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

+ **CONT.CAS(C) 660/2020 & CM APPL.26651/2020**

NEW DELHI NATURE SOCIETY

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Piyush Sharma and Mr Aditya N.
Prasad, Advocates.

versus

SHRI VINAY SHEEL SAXENA & ORS

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Shadan Farasat, ASC for GNCTD
with Mr. Shourya Dasgupta,
Advocate.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NAJMI WAZIRI

ORDER

% **10.02.2021**

The hearing was conducted through video conferencing.

CM APPL.5145/2021 (by petitioner/applicant for directions)

1. Issue notice. Notice is accepted by the learned Additional Standing Counsel for the respondents/GNCTD. Reply be filed in 2 weeks' time.
2. Further destruction of fully grown trees by the PWD, in disregard to the directions of this court as well as by the National Green Tribunal ('NGT'), is alleged in the application. For the moment, the matter be brought to the notice of the Chief Secretary, GNCTD for initiation of appropriate remedial measures and for sensitising Government Departments concerned, apropos the need to take care of trees in Delhi, both in terms of this Court's order(s) and by the NGT, while undertaking civil construction works. The imperative to preserve, nurture and augment the green cover in the city cannot be over-emphasized. It is expected that by the next date, due measures would



have been initiated by the GNCTD and appropriate orders/directions would have been issued for care of, obviating harm to and for preservation of the tree cover. Necessary capacity-building measures through workshop(s) and training sessions, too may be initiated within two weeks from today. The GNCTD may take the assistance of reputed NGOs to assist in the process. The Forest Department may coordinate the efforts. Let a comprehensive affidavit be filed by the GNCTD before the next date.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that despite this Court's order dated 16.09.2020 passed in W.P.(C) No.3433/2020 (*Nitin Gupta & Anr. v North Delhi Municipal Corporation & Ors.*), directing setting up of an 'Emergency Tree Helpline', nothing has been done in this regard. However, Mr. Gautam Narayan, who is present in the Court, submits that the requisite helpline is functional. Let the GNCTD affidavit deal with this issue as well.
4. Renotify on 18.02.2021, the date already fixed.
5. The order be uploaded on the website forthwith.

NAJMI WAZIRI, J

FEBRUARY 10, 2021/rd