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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **CONT.CAS(C) 934/2023**

**ANJALI COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND SCIENCE THROUGH
ITS FOUNDER -CUM-CHAIRMAN DEVENDRA**

GUPTA

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. Gautam Narayan with
Ms. Prabhsahay Kaur and Mr. Aditya
N. Prasad, Amicus Curiae.
(M): 7217868306
Email: amicuscuriaedelhihighcourt@gmail.com

versus

**DR. MONTU M. PATEL PRESIDENT PHARMACY COUNCIL OF
INDIA & ANR.** Respondents

Through: Mr. Kirtiman Singh, CGSC with Mr.
Waize Ali Noor, Mr. Varun Rajawat,
Mr. Kartik Baijal, Ms. Vidhi Jain and
Ms. Shreya V Mehra, Advocates for
respondent/UOI.
(M): 8447785565
Email: kirtimansingh.cgsc@gmail.com
Mr. Sameer Vashisht, ASC, GNCTD.

**CORAM:
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MINI PUSHKARNA**

**ORDER
06.05.2024**

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1. The present case has been put on office note, in view of the note dated 30th April, 2024, filed by the Amicus Curiae in the present matter.
2. As per the note, it is stated that this Court vide order dated 28th



August, 2023 had recorded the undertaking given by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (“DCF”) (West Division), that there will be adequate monitoring and appropriate deployment of staff to ensure that there is no dumping of material in the Central Ridge. Further, the DCF (West Division) had also assured the Court that there will be no further felling of trees, without intimation to the Court.

3. In the report, it is clearly stated that despite the aforesaid undertaking given before this Court, large scale felling of trees and clearing of forest land is taking place in the Central Ridge. Apart from the trees, the shrubs and other flora of the forest is also being cleared up. Photographs have been attached as *Annexure-A1 (Colly)*, along with the note, which shows not only felling of trees, but also show that large tracks of Central Ridge, have been made bereft of any trees or shrubs.

4. This Court is also perturbed in noticing that the photographs show that the soil has turned black, which clearly shows that burning of the area in Central Ridge, has taken place, due to which not only the trees, but also the shrubs in the Central Ridge have been destroyed, leaving only vacant land. The photographs also show large scale dumping of garbage in the Central Ridge. This is a very serious state of affairs.

5. The Central Ridge cannot be allowed to be degenerated in this manner by felling of trees and removal of the shrubs, when the city is already grappling with the pressing issue of rising pollution levels, which have attained dangerous proportions. Further, it is also appalling to note that the Central Ridge, which is our green heritage, is being used as a dumping ground of garbage and other waste materials.

6. This Court has taken a serious view of this matter, as the Central



Ridge provides not only the precious green cover in the City, but is also valuable for maintenance of the environment balance in the City, which is already facing serious concerns on account of severe pollution.

7. Considering the aforesaid grave lapses in maintaining the precious green cover in the Central Ridge, the Forest Department is directed to submit an explanation as to how and in what manner, the felling of trees and dumping of garbage and other waste materials, has been allowed to take place in the Central Ridge.

8. Further, the Forest Department and other local authorities are directed to ensure that no dumping of garbage or any other waste material is carried out in the Central Ridge. The concerned authorities are directed to forthwith take action and remove all the garbage and waste material from the Central Ridge.

9. It is further directed that no further felling of trees or removal of shrubs and other bushes shall take place in the Central Ridge, without the permission of the Court.

10. Mr. Sameer Vashisht, learned Additional Standing counsel appearing for the Delhi Government, submits that Geo Coordinates of the photographs, that have been attached with the present note, be shared with him, so that appropriate action can be taken.

11. Learned Amicus Curiae state that the GPS Location of the photographs, that have been attached along with the present note, have been shared with the learned counsel on his whatsapp, which fact is confirmed by learned Additional Standing counsel for the Delhi Government.

12. Let Action Taken Report be filed within a period of two weeks.

13. The DCF (West Division) is directed to appear before this Court



through Video Conferencing, on the next date of hearing.

14. List on 24th May, 2024.

MINI PUSHKARNA, J

MAY 6, 2024

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