, bugs, butterflies, and wildlife.

This enriching experience allowed individuals to connect deeply with nature, fostering a sense of wonder and appreciation for biodiversity.

As we explored the park's rich ecosystem, participants learned about the importance of preserving these habitats.

The walk not only provided enjoyment but also inspired a commitment to protecting our natural surroundings for future generations.

Nature Walk with IIAD



Day 1



Day 2

NDNS partnered with IIAD, an art and design institute, to raise awareness about environmental issues and strengthen our connection to nature.

The collaboration included informative talks and a refreshing nature walk, allowing participants to fully engage with the natural environment, which promoted relaxation and stress relief.

By combining discussions on environmental challenges with hands-on experiences, the event educated attendees on nature conservation while highlighting how nature can enhance creativity and productivity.

This partnership effectively connected art and environmental advocacy, promoting a holistic approach to both personal and ecological well-being.

Tree Climbing Workshop



We recently conducted a tree climbing workshop for children at Nehru Park, aimed at encouraging outdoor play and fostering a connection with nature.

Kids eagerly climbed trees, learning important skills while experiencing the joy of being outdoors.

This hands-on activity not only promoted physical fitness but also sparked curiosity about the environment.

Through teamwork and exploration, participants developed a deeper appreciation for nature and its wonders.

Our workshop was a wonderful way to inspire a love for the outdoors in the next generation.

Nature Walk @ Tughlkabad Biodiversity Park



[Watch Video](#)

NDNS recently organized a nature walk in Tughlakabad Biodiversity Park, where participants explored the rich ecosystem.

Attendees spotted various water birds and other rare species, while also learning about local plant life.

A highlight was visiting the water treatment area, showcasing sustainable practices.

These walks aim to foster a deeper connection between people and nature, promoting awareness and appreciation for our environment.

Through such initiatives, we hope to inspire conservation efforts and enhance community engagement with biodiversity.

Fireflies Workshop



NDNS is buzzing with excitement after the Firefly Walks this rainy season!

Picture this: weekend strolls through Hauz Khas, where the forest twinkles with the enchanting glow of fireflies.

These guided walks aren't just any walk in the park; they're a magical journey into nature's spotlight, shedding light on the vital role fireflies play in our world.

People were swept away by the beauty of nature and unwound in the gentle glow of these tiny luminaries.

Seize this opportunity to bond with Mother Nature and bask in the tranquil, illuminated evenings.

Our Instagram Updates



[Tree Climbing Workshop](#)



[Saving the Great Indian Bustard with Dr. Sumit Dookia.](#)



[Best way to teach students about conservation.](#)



[Learning from nature with IIAD.](#)



Our Instagram updates



[How do you feel after a Nature walk with New Delhi Nature Society? 🌿](#)



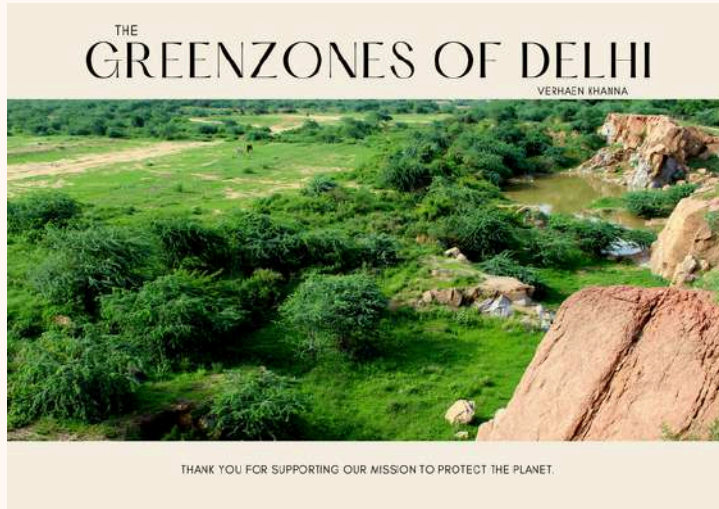
[Shinrin Yoku is a Japanese term which means forestbathing.](#)



[Escape pollution visit Greenzones 🌿](#)



10 Years of NDNS



We are thrilled to invite you to a special celebration as we mark 10 wonderful years of our NGO! + Join us for the launch of our coffee table book, "Greenzones of Delhi."

This beautifully curated collection showcases the vibrant green spaces that make our city unique.

Immerse yourself in the beauty of nature, connect with fellow enthusiasts, and share in the joy of our journey together.

We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you! Details coming soon.

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.



[Adoption Form](#)



Important Articles Of The Month

SC bars authorities from cutting tree in forest near airport

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New Delhi: Supreme Court on Tuesday restrained authorities not to cut down or damage any tree in Shahabad Mohammadpur forest area which is located near IGI Airport in Delhi and also stopped construction work going on there for a railway project.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mithal said that the issue needed to be examined and sought response from the ministry of railways, department of forests and wildlife of NCT govt and the company which have been given the contract to develop the land.

"In the meanwhile, we restrain the respondents from felling and/or damaging in any manner the trees and/or otherwise causing damage to the trees on the subject land. We make it clear that no construction shall be carried out in the subject land," the bench said.

The bench passed the order on a petition filed by environment and animal rights activists Naveen Solanki and Ajay Harish Joshi who approached the apex court after their plea was rejected by National Green Tribunal. Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and lawyer Ankur Sood, appearing for the petitioner, told the bench that around trees were being cut or being buried in the area and if not stayed then all 25,000 would disappear. They said a wall was being constructed there which would severely affect movements of many animals living in the forest.

"The forest area is crucial not only for the local residents but for all the people in the city who breathe the same air. Located adjacent to one of the busiest airports in the country, the forest acts as the primary filter for the carbon dioxide emitted by the airport. It serves as the lungs of the city, particularly benefiting the southwestern portion of the National Capital Territory (NCT), where green cover is already significantly less compared to other areas. This disparity is evident from the forest cover map available on the official website of the NCT Forest Department," the petition said.

The petitioner told the bench that they engaged one Sky Blue Engineering Consultant to conduct a survey of the number of trees in 2.5 acres on the project site. The report/certificate issued by the surveyor showed that there are 530 trees on 2.5 acres estimating there to be at least more than 100 trees per acre from which it can be estimated that almost 25,000 trees in 120 acres of the project site. They said land consists of a dense forest containing thousands of trees and is home to at least 65 bird species, 50 antelope individuals, wild animals and many reptiles.

Challenging the order of the tribunal, the petition said, "The impugned order ignores and over-looks the fact that the said land consists of a dense forest and is home to many trees, plant, animal and species. The forest, which lies in the heart of the city, has provided much needed relief to the residents of Delhi in the form of clean air and environment. The indiscriminate cutting of the forest violates the right to clean air and environment guaranteed to the residents of Delhi under Article 21 of the Constitution".

Failure to de-concretise trees: HC cracks whip

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New Delhi: Delhi High Court has cracked the whip on govt agencies for their failure to de-concretise trees as per its earlier orders.

In a recent order, Justice Jasmeet Singh issued contempt of court notices to commissioner of MCD and principal secretary of PWD, Delhi govt, after it came across instances of trees not being given breathing space.

HC lashed out at MCD and Delhi's forest department after it came across the case of a peepal tree, believed to be at least 60 years old. It was informed that "rampant concretisation" caused weakening of the tree's roots, and it was threatening an adjoining house due to a tilt. Instead of de-concretising the tree, MCD sought permission for heavy pruning, which was carried out, leaving just a log of wood instead of an old tree.

"Despite the order having been passed more than two-and-a-half years ago, no steps

are visible on the ground showing de-concretisation of trees and compliance with orders of this court," HC observed, while taking note that no inspection was done by the department of forest.

HC recounted that on a complaint by a resident that the tree was causing problems with entry and exit at the property, MCD wrote to the deputy conservator of forests (DCF) and ordered heavy pruning.

"This is a classic example of one agency passing on its responsibility to another agency, showing total apathy towards the trees of Delhi and their rampant concretisation," Justice Singh noted. "Prima facie, I am satisfied that MCD as well as DCF, North, are guilty of contempt of the directions passed by this court and should be punished for contempt of court," said the order.

In a related development, HC also faulted PWD for its failure to ensure that all trees in district courts and HC are de-concretised within 48 hours.

Important Articles Of The Month

SC halts tree-felling for railway facility at Dwarka

Abraham Thomas

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday halted the felling of trees near Dwarka on a plea seeking protection of Delhi's green cover which alleged that nearly 25,000 trees situated in the Shahabad Mohammadpur "deemed forest" are sought to be felled for the purpose of expanding a railway facility in southwest Delhi's Bijwasan.

Halting all construction linked to the project, a bench headed by justice AS Oka said: "We restrain the respondents from felling and/or damaging in any manner the trees or otherwise causing damage to the trees on the subject land."

The court was hearing a petition filed by two individuals — Naveen Solanki and Ajay Harish Joshi — who approached the top court against an order passed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on February 13 this year refusing to halt the tree felling as

THE PETITIONERS POINTED OUT THAT THE AREA IS A 'DEEMED FOREST' AND ENJOYS THE SAME PROTECTION AS FOREST, AS PER A 1996 SC DECISION

it held that the 120-acre area of green cover does not qualify as "forest land" under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the petitioners along with advocate Manan Verma, pointed out that the area is a "deemed forest" and enjoys the same protection as forest following a 1996 decision of the top court in TN Godavarman vs Union of India.

The 2023 amendments to the Forest Act which abolished the term "deemed forests" are currently under challenge in the top court. In these proceedings, the

court issued an order in February reiterating there will be no dilution of the 1996 definition as provided by the Godavarman judgment.

The bench has sought responses from the Rail Land Development Authority under the ministry of railways, the Delhi forest department, and the company executing the project, and posting the matter for October 21.

The petition, filed through advocate Ankur Sood, traced the history behind the land that was transferred by Delhi Development Authority to the Railways in 2008. The petitioner noticed that RLDA adopted "unethical techniques" by dumping soil over fully-grown trees. Subsequently, the complaint filed with the forest department came to be registered and in June 2022, an order was passed by the deputy conservator of forests, Delhi government imposing a fine of ₹5.93 crore on RLDA on a finding that 990 trees were illegally felled.

The petitioner pointed out that work is still going on.

{ **EXPERT BODIES' TENURE ENDS** }

Centre to give green nod till new bodies formed

Jasjeev Gandhiok

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NEW DELHI: The three-year terms of two environmental bodies that provide clearances to projects in Delhi have ended, with clearances hereon to be issued by the Union environment ministry instead. The ten-

ures of Delhi State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority and the Delhi State Level Appraisal Committee, both formed in 2021, ended on September 5. A process to reconstitute both bodies is yet to commence. Both bodies are crucial in checking projects that may have environmental impact.

Important Articles Of The Month

Key flyovers stalled over green nod, PWD plans legal route to clear path

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New Delhi: The Public Works Department (PWD) plans to move court for vacating the stay orders on several flyover projects because of the lack of green clearance. According to PWD officials, major projects like the Punjabi Bagh and Anand Vihar flyovers are partially ready, but the work has come to a standstill. At Barapullah Phase 3, more than 90% of the construction work has been over, but the project lies incomplete with no progress for years.

The Barapullah project aims to provide seamless connectivity between Mayapuri Vihar and Sarai Kale Khan, where the corridor will join the existing Barapullah Phase 1 and offer signal-free connectivity between east Delhi and AHMS. The third phase of the project, involving the construction of a 3.0km stretch, started in April



According to PWD, major projects like the Punjabi Bagh and Anand Vihar flyovers are partially ready, but the work has come to a standstill

2023 and was scheduled to be completed in Oct 2017. More than 200 trees are to be transplanted in the project, but officials said a

fresh survey might be undertaken by the forest department.

The project, which has missed several deadlines over the past

few years, has also been affected due to construction bans, floods and delays in land acquisition.

At the Anand Vihar flyover,

which starts from the railway overbridge, the missing tree-cutting permissions have delayed the completion of side ramps and a foot-

At Anand Vihar flyover, which starts from the railway overbridge, the missing tree-cutting permissions have delayed the completion of side ramps and a footpath. The facilities are unlikely to be finished by the time the flyover opens

path. The facilities are unlikely to be finished by the time the flyover opens. The deadline for the flyover, which includes an elevated corridor, pedestrian subway and side ramps, was moved from Dec 2023 to April 2024 and now to the end of Sept. The ramps will provide access to the flyover from nearby colonies.

Previously the Anand Vihar Road No.66 area was classified as a deemed forest, causing work to halt completely for some days last year and resulting in a penalty being imposed on PWD by the forest department. The work started after PWD paid the fine. Around 20 trees are coming in the way of

completing the project. "We plan to move for vacation of the stay order in the Punjabi Bagh project soon. The Anand Vihar Flyover project is ready for opening, but the tree-cutting permissions are awaited to pave the way for other projects," said an official.

The work for the Punjabi Bagh corridor has been undergoing for two years. In the meantime, the traffic congestion on this stretch of Ring Road is getting worse due to the poor condition of the road during the monsoon. Around 30 trees are stalling the completion of the project. The forest department did not respond to queries.

NH-48 tunnel plan moves ahead; 417 trees to be felled

Jasjeev Gandhok

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NEW DELHI: Four hundred and seventeen trees, located near Nelson Mandela Marg, need to be felled or transplanted for a 4.3-kilometre tunnel being constructed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) between the Shiv Murti interchange on NH-48 and Nelson Mandela Marg, officials aware of the matter said on Thursday.

The project has received clearances from Delhi's Ridge Management Board (RMB), Supreme Court and SC-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC), and authorities have applied for clearances from the Union ministry of environment forest and climate change (MoEFCC), as stipulated under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

A project report uploaded by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) on its website states the total length of the project, including the approach road to the tunnel, will be 4.9 kilometres and is aimed at decongesting Mahipalpur and its surrounding areas.

"The project starts from near Shivmurti interchange (NH-48) and ends at Nelson Mandela Marg at Vasant Kunj. The main objective of the project is that NH-48 carries very heavy traffic to Chattarpur and Vasant

Going under, for a smoother ride

DPCC held a public hearing and will assess the feedback and objections for further modifications to the alignment of the NHAI project

4.3 kms
Length of tunnel

₹4,089 crore
Cost of project



Green impact
417 trees to be felled or transplanted, all near the exit at Nelson Mandela Marg
4,170 saplings to be planted as compensatory plantation

Clearances
Granted by: Ridge Management Board, SC's Central Empowered Committee and SC
Pending from: MoEF&CC under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980

Kunj from Gurugram and creates heavy congestion at Mahipalpur due to very narrow city road. Traffic is also seen to and from Delhi airport and Mahipalpur and Rangpuri markets," the report said.

The proposal, in works since 2022, was shared with DPCC, which conducted a public hearing on Thursday to gather public feedback on the project. The suggestions and objections will

be shared with the Union environment ministry, officials said.

A senior DPCC official said the public hearing was held at the office of the district magistrate (south Delhi) on Wednesday and Thursday.

"All the feedback gathered, including objections, will be collated and eventually sent to MoEFCC," a senior DPCC official, who was part of the hear-

ing, said.

For felling or transplanting 417 trees, 4,170 saplings will be planted under compensatory afforestation, the project report said.

The tunnel will pass through 5.825 hectares under the southern Ridge, while permission has been applied under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, for another 1.68 hectares of a deemed forest, the report said.

RMB cleared the project in November 2022, forwarding it to CEC, which subsequently cleared the project in June 2023 and a final clearance was granted by the Supreme Court in October 2023. However, for any project being built in a forest, clearances are needed under the FCA.

NHAI, in its report, said the project will also reduce travel time from Gurugram and Mahipalpur to Vasant Kunj through NH-48.

"The project will create a short distance route that will take less travel time, and hence, resolve traffic congestion problem at the aforesaid places. In addition, it will improve local ambient air quality and reduction in carbon footprint during entire life cycle of the project," NHAI said.

Residents and commuters living in the vicinity said that traffic movement from Nelson Mandela Marg to Vasant Kunj is generally smooth due to wide roads, but the congestion starts between Vasant Kunj and Mahipalpur, and further towards Shiv Murti upon reaching Mahipalpur, as the road width narrows, leading to a bottleneck.

Gurmehar Kaur, 29, who commutes from Tilak Nagar to Gurugram for work via NH 48, said congestion is seen at Mahipalpur even around midnight.

Important Articles Of The Month

Knives Out Over Cutting Overgrown Trees To Size

Bharadwaj Questions Forest Dept's Refusal To Allow Heavy Pruning

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New Delhi: The problem raised by trees and overgrown vegetation in various areas of the city, which TOI reported on Wednesday, has divided people, with those advocating heavy pruning on one side and others expressing concern about the way trees have been pruned in the past opposing them. Amid all this, the lacuna of standard operating procedures on trimming trees is highlighted in all quarters.

Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj responded to the TOI report on Wednesday and cited the forest department's refusal to allow heavy pruning as a major concern. "Since the trees have not been pruned for months, there is a heavy canopy over roads that even hinders the annual procession of Ma Durga in Greater Kailash I and Chittranag Park," said Bharadwaj. "The tree canopy obscures streetlights and darkens the streets. Doctors ask senior citizens to sit in the sun in parks but sunlight is blocked by the heavy foliage of trees."

The minister criticised the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Public Works Department for not seeking the forest department's permission for heavy pruning. "But the deputy commissioner of forests," he alleged, "seems to be under pressure and allow only light pruning, that is, to cut a few branches with a circumference of 30 cm. This means you practically cannot trim anything."

He added, "On one hand, you have Sarbajit where over 1300 trees have been chopped down illegally and on the other heavy pruning is being disallowed. It's high time the forest department was pulled up for not doing any work but only maintaining the status quo to protect their jobs."

Forest officials explained why they couldn't permit heavy pruning of trees, which, they said, "don't just grow overnight". An official said that heavy pruning is indeed permitted but only on a need

OFTEN, TREES FELLED IN GUISE OF HEAVY PRUNING

► Since Aug 2023, permission from tree officer is required for any kind of pruning of trees

► Mostly, light pruning plan an approved (branch girth: 15-40cm)

► Heavy pruning (branch girth: 40cm or more) permissions are subjective

► Pruning must be done in the presence of the agency's expert horticulturist, a tree officer may also be present

► Pruning is not allowed in case of active nesting or presence of birds/ other fauna

► Forest officials often do ground truthing themselves



BUT OFTEN PERMISSION IS DENIED

► Permission for heavy pruning granted mostly in emergency cases

► Most plans turned down because tree officer doesn't feel the need for trees to be pruned

► Often, trees are felled in guise of heavy pruning

► Untrained/ unskilled people employed to cut the trees

► Lack of ground staff monitoring

"People sometimes take permission for heavy pruning and trim the entire tree of its branches, which impacts the primary purpose of a tree," the official claimed. "We therefore are subjective about heavy pruning. We, however, receive requests for blanket permissions for heavy pruning of trees, which we cannot give."

The minister also pointed out that pruning should always be monitored by an expert horticulturist, but most often only the contractors or their workers carry out the work. He suggested instead that if the contractor carries out light pruning every six months, they wouldn't require heavy pruning.

Meanwhile, experts said a recent mandatory SOP measure by the forest department, which is needed, Green activist Bhuvanendra Khandhari said, "Pruning done using hand tools, but unfortunately this often means indiscriminate hacking carried out by untrained contractors who lack the expertise to avoid damaging trees. Delhi High Court has suggested an SOP to regulate pruning, but Delhi govt has resisted for sometime, one. Pruning accompanied by an investment in skilled workers, proper equipment and comprehensive training for forest officials and horticulturists are musts."

Experts also mentioned of some trees come to the relief of citizens when the city faces heatwaves and extreme air pollution. "The months following the monsoon saw some extreme peak pollution recorded in Delhi to consider the highest pollution among global cities," said Varun Khan of New Delhi Nature Society. "Delhi has an already facing 12 years of life to air pollution. Amid this, five trees are being felled every hour. Trees with maximum greenness to save our children, elders and everybody in between, including politicians."

WHAT IS A TREE?

According to Delhi Preservation of Trees Act

Tree means any woody plant whose branches spring from, and are supported upon, a trunk or body, and whose trunk or body is not less than 5cm in diameter at a height of 30cm from the ground level and is not less than 1m in height from the ground level"

TOI took stock of 600 trees planted last year and most of these are healthy and in good condition

WHAT WAS DONE

- Usually, agencies plant saplings — 0.5-1 foot in height — or shrubs during their plantation drives
- However, under this exercise, trees, with a height of 8-12 feet and having completed four years of nursery life, were planted
- These trees came from nurseries; their roots were kept in grow bags and directly planted on roadsides and central verges

IT'S NOT SAME AS TRANSPLANTATION, where a grown tree is uprooted and shifted to another location

10K trees on roadsides and central verges being planted after HC order

SPECIES PLANTED
Amaltas, Piplkhan, Jamun & Kadamb

WHERE THESE TREES HAVE BEEN PLANTED

1. Station Road, Delhi Cantonment
2. Thimmaya Road, Delhi Cantonment
3. Baba Ramdev Marg
4. Chaudhary Balbir Singh Marg
5. IHBAS
6. AIIMS Delhi
7. All India Radio, Nangli Poona
8. All India Radio, Khampur
9. Justice Sunanda Bhandari Marg
10. National Institute of Homeopathy, Narela

HOW IT IS DONE

- To begin with, satellite imagery analysis is conducted
- Alignments that utilities such as power, gas and sewer are not hampered
- Test trench excavated to check for subterranean utilities and depth of soil
- Once everything is in order, tree species are selected; markings are done at every 10 meters
- Excavation of 2-3 feet is done in soil and tree is planted
- Each tree is geotagged by forest department and a plantation journal started to oversee its progress over next five years
- Exercise requires massive coordination among utility agencies, land-owning agencies and police

Baba Ramdev Marg

Station Road, Delhi Cantt

Chaudhary Balbir Singh Marg

Photos: Rajesh Mehta

Important Articles Of The Month

Key Rules To Ensure Action Against Tree Offences Are Still Not In Place

HC Asks Forest Dept To File Reply Over Failure To Enforce Some Sections Of SOP

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New Delhi: Almost a year ago, the forest department had prepared a standard operating procedure (SOP) to implement Delhi Preservation of Trees Act (DPTA), following a high court order. In Feb, the court asked the department to implement the SOP but few sections are yet to be enforced.

The sections include setting up a forest station with lockup facilities, prosecution cells, 24x7 control rooms having an interface with the control rooms of Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Services and Centralised Accident and Trauma Services (CATS), and quick response teams (QRT) with basic equipment.

A petition was filed seeking a roadmap for tree officers on how to tackle tree offences and a document dated Aug 26 was subsequently submitted, referring to the sections not implemented yet. The high court, on Sept 11, granted four weeks to the forest

SAVING LOCAL ECOLOGY

> On Delhi HC's orders, forest department prepared Delhi Preservation of Trees Standard Operating Procedures last year

> In Feb this year, HC gave directions for SOP's implementation

> SOP aims to save local ecology from destruction, and focuses on preventing offences under the Act



FEATURES OF SOP ON DPTA

- > Establishment of forest station at HQ level with lockup facilities
- > Forest department's control rooms to have an interface with control rooms of Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Services, and Centralised Accident and Trauma Services
- > Creation of a dedicated website and mobile app
- > Establishment of prosecution cell at HQ and divisional levels for efficient monitoring and prosecution of cases
- > Forest officers to be equipped with necessary equipment

executive staff up to the level of range officer should be GPS-tagged and their location would be made available in real time on a dashboard available with the forest control room to mobilise the nearest available resource to the site of the offences.

The forests and wildlife department will establish a forest station at the central forest division headquarters with adequate lockup facilities," states the SOP. The prosecution cell will be set up at the headquarters and divisional levels with adequate manpower and facilities for the efficient prosecution of cases.

The petitioner, senior advocate Rajiv Dutt, said, "After running from pillar to post after some trees were violated and no effective steps being taken under law to book the culprits effectively and expeditiously, I decided to move court so that DPTA can be implemented in the best way for the preservation and protection of trees. No response was available from the forest department on the issue."

HOW THIS SOP WILL HELP FOREST DEPARTMENT

> SOP has guidelines for QRTs and forest officers and forest officers to be equipped with necessary equipment

> It has directions for tree officers on how to conduct hearings, investigations and timely prosecution for violations under the Act and the guidelines to be taken after receiving a complaint.

The SOP says the control rooms should have an interface with the control rooms of Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Services and CATS to ensure an immediate response to a situation. "Till such time that the forest department procures

receiving a complaint. The SOP says the control rooms should have an interface with the control rooms of Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Services and CATS to ensure an immediate response to a situation. "Till such time that the forest department procures

SUNDAY | 22 SEPTEMBER 2024 | LUDHIANA

Act tough against industries to save Buddha Nullah, say environmentalists

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, SEPTEMBER 21: Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's decision to hire a new firm to clean the Buddha Nullah in a mission mode has evoked criticism from environmentalists and activists, who had been waging a war on pollution to restore the original status of the Sutlej tributary at Buddha Durgas.

They question CM's move to hire new firm to clean Buddha Nullah project still in progress.



Effluents flowing with impunity into the Buddha Nullah captured by a government survey in Ludhiana.

by all types of the industry should be blocked.

"Also, there is a need to find out revenue bearing if polluted water into the Ludhiana groundwater by the industries as was being done at the Zimethan plant," he asserted.

He demanded that all types of industries must treat their polluted waters on their premises at their own cost or through CETPs to meet the CPCB/PPCB standards of treated water for different industries. "We cannot spend public money to clean their polluted water," he quipped.

"Colonel Gill, who was a former member of the state task force on the Buddha Nullah rejuvenation project, remarked that if the industry was given a licence to pollute as much as they could and the government would keep cleaning their polluted waters by spending public funds, it would amount to huge continuous siphoning of public funds for centuries to come and the result would be zero."

"The industries should be strictly asked to go for zero liquid discharge technology on the lines of the dyeing industry in Punjab (Thermal Nandu), which has already adopted it," he demanded, adding that the industry must spend to adhere to no pollution of surface and groundwater, air and soil as laid down in various environmental protection rules.

by environmentalists and activists against widespread pollution in the Buddha Nullah, has questioned why should the people of the state wait for expectations when already it was already an emergency situation?

The activists said, "Repeatedly, the government has failed to take any action against industries. Jaigam Ramesh had come up with a green budget which wanted a 30 per cent of time of the people of Punjab and also taxpayers' money. Why should people waste more time on such experiments?"

"Which river of this state and level of pollution has been cleaned by the Nebula Group using this solution till now?" which expert has recommended this solution to the government for nullah?" asked another environmentalist, Kuldeep Singh Khanna.

Activist Jaspreet Singh questioned that while the CM, addressing over implementation of the basic rule of law on the Buddha Nullah issue and not closing down all illegal industries and stopping others from throwing untreated waste into the water body?

"Why Punjab is not implementing ZLD for real category industries even today when Tamil Nadu implemented it in 2011-12 itself?" asked Public Action Committee member Amardeep Singh Raina.

The Chief Minister had on Friday announced to embark on a three-phase multi-pronged programme to clean the Buddha Nullah in a mission mode. Mann had announced that the current campaign would be started in collaboration with the Nebula Group and aims at cleaning the nullah to remove impurities that cause cancer, with the help of the Nebula Ozonation technology at the nano-level.

He had said the target would be to reduce TDS level of water to below 100, making it fit for drinking purposes.

the track record of the hired firm, Nebula, in tackling such levels of chemical and heavy metal pollution. "Why the government is not discussing the cost of the new project and other companies were not allowed to participate in the project," he asked.

Padmna Bhushan, Sarkaria Singh, a retired agricultural officer, said, "There is no need to put money and effort in cleaning the Buddha Nullah. Come down with a strong hand on polluters, fine them heavily and make them stop polluting the Sutlej."

Having served as Chairperson of the Central University of Punjab, professor of agricultural economics of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, VC of Punjab University and the PAU, besides chairing the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices set up by the Central Government, Prof Jothi said if the flow of pollution was stopped, the Sutlej tributary would clean by itself with a few spells of rain.

"Politicians and administration will not do it in the polluters have let of these waters," felt Prof Jothi, who was awarded the third highest civilian honour of Padma Bhushan in 2004, for his contributions to agriculture and agricultural education sectors.

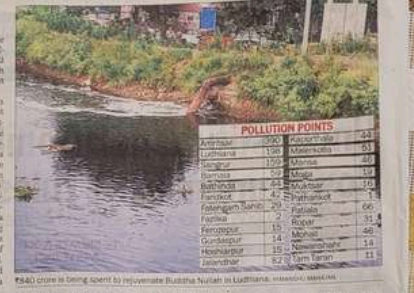
The 'Kale Pani Da Morcha', a movement launched

JANAB

Effluents polluting water bodies: Govt

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, SEPTEMBER 21: A survey of 1,394 points in 23 districts, 390 in Amritsar, 198 in Ludhiana, has revealed that 1840 crore is being spent by government to rejuvenate Buddha Nullah in Ludhiana.



1840 crore is being spent by government to rejuvenate Buddha Nullah in Ludhiana.

Survey finds 1,394 points in 23 dists, 390 in Amritsar, 198 in Ludhiana

Following the government's announcement of spending at least 1840 crore on the Buddha Nullah rejuvenation project, a joint survey by the Drainage Department has identified 1840 water points from where pollutants were being discharged into 44 water bodies in Ludhiana. Of these, 84 points were found to be polluting the water bodies through untreated effluents and discharges from Buddha Nullah, a tributary of the Sutlej flowing in Ludhiana, which is being rejuvenated at a cost of 1840 crore, said an official.

Still, the survey was on to find polluting points of Buddha Nullah in the city limits.

Calling it as a tip of the iceberg, environmentalist, Col Jasjit Gill (retd), who is spearheading a sustained campaign to free Buddha Nullah of widespread pollution, said the government must crackdown on those polluting the environment.

Earlier, only 27 sources of pollution in Ludhiana were identified in the memorandum submitted to the Drainage Department by Water Resources Principal Secretary, Krishna Kumar to all Deputy Commissioners on August 23.

Taking cue of the memorandum, the Drainage Department began a survey of all 44 drains water bodies, including Buddha Nullah, passing through Ludhiana district, which further made startling revelations.

In a follow-up action report, a copy of which is sent to the Tribune, the official survey has even identified the entities discharging waste into the water bodies.

Surprisingly, the Drainage Department has reported that except eight pollution points in Basian drain at Pablowal, Dhawan, Jalandhara, Rukh, Dharok, and Chakhal, Ka, which were removed on September 23 at other 180 points were still flowing effluents into 43 other water bodies in Ludhiana district.

The report mentioned that most of the dairy units were responsible for polluting Bud-

Private group roped in to clean Buddha Nullah

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, SEPTEMBER 21: Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday announced a three-phase programme to clean Buddha Nullah in Ludhiana.

Chairing a meeting with members of Nebula Group, the Chief Minister said impurities would be removed from Buddha Nullah by using Nebula Ozonation technology at nano level.

Mann said the target was to reduce total dissolved solids (TDS) below 100, thus making it fit for drinking.

The CM added that Nebula Group has visited the site along with officials of the Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Punjab Pollution Control Board and other organisations is already shown into the river and drains which leads to the pollution of water bodies.

Nature had written, "Oozing as a violation of the Water Pollution Act and the Northern India Canals and Drainage Act, 1973, he had urged the DCs to take appropriate action to check pollution of the drains. He had noted that the National Green Tribunal was monitoring the issues on a regular basis.

Phase I of the project would involve installation of ultra-sonic water metering systems and software modelling for analysis of the sewage network to identify sampling points across Ludhiana. Likewise, it will also focus on identification and installation of various pre-treatment plants for dyeing units across Ludhiana. A total of 200 units discharge around 95 MLD into the CETPs.

Similarly, Phase II would focus on identification of the problematic discharge points and installation of small-scale effluent treatment systems to improve sewage quality.

In the third phase, thrust would be laid on design and lining of Buddha Nullah.



CM Bhagwant Mann with members of Nebula Group on Friday.

Important Articles Of The Month

2
LUDHIANA

CM faces questions on 3-phase Buddha Dariya cleaning programme

Private Firm To Use Ozone Cleaning Tech

Nishi Bhardwaj
@timesofindia.com

Ludhiana: A day after CM Bhupwindh Singh Mann announced a three-phase programme for cleaning of Buddha Dariya through a private firm's ozone cleaning technology, activists of "Kale Pani Da Morcha" asked the CM several questions on the feasibility of the programme.

Why experiment?
Activists asked why people of Punjab should wait for such experiments in an emergency situation. Pointing out that experiments conducted by previous governments had failed, they cited the example of the Green bridges project launched by former Union minister Jai Ram Ramesh. According to them, the project wasted taxpayers' money and time without yielding results.

Basis of recommendation
Activists asked which river of this scale and level of pollution had been cleaned by the Nebula Group, which had been roped in for the three-phase cleaning of Buddha Dariya. They asked which expert had recommended the solution to the govt and why the CM was dithering on closing illegal industrial units or stopping others from discharging waste into the water body.

Zero Liquid Discharge policy
Activists asked why Punjab was not implementing the Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) policy for red category industries even though former CM Jayalalitha had implemented it in Tamil Nadu in 2011-12.

Govt's primary duties
The activists said treating industrial effluents was the responsibility of respective industries and it was up to them





to decide which technology they wanted to use. They said that the government was assigned the job of governing well, protecting citizens and ensuring that the industry complied with regulations.

Silence on polluting units
The activists questioned the government's silence on polluting units which had missed deadlines in the past 2.5 years. They also asked why Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for dyeing units were still operational despite failing to comply with their own decade old agreement and environment clearance condition of not throwing even treated water into Buddha Dariya. The activists pointed out that this agreement was not made public till it was brought into the public domain by the central pollution control board when the matter went to the National Green Tribunal. They claimed that Punjab Pollution Control Board and state were defying the CPCB order of Aug 12 on stopping such water from being discharged into Buddha Dariya.

Environment clearance agreement
Recently, CPCB submitted a report in the National Green Tribunal saying that as per the environment clearance granted to CETPs, treated water would not be discharged into the Buddha Nullah. However, it said that the three CETPs were discharging treated water into the Buddha Nullah and not complying with the condition stipulated in the environmental clearance issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Based on the observed non-compliance among CETPs discharging water into Buddha Nullah, CPCB, on August 12, directed Punjab Pollution Control Board to take action, including imposing environmental compensation against the violators.

Compensation to citizens
Activists asked who would compensate people of Punjab for the toxic water they had to drink due to non-implementation of this agreement for the past over 10 years. They said that the government was not allowing registration of an FIR against PPCB officials and SPVs of dyeing industry for vi-

QUESTIONS FOR CM MANN

- 1 Why should people of Punjab wait for experiments in an emergency situation?
- 2 Which river of this scale and level of pollution has been cleaned by the Nebula Group using this method till now?
- 3 Which expert recommended this solution?
- 4 Why is the CM dithering on closing down illegal industries and stopping others from dumping untreated waste?
- 5 Why is Punjab not implementing Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) for red category industries?
- 6 Why is the govt not ensuring compliance by industry?
- 7 Why was no action taken against defaulting units?
- 8 Why should dyeing industry's CETPs not stop work till they comply with decade old agreement and environment clearance condition?
- 9 Why was this agreement hidden for 10 years?
- 10 Why is PPCB and Govt of Punjab defying CPCB order on waste water flow into Buddha Dariya?
- 11 Who will compensate people of Punjab for toxic water they had to drink due to non implementation of this agreement?
- 12 Why is Govt not allowing registration of FIR against PPCB officers and SPVs of dyeing industry for violation of this agreement?

Media Coverage



[Supreme Court Raps Delhi Air Quality Panel](#)



[हॉज खास के डियर पार्क से दूसरे राज्यों में भेजे जाएंगे हिरण? जानें दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने क्या कहा](#)



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

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!

HC pulls Up Center For Failing To Guard Forest.

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Construction Projects In Delhi's Forest or Ridge Areas Violated Top Court Conditions.

[Click to View](#)

Cheetahs Not Part Of Kuno Plan.

[Click to View](#)

Trees Are Felled/Damaged In The Guise Of Heavy Pruning.

[Click to View](#)

Can Cloud Seeding Fix Delhi's Bad Air?

[Click to View](#)

The Smart City Is Flooded.

[Click to View](#)

40 Yrs Old Trees Cut! Gauhati High Court Seeks Mizoram Govt's Response On Steps To Curb Menace Of Tree Felling

[Click to View](#)

Firecrackers Banned Till Jan 1st

[Click to View](#)

Air Pollution Effects Everybody.

[Click to View](#)

Volunteer Or Intern At NDNS

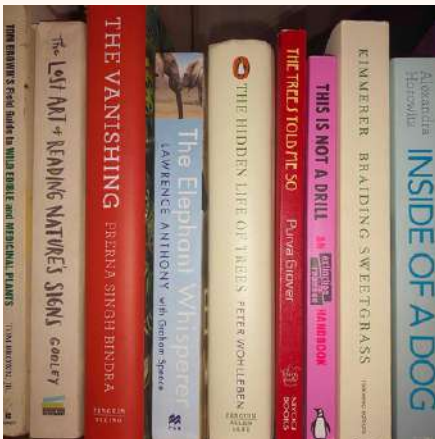
Join NDNS in our mission to conserve nature and make a positive impact on our planet! We are looking for dedicated individuals to volunteer or intern with us. Whether you're passionate about saving trees, spreading awareness through social media, editing impactful videos, organizing workshops, contribute 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!



[Internship Form](#)

[Volunteer Form](#)

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 - Dhyam 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!

To receive regular updates from NDNS.

CLICK HERE!

Access to previous Newsletters

