

OA-194/2024/EZ

ORDER passed in Original Application No. 1120/2024

न्यायिक अनुभाग Judicial Section <judicial-ngt@gov.in>

Thu, 05 Sep 2024 12:36:31 PM +0530

To "Sh. RAJA CHATTERJEE Registrar" <registrarngt-kolkata@gov.in>, "National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata" <ngtjudicial-kolkata@gov.in>

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am directed to forward a copy of the Documents & Order dated 02/09/2024 passed in Original Application No. 1120/2024 News Item titled "FIR filed over alleged listing of Khuga Reserved Forest Land for sale in Churachandpur" appearing in Ukhrul Times dated 19.08.2024. for your kind perusal & necessary action.

भवदीय / Regards ☺

परामर्शदाता (न्यायिक) / Consultant (Judicial) ☺

राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण / National Green Tribunal ☺

प्रधान न्यायपीठ / Principal Bench ☺

नई दिल्ली / New Delhi - 110001 ☺

☺ 2 Attachment(s) • Download as Zip • Add To >



FIR filed over alleged listing... .pdf

112.8 KB • ☺



OA-1120-24.pdf

4.2 MB • ☺

Noted in case list & well as
Compliance register.

FIR Filed Over Alleged Listing of Khuga Reserved Forest Land for Sale in Churachandpur

By UT Desk · August 19, 2024 · 10:05pm



premium

Imphal: An FIR has been registered by the Churachandpur District Police following a complaint from the Water Resource Department, Government of Manipur, regarding the alleged listing of Khuga Reserved Forest land for sale by some Kuki miscreants.

The Divisional Forest Officer of Churachandpur Forest Division had earlier requested a detailed report on the legal status and land ownership of the area from the Churachandpur District Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner then instructed the relevant SDC to submit an inquiry report.

Also read | Center Sanctions Rs 18 Crore to Promote Manipuri Language and Script

The incident came to light after a video in the Kuki dialect promoting the sale of plots within the Khuga Reserved Forest as part of an “August offer,” amidst significant deforestation in the area, went viral.

The Manipur Government had declared the Khuga Reserved Forest a protected area under the Manipur Forest Act of 1960 in 1962 to preserve its biodiversity and ecosystem.

The sales advertisement has raised concerns and questions about the enforcement of legal protections for the land and why such illegal transactions are occurring despite these protections.

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

Original Application No. 1120/2024

News Item titled "FIR filed over alleged listing of Khuga Reserved Forest Land for sale in Churachandpur" appearing in Ukhrul Times dated 19.08.2024

Date of hearing: 02.09.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
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 "FIR filed over alleged listing of Khuga Reserved Forest Land for sale in Churachandpur" appearing in Ukhrul Times dated 19.08.2024.

2. The matter relates to the alleged listing of Khuga Reserved Forest land near Churachandpur in Manipur for sale. As per the article, the incident came to light after a video in the Kuki dialect promoting the sale of plots within the Khuga Reserved Forest as part of an "August offer" amidst significant deforestation in the area, went viral.

3. The news item further highlights that the Manipur Government had declared the Khuga Reserved Forest a protected area under the Manipur Forest Act of 1960 in 1962 to preserve its biodiversity and ecosystem. The article further questions the enforcement of legal protections for the land and why such illegal transactions are occurring despite these protections.

4. The above news item indicates violation of the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

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

6. The 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.

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

i. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Manipur

Principal Chief Conservator of forests, Forest Head Office,
Sanjenthong, Government of Manipur Imphal, (Manipur) –
795001

ii. Divisional Forest Officer, Churachandpur Forest Division

E-mail: churachandpur@gmail.com

iii. Ministry of Environment and Forest, Through its Regional Office

Integrated Regional Office, Law-U-Sib, Lumbatngen, Near MTC
Workshop, Shillong

iv. Deputy Commissioner, Churachandpur

Deputy Commissioner Office, Churachandpur, Manipur-
795128

8. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the Eastern Zonal Bench of 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.

9. Since the matter relates to the Eastern Zonal Bench, Kolkata, therefore, OA is transferred to the Eastern Zonal Bench for appropriate further action. Let the original record of this OA be transferred to the Eastern Zonal Bench, Kolkata.

10. List before Eastern Zonal Bench at Kolkata on 01.10.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

September 02, 2024
OA No. 1120/2024
HB