

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

Original Application No. 20/2026

News Item Titled "मध्य प्रदेश में इस साल 15 लाख पेड़ कटेंगे" Appearing in Dainik Bhaskar Dated 08.01.2026

Date of hearing: 13.01.2026

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. This original application is registered *suo motu* on the basis of the news item titled "मध्य प्रदेश में इस साल 15 लाख पेड़ कटेंगे" Appearing in Dainik Bhaskar Dated 08.01.2026.

2. The news item highlights that in Madhya Pradesh more than 15 lakh trees of 50 to 100 years have been cut for various projects which include road coal block, construction etc., especially in Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and other places including in Singrouli trees have been cut. On account of such destruction of trees the AQI level is rising. The news item also mentions that in Singrouli Block 35,000 trees have been cut in 1397.54 hector forest land. In 1335.35 Hector there was dense forest further 5.7 lakh trees are proposed to be cut. In Khandwa Kargol 1.25 lakh trees are proposed to be cut for railway project. In Vidhisha 25,000 trees are proposed to be cut for Bhopal Kanpur Highway. In Indore - Ujjain 3,000 trees are proposed to be cut. In Bhopal for 10 lane project 7871 trees will be cut. In Gwalior 3,000 trees have been cut and 6,700 proposed to be cut.

3. The above matter indicates violation of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the Biodiversity Act, 2002.

4. The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance with the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

5. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

6. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in the matter:

- (1). Director General of Forest, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) through its Secretary, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
- (2). Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, Satpuda Bhawan, 1st Floor, Bhopal-462006.
- (3). Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB): Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.
- (4). Member Secretary – SEIAA, M.P., M. P. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority Environmental Planning & Coordination Organization (EPCO), Paryavaran Parisar, E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal-462016(MP).
- (5). Integrated Regional Office, Bhopal, MoEF&CC, E-5, Kendriya Paryavaran Bhawan, E-5 Arera Colony, Link Road-3, Ravishankar Nagar, Bhopal – 462016.

7. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate, then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the Tribunal.

8. List on 09.03.2026.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

January 13, 2026
Original Application No. 20/2026
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Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM