FOREST DEPARTMENT

O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)

Van Bhawan, Plot No. C-18, Sector-6, Panchkula, Telephone No. 2563988, e-mail papccf@gmail.com

---

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: **INVITATION OF SUGGESTIONS, VIEWS AND COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT THE HARYANA PRESERVATION OF TREES ACT, 2026**

Whereas the State of Haryana proposes to enact "**THE HARYANA PRESERVATION OF TREES ACT, 2026**" to protect and preserve trees for ensuring sustainable management of green cover outside designated forest areas by regulating felling/cutting of trees outside of forest areas.

The Notice is hereby given for the information of the general public and all relevant stakeholders for seeking their suggestions, comments or views on **THE DRAFT THE HARYAN PRESERVATION OF TREES ACT, 2026.**

In compliance with the principles of pre-legislative consultation, the aforementioned draft Act has been uploaded and made available for download on the official website of the Forest & Wildlife Department, Haryana at https://haryanaforest.gov.in.

All the interested persons/organisations who desire to submit their **suggestions**/comments/views with respect to the proposed draft Act may submit their feedback in writing on or before 30.11.2026 (5.00 PM) through following channels:

- **By Post:** To the PCCF (Forestry), Haryana, Department of Forests and Wildlife, Van Bhawan, Sector-6, Panchkula-134109, Haryana.
- **By Email:** haryanatreeact2026@gmail.com with the subject line *"Suggestions/ Comments on Draft Haryana Preservation of Trees Act, 2026".*

Any objection or suggestion received after the expiry of the stipulated period i.e. on November 30, 2026 upto 5:00 PM will not be entertained or considered during the finalization of the Act.

2/11/26

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF,
Haryana, Panchkula.

THE HARYANA PRESERVATION OF TREES ACT, 2026

ACT …… OF 2026

Date:

STATEMENTS OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

An Act to make better provision for preservation of trees outside forest areas in the State and with a view to maintaining green cover for ensuring ecological balance, combating pollution of environment and conserving the soil in the State, it is considered necessary to regulate the felling and replanting of trees in non-forest areas of the State of Haryana.

1. Short title, extent and commencement.

(1) This Act may be called the Haryana Preservation of Trees Act, 2026.

(2) It extends to all the non-forest areas of Haryana State.

(3) The provisions of this act shall also be applicable in areas notified under General Section 4 of Punjab Land Preservation Act 1900 where tree felling is regulated under that Act.

(4) The Act shall come into force at once.

(5) The Act shall not to apply to forest and wildlife areas as recorded in the records of Forest & Wildlife Department where provisions of Indian Forest Act 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam* 1980 are applicable.

3. Definitions. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the context-

(i) "Appellate Authority" means an authority appointed by the State Government for the purposes of this Act;

(ii) “Compensatory Tree Plantation Fund” means an account maintained to deposit the amount for specific purpose of compensatory tree plantation by the Forest Department;

(iii) “Exempted trees” means tree species exempted by the Government from time to time for the purpose of this Act;

(iv) "Felling a tree", with its cognate expressions, means cutting, pruning, girdling, pollarding of branches of more than 30 cm of girth and includes burning or cutting or concretisation or applying arboricides/chemicals to a

tree to cause substantial damage to a tree in a way so as to cause its death/drying;

(v) 'Preservation of trees' means, maintenance and protection of trees to encourage normal growth and prevent damage from excessive pruning, pollarding, burning or any way or cutting or felling and includes planting of new trees and transplanting of trees;

(vi) "Tree" means any woody plant of tree species whose branches spring from and are supported upon a trunk or body and whose trunk or body is not less than 'thirty centimetres' in girth at breast height (1.37 m) from ground level in plains whereas collar girth of 30 cm at ground level in ecological sensitive areas of Shivalik Hills and Aravalli Hills where the trees are slow growing; forking of branches below breast height shall not be considered as separate tree if coming from same root of the tree.

(vii) "Tree Officer" means an Officer not below the rank of Divisional Forest Officer or any other officer so notified by the State Government;

(viii) Words and expressions used in this Act and defined in the Indian Forest Act, 1927, as amended in its application to Haryana, but not defined in this Act shall have the meaning respectively assigned to them in that Act.

4. Restriction on felling and removal of trees. Except as provided in this Act or the rules made thereunder, no person shall, without permission of the Tree Officer -

(a) fell any green tree standing on any non-forest land unless exempted; provided that the exemption of species shall not be applicable to areas falling within municipal limits.

(b) cut, remove or otherwise dispose of any tree other than a tree which is completely dead or has fallen without the aid of human agency in any area;

(c) prune/pollard the branches of trees more than 30 cm in girth in municipal areas; pruning of trees in agricultural fields shall not require any permission.

5. Permission to fell or remove trees.

The tree officer may, on the application of any owner or person entitled/authorised to fell a standing green tree or to cut, remove or otherwise

dispose of a fallen green tree or parts of it, after making such inquiry, as it thinks fit, grant permission to him to do so;

Provided that the tree

a) is green and fallen or chances of falling due to tilting; or
b) constitutes a danger to public life or property or
c) constitutes obstruction to traffic; or
d) is substantially damaged or destroyed by fire, lightening, rain or other natural causes; or
e) is required in rural areas to be cut with a view to appropriating the wood or leaves thereof or any part thereof for bonafide use for fuel, fodder, agricultural implements, or other domestic use.

- Provided that such permission shall not be required for the felling of exempted trees under this act by the Government from time to time; but exemption such shall not be applicable for areas falling within municipal limits;
- Provided dead/dry trees standing on non-forest areas shall not require any permission. Such trees may be removed by the owner of the tree without permission;
- Provided further that the fruit trees planted in an orchard and have been unproductive for fruit production shall not require any permission;
- Provided further that pruning of trees in agricultural fields shall not require any permission;
- Provided further that in exigencies such as floods, storms, war like situation or any other natural or manmade calamities, such immediate steps as are necessary to remove any obstruction or nuisance or to prevent any danger to public life and/or property such permission shall not be required for the felling of trees.

6. Procedure for obtaining permission to fell or remove tree.

(1) Every application under Section 5 shall be submitted on online portal of Forest & Wildlife Department on Haryana e-seva portal and shall be made in

such manner and shall contain such particulars as may be prescribed by the Government or Forest Department from time to time.

(2) The Tree Officer shall give his decision in the case of an application in respect of tree felling within thirty days from the date of receipt of such application, and in the case of an application in respect of a fallen green tree within three days from the date of receipt of such application.

(3) Every permission granted under this Act shall be in such form and subject to such reasonable conditions, as may be prescribed by the tree officer.

(4) If the tree officer fails to give his/ her decision within the stipulated time as allowed by sub-section (2), the application is automatically forwarded to the Appellant Authority as per procedure on online portal.

(5) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Tree Officer under sub-section (2) may make a representation within thirty days from the date of such decision, to the Appellate Authority and the decision of Appellate Authority on such representation shall be final.

7. Obligation to plant trees. Every person, to whom permission has been granted under this Act to fell, cut, remove or dispose of any green tree, shall be bound to plant **ten trees** through Forest Department in lieu of every tree cut/ felled as far as possible in the same district from where such tree has been felled, cut, removed or disposed under such permission to compensate the environment loss;

- Provided that the applicant shall have to deposit such sum of money in the **Compensatory Tree Plantation Fund** at rate of the existing cost norms of the Forest Department for plantation and maintenance for five years.
- Provided that no compensatory plantation shall be mandatory for permissions of pruning of branches of trees as specified.

8. Implementation of directions given under Section 7.

(1) Every person who is under an obligation to plant trees under Section 7 shall comply with all the terms and conditions as stipulated in the felling permission of Tree Officer. In case of non-compliance of the terms and

conditions, the Tree Officer may impose a fine extending upto twice the cost of compensatory plantation.

9. **Penalty for felling or removal of trees in contravention of Section-4 – Penalty, Environmental compensation and Punishment**

Whosoever fells or causes irreparable damage to any standing green tree, or cuts, removes or otherwise disposes of any fallen green tree, in contravention of the provisions of Section 4 of this Act, shall be liable for imposition of penalty of Rs. 10000/- per tree along with environment compensation equal to amount of 20 times the cost of compensatory plantation and maintenance for five years at the rate of existing cost norms of Forest Department for plantation; failing to deposit the penalty and the environmental compensation shall be liable for punishment of imprisonment for a period of minimum three months;

The penalty so imposed shall also be deposited in the Compensatory Tree Plantation Fund and shall be utilised for enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

10. **Seizure of property:**

Where the Tree Officer has reasons to believe that an offence under this Act has been committed in respect of any green tree on non-forest land, he/she may seize the tools, implements, vehicles, animals or other conveyances used for commission of the said offence, alongwith the tree or part of, which has been severed from the ground or trunk, as the case may be. Any timber produce from the tree, tools and implements, etc. used in committing the offence and any boats, vehicles, animals or other conveyances used and seized shall be disposed of by the Tree Officer in such manner as may be prescribed.

12. **Power to prevent commission of offence** - Every Tree Officer or his subordinates or any Forest, Revenue or Police Officer shall prevent and may interfere for the purpose of preventing the commission of any offence under this Act.

13. Power to compound offence

1. The State Government may empower a Tree Officer or any Forest Officer not below the rank of Divisional Forest Officer:

a. to seize and confiscate the tree produce, vehicles and tools used in tree felling carried out without permission;

b. to compound any offence committed under this Act on payment of penalty and environmental compensation decided by the Tree Officer as prescribed under Section 9 of this Act.

c. to release any property seized or liable to confiscation, on payment of the value thereof as estimated by such officer and the amount determined as payable for composition of the offence, as or ordered by the Tree Officer or any Forest Officer, as the case may be.

2. On the payment of such sums or such value or both, as the case may be, to such officer, the property seized and no further proceeding shall be taken against such offender or property.

14. Offences by organization

(1) If the person committing an offence under this Act is an organization, the organization as well as every person in charge of, and responsible to, the organization for the conduct of its business at the time of the commission of the offence shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be punished accordingly;

Provided that nothing contained in this sub section shall render any such person liable to any punishment provided in this Act, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge and that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence under this Act has been committed by an organization and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to, any neglect on the part of its Head of Department/office/unit, Director, Manager, Secretary, Treasures or other officer of the organisation

shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against accordingly.

15. Award of penalty not to interfere with other punishment

The award of penalty under this Act shall not prevent the inflicting of any punishment to which the person affected thereby is liable under any other law.

16. Officers to be public servants

The officers exercising powers or discharging any duties or functions under this Act shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of Section 2(28) of the *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita* (BNS), 2023.

17. Power of the Government for Preservation of Trees

a. The Government may in the interest of general public, declare by an order that any tree or class of trees shall not be felled for such period as its specified in that order.

b. The management of such trees shall be regulated in the prescribed manner as decided by the Government.

18. Power of State Government to exempt or de-notify exempted species

Subject to such conditions, if any, as may be imposed, the State Government may, if it is considered necessary to do so in the public interest by an order, exempt certain tree species or de-notify exempted species of trees for the provisions of this Act.

19. Investing Trees Officers with certain powers

The Government may, invest the Tree Officers and its subordinates and authorised government officers:

a. Power to enter upon any land and to survey, demarcate and make a map of the same;
b. Powers to compel the attendance of witness and the production of documents and material objects;
c. Power to hold enquiries into offence under the Act and in the course of such enquiry to receive and record evidence;
d. Power to take possession of case property under the Act.

e. Power to direct release of case property or withdrawal of charges; and
f. Power to require any person to plant tree or trees of suitable species in adequate numbers as prescribed in rules.

20. Power of the Government to issue directions

The Government, from time to time, may issue general or special directions to the Trees Officers and officers subordinate to them regarding the discharge of their functions and for carrying out effectively the purpose of this Act, and such Tree Officers and other officers shall comply with the directions issued from time to time by the Government.

21. Execution of order for recovery of penalty/compensation

Any sum, including any amount for compounding of an offence, the payment of which has been directed to be made by any person under this Act shall, without prejudice to any other mode of recovery under any law for the time being in force, be recoverable from him as compensation or as arrears of land revenue.

22. Indemnity for acts done in good faith

No suit or proceedings shall lie against the State Government or against any person empowered to exercise power or to perform duties or discharge functions under this Act, for anything in good faith done or purporting to be done under this Act.

23. Applicability of this Act in non-forest areas of the State superseding any law for the time being in force regulating tree felling.

The provisions of the Act shall be applicable in non-forest areas of the State superseding the provisions of any other act/law for the time being in force prohibiting or regulating the felling of trees.

24. Power to make rules

1. The Government may, after notification of the Act in the Official Gazette, make rules to implement the provisions of this Act.
2. Every rule made by the Government under this Act shall be issued by a official notification.

25. Repeal and savings

This Act shall continue in force unless and until superseded by any action taken or any amendment, notification, order, scheme, rule, form or bye-law made or issued under this Act**.**

******