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## Illegal Construction Near Sultanpur National Park | Haryana | 17 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, The [Additional Chief Secretary \(ACS\) of Forest and Wildlife](#) directed the district administration to submit a report to the [Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change \(MoEF & CC\)](#) regarding **illegal constructions** near [Sultanpur National Park](#) and their current status.

### Key Points

- **Committee to Monitor Illegal Construction:**
  - In March 2024, a committee was formed to **monitor illegal construction activities in the [restricted zone](#)** surrounding the **national park**.
  - It was found that several illegal colonies are being developed in the Farukhnagar areas near Sultanpur National Park.
    - Construction activities within the [sensitive zones](#) violate the provisions of the zonal master plan for **eco- sensitive zones**.
- **Compliance with Regulations:**
  - Officials were instructed to ensure **strict compliance with structural construction regulations** in the areas surrounding the national park.
  - Action should be taken against those who fail to comply with these regulations.

### Sultanpur National Park

- **About:**
    - Sultanpur National Park is a bird paradise for bird watchers. It is famous for its **migratory as well as resident birds**.
      - Migratory birds start arriving in the park in September. Birds use the park as a resting place till the following March-April.
      - During [summer and monsoon](#) months the park is inhabited by many local bird species.
    - In April 1971, the [Sultanpur Jheel](#) inside the park (an area of 1.21 sq. Km.) was accorded **Sanctuary status** under section 8 of the **Punjab Wildlife Preservation Act, 1959**.
    - The status of the park was upgraded to [National Park](#) under the [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#) in July 1991.
  - **Location:**
    - It is situated in Gurgaon district of Haryana. The distance of the park is around 50 Km from Delhi and 15km from Gurgaon.
  - **Important Fauna at the Park:**
    - **Mammals:** [Blackbuck](#), [Nilgai](#), Hog deer, Sambar, [Leopard](#) etc.
    - **Birds:** [Siberian Cranes](#), [Greater Flamingo](#), [Demoiselle Crane](#) etc.
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# NGT Forms Panel in Faridabad | Haryana | 17 Dec 2024

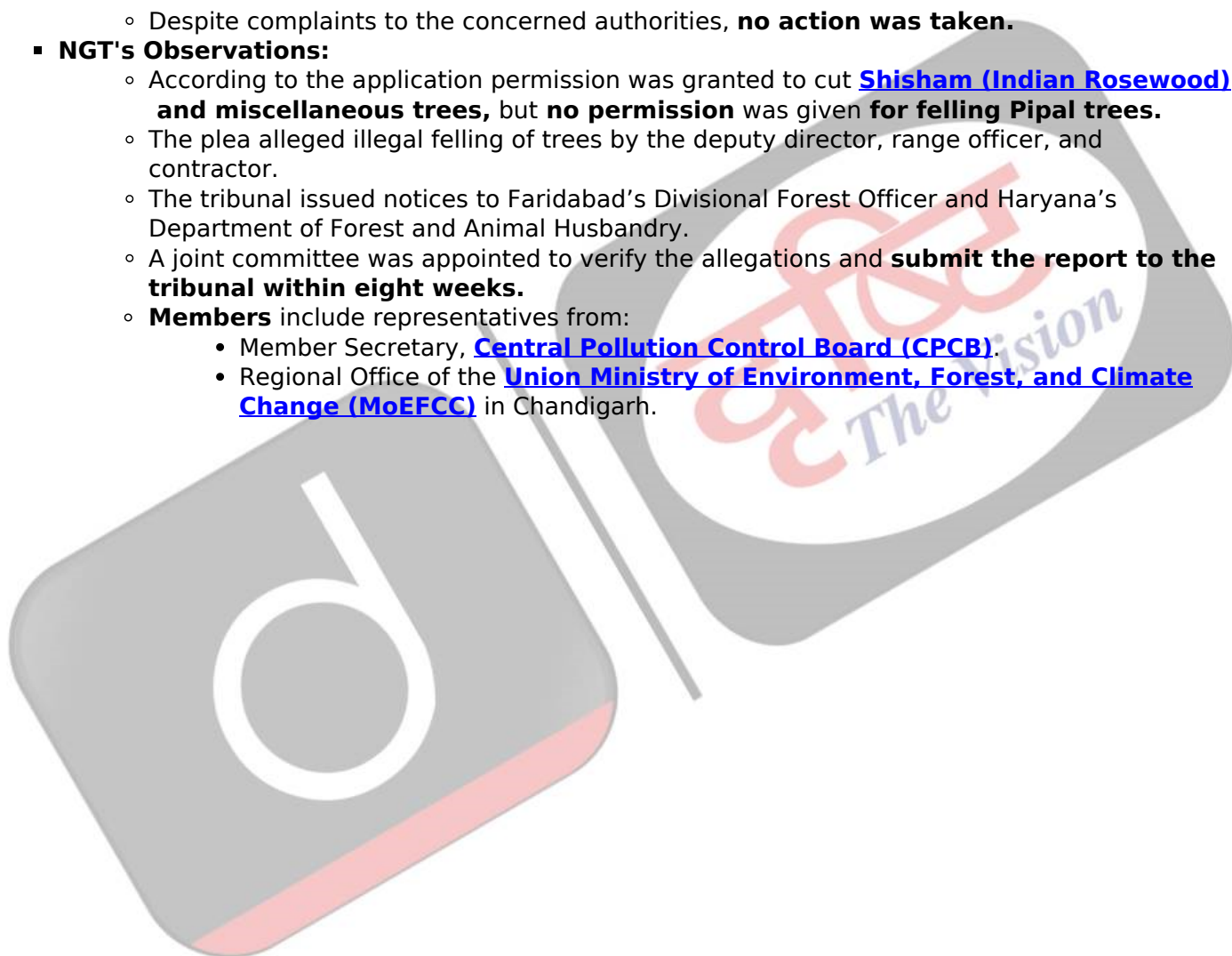
## Why in News?

[The National Green Tribunal](#) has formed a panel to investigate the **alleged illegal felling of several Pipal (Sacred Fig) trees** on the premises of the animal husbandry and dairying's office in **Haryana's Faridabad**.

## Key Points

- **Destruction of Heritage Pipal Trees:**
  - The plea stated that **heritage Pipal trees had been destroyed**, but their **roots still existed**.
  - Despite complaints to the concerned authorities, **no action was taken**.
- **NGT's Observations:**
  - According to the application permission was granted to cut [Shisham \(Indian Rosewood\)](#) and miscellaneous trees, but **no permission** was given for felling Pipal trees.
  - The plea alleged illegal felling of trees by the deputy director, range officer, and contractor.
  - The tribunal issued notices to Faridabad's Divisional Forest Officer and Haryana's Department of Forest and Animal Husbandry.
  - A joint committee was appointed to verify the allegations and **submit the report to the tribunal within eight weeks**.
  - **Members** include representatives from:
    - Member Secretary, [Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#).
    - Regional Office of the [Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change \(MoEFCC\)](#) in Chandigarh.

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# NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialised body for swift resolution of environmental and natural resource cases.

## About

- ⌚ **Establishment:** By National Green Tribunal Act 2010
- ⌚ **Objective:** Quick resolution of environmental & natural resource cases
- ⌚ **Case Resolution:** Within 6 months
- ⌚ **Places of Sitting:** New Delhi (Principal), Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai

## Structure

- ⌚ **Composition:** Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members
- ⌚ **Tenure:** Up to 5 years/until age 65 (no reappointment)
- ⌚ **Appointments:** Chairperson - Central Government (with the CJI's consultation)
  - 👉 10-20 judicial members & 10-20 expert members - Selection Committee

India is the third country globally (after Australia and New Zealand) and the first developing nation to establish a specialised environmental tribunal like NGT.

## Powers & Jurisdiction

- ⌚ **Jurisdiction:** Civil cases on environmental issues and rights
- ⌚ **Suo Motu Powers:** Granted since 2021
- ⌚ **Roles:** Adjudicatory, preventative, and remedial
- ⌚ **Procedures:** Follows Principles of natural justice
  - 👉 Not bound by the CPC, 1908 or Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- ⌚ **Principles:** Sustainable Development; Precautionary; Polluter pays
- ⌚ **Orders:** Executable as civil court decrees; offers relief and compensation (**decisions are binding**)
- ⌚ **Appeals:** Tribunal can review its decisions.
  - 👉 If decision fails - Appeal to the SC to be filed within 90 days

## NGT deals with Civil Cases under

- ⌚ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- ⌚ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
- ⌚ Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- ⌚ Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- ⌚ Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ⌚ Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- ⌚ Biological Diversity Act, 2002



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