

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA**

Original Application No. 192 of 2024/EZ

In the Matter of:

Pradeep Singh Sekhawat.....PETITIONER

-VERSUS-

The State of Assam and othersRESPONDENTS

INDEX

Sl. No.	Particulars	Annexures	Pages
1.	Affidavit	-	1 - 15
2.	The notification dated 25 th July, 2022 and the Map	A-I	16 - 22
3.	The report of the Divisional Forest Officer and the topographic map and the Border encroachment Map	A-II	23 - 35
4.	The copies of the Google maps	A-III	36 - 37
5.	Reports/evidences supporting the above statements as well as the notification F.No.11-48/2002-FC dated 29/04/2005 of the Govt. of India	A-IV	38 - 52

Filed by:

Santanu Bora

Santanu Bora, Advocate

Standing Counsel, State of Assam

E-mail: avocatesbora@gmail.com

Mobile: 8011790102

Sl. Instrument No 28,968
Date.....5/12/24



-*

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA**

Original Application No. 192 of 2024/EZ

In the Matter of:

Pradeep Singh Sekhawat.....PETITIONER

-VERSUS-

The State of Assam and othersRESPONDENTS

Vinay Gupta

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
Assam, Guwahati

Affidavit in Reply on behalf of the Respondents, the State of Assam

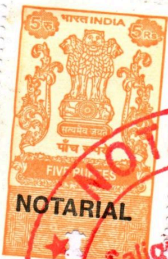
I Dr. Vinay Gupta, son of Late Ram Kumar Gupta, aged about 55 years, by occupation service, residing at Khanapara, Guwahati, Kamrup Metro District do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That I am the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden in the State of Assam and as such I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case.

2. That I have received the copy of the above-mentioned Original Application, have gone through the same and understood the contents made therein.

3. That I will traverse only through those portion which are relevant for the present purpose, as well as for which the clarifications are sought for. The portions of Original application, not replied to shall not be treated as to be my admission.

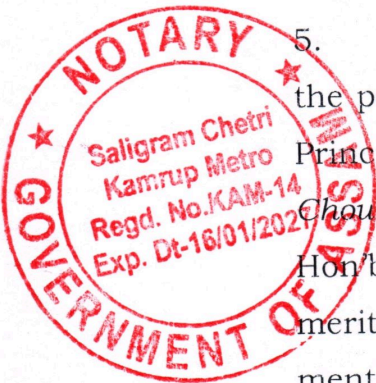
Saligram Chetri
NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
Regd. No-KAM-14



4. At the outset, the answering respondent begs to state that the petitioner has brought the issue of “*Environmental Damage caused to forest in Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary located in Cachar District, Assam due to illegal construction of roads in Bhuban hill within the Wildlife Sanctuary, which is in violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and guidelines dated 29.12.2023 issued by the Central Government.*”---- The above averment made by the petitioner is fully denied and the deponent begs to state that perhaps the petitioner has little/no knowledge of the actual facts. Facts stated in the petition is totally a concocted story and far away from the actual facts and as such his petition is not maintainable. In the instant case of the alleged violation of Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary, the petitioner has grossly erred in assessing the ground facts of the situation including the legal position and hence the petition is not maintainable.

Yinay Gupta
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
Assam, Guwahati

5. In connection to the above submissions, it can be well said that the petitioner actually dragged the matter of O.A. No. 61/2024 in the Principal Bench of the Hon'ble Tribunal and O.A. 105/ 2024 (*Rohit Choudhury -vs- State of Assam*) in the Eastern Zone Bench of the Hon'ble Tribunal, only to strengthen the instant petition which has no merit and no substance at all. Be it mentioned that the two above mentioned Original Applications are pending sub judice with the Hon'ble Tribunal. It is also pertinent to mention that the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change is actively considering the approval of the 2nd Assam Police Commando Battalion Headquarter at Damcherra Inner Line Reserved Forest (ILRF) in Hailakandi District and 4th Assam Police Commando Battalion in Geleki RF in Sivasagar District. In this connection, it is also submitted that, the Regional Office had issued notice to Shri M.K. Yadava, Special Chief Secretary (Forest)



Saligram Chetri
NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
Regd. No-KAM-14

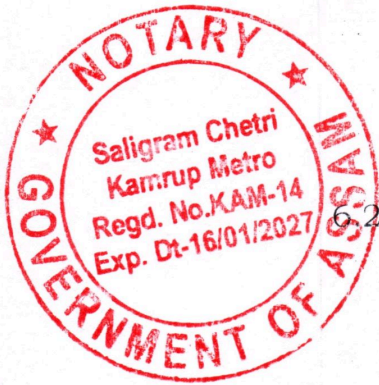
and Shri Yadava in his reply, has clarified that no violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and guidelines has been committed by him. The issues/allegations made in the above two cases are practically the matter of Forest Protection in the wake of large scale devastation of forest, encroachment and tree felling including serious threat to the internal security of the State and hence it is reiterated here once again that the 2 (two) Battalions for which permission was granted by the Forest Department are very much a forestry activity, and the petitioner has no ground on merit to drag these issues here, without having any understanding of the ground situation.

6. Now I will deal with the parawise contentions of the instant case:-

6.1. With regard to the statements made in paragraphs 1 to 4 of the instant application. With regard to the said paragraphs I state that save and accept those borne on record the averments made by the petitioner in para 1,2,3 and 4 are denied.

6.2. I deny and dispute the statements made in paragraph 5 of the original application. I beg to state that, in the said paragraph the petitioner has tried to raise allegedly substantial question of law which includes the following: -

- a) *Whether road can be constructed within the Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary, without obtaining prior approval from the Central Government as mandated by the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, which amounts to violation of the said Act and related guidelines issued by the Central Government?*



Saligram Chetri
NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
Regd. No-KAM-14

- b) Whether the permissions granted by Shri M.K. Yadava, the then Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Assam, for construction of a Commando Battalion Headquarters and road, are illegal and in contravention of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980?
- c) Whether the continued construction activities within the Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary, in contravention of the order dated 13.11.2000 and in the absence of mandatory approvals and clearances, amount to an ongoing environmental violation that warrants immediate cessation and restitution measures?
- d) Whether the concerned officials, including Shri M.K. Yadava, ought to be held personally liable for compensating and restoring the damage caused to the forest ecosystem?
- e) Whether the construction of a road within a Wildlife Sanctuary is justified if not, the legal implications thereof?
- f) Whether orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal in O.A. No. 61 of 2024 and OA No. 105/2024) establish ha precedent for immediate intervention in this matter?



Without going into the merits of alleged substantial question of law raised by the petitioner, the answering respondent begs to state that it sufficed here to say that the averments made by the petitioner in paragraph 5 of the instant original application are without any substance and not tenable. It is very much apparent that the petitioner is not at all conversant with the facts and legal provisions in the instant case.

Saligram Chetri
NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
Regd. No. KAM-14

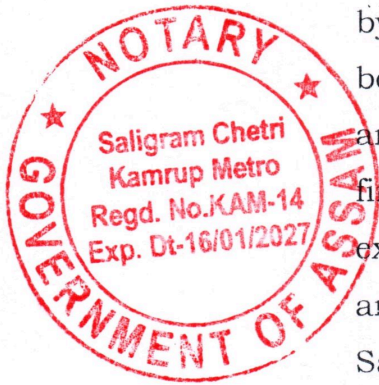
May 2024
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
Assam, Guwahati

7. In connection to para 6 of the Original Application, the answering respondent begs to place before the Hon'ble Tribunal the following facts of the case as stated below: -

- (i) The Government of Assam declared its intention to constitute the area described in the Preliminary Notification dated 25th July, 2022, as the Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary. The proposed Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary comprises of parts of Barak Reserve Forest (hereinafter referred to as Barak RF) and Inner Line Reserve Forest (hereinafter referred to as ILRF). Be it mentioned that, as per provision 18 A(1) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the said areas as on date are legally a Reserve Forest, pending the final notification as a Wildlife Sanctuary. Therefore, the area under question is not governed by the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The area so notified is to be addressed as **Proposed Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary** and not as Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary, as because the final notification of the Sanctuary is yet to be issued. To this extent the averments made by the petitioner/ Applicant herein, and his claim that the area under question is a Wildlife Sanctuary is not borne by facts.

The notification dated 25th July, 2022 and the Map of the said area are annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure -I.**

- (ii) That as per the report of the DFO, Cachar Division, in this regard, in the Bhuban Hills, which is a part of Barak RF and that a temple being Bhuban Temple is situated at the top of the Bhuban Hill, and is a historical site of great spiritual



5/12/24
Saligram Chetri
NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
Regd. No. KAM-14

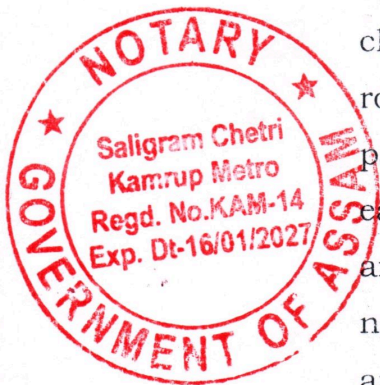
Amoy Gupta
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
Assam, Guwahati

significance since eighteenth century, dating back to reign of Dimasa Heramba King, Krishna Chandra Narayana (1774-1813), which makes the temple more than 250 years old.

- (iii) It is also stated that every year during the Maha Shivaratri, typically in month of Feb/March lakhs of devotees visit the temple via temporary kaccha road, which is the only road kept open by the Forest Department, for the benefit of pilgrims/devotees and there is no other road to approach the temple as the terrain is very steep and challenging. The topographic map, which is taken from the topographic sheet of Survey of India (SOI) 1967/ 74, 83H2, shows the height of the temple to be 775m from Mean Sea Level (MSL), and as can be seen in the map, there was a Forest Rest House (FRH) at the top as well, which is not traceable currently, and the said track route is also clearly seen in the topographic map. For rest of the year, the road is primarily used by the Forest Department personnel for patrolling. The vehicular movement was almost impossible earlier as the road was kaccha and steep. Besides, the answering respondent begs to state that due to the aggressive nature of encroachment from across the border, patrolling of the area with armed battalion becomes a necessity. The border encroachment map also proves the fact.

The said report of the Divisional Forest Officer and the topographic map and the Border Encroachment Map, are annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure -II** (collectively).

(iv) Therefore, considering the trouble and hardship of the pilgrims/devotees and difficulties in efficient patrolling and the

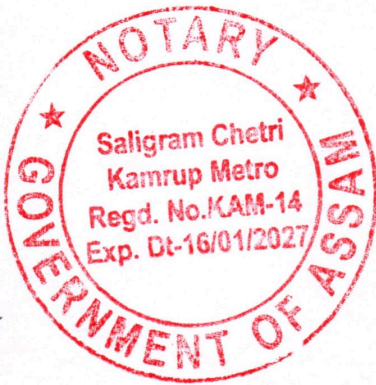


5/12/24
Saligram Chetri
NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
Regd. No. KAM-14

May 2024
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
Assam, Guwahati

encroachments that has started in that area, a meeting was held by the then Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of Forest Force, Shri M.K. Yadava, IFS, on 29/11/2022, and in which the then Chief Conservator of Forest, Silchar, as well as the then Divisional Forest Officer Cachar were present among others. The minutes of the said meeting can be seen at Annexure I of the DFO report which is annexed herewith in Annexure -II. Needless to mention that the meeting dealt in detail on the pros and cons of a PWD road and a Forest road. The Committee concluded that the complete length of road must be under the control of Forest Department and Right Of Way (ROW) also should belong to the Forest Department, in order to resist the encroachments which are likely to occur on the ROW of the PWD road. Be it mentioned that the nature and control of the public roads in Assam is governed by The Assam Public Works (Regulation of Road Development and Transport) Act, 2010. According to the Section 2(i) of the said Act, -“ road” means any public thorough fare, whether a highway. Major District Road, State Highway Other District Road, village road, rural road, street, lane, bridle path or a footpath, foot-track, whether surfaced or unsurfaced, whether on land owned by State Government or local authority or on land belonging to a private person over which the public have, or have acquired a right of way by usage”. In view of the above, in contrast to the Act of 2010, under which all roads in the State other than the National Highways, are built, the present road of the Forest Department is a Forest road build by Forest Department and only the funding, technical know-how and construction of the road was entrusted to PWD. As per report of the DFO, given the nature

Ymay Fpb
 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
 Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
 Assam, Guwahati

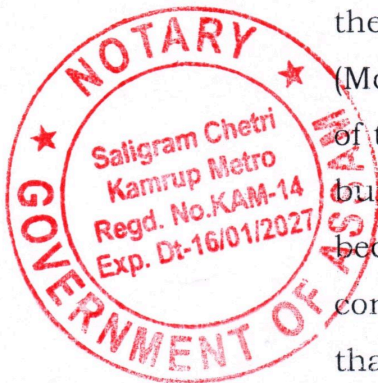


Saligram Chetri
 NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
 Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
 Regd. No-KAM-14

of the terrain, the Forest Department was not in a position to construct such a road.

- (v) In this connection, it is also humbly submitted, that, the said road is very much a forest road and is not open to public except to pilgrim/devotees of Maha Shivratri and no public other than Forest Department and Law Enforcement Agencies are allowed access by the Forest Department. Therefore, the road by no stretch of imagination can be considered a public road under the Section 2 (i) of the The Assam Public Works (Regulation of Road Development and Transport) Act, 2010. Therefore, the allegation of the petitioner that, the Forest Department has allowed construction of the PWD Road in the said area is totally false, misleading and made with mala fide intentions to malign the Assam Forest Department. The Minutes of the Meeting (MoM) Dt. 29/11/2024 is very clear that it is the internal road of the Department, and that, the reason for not letting PWD to build their own road under Approach 1 as the road would, then, become a public road and the Forest Department shall have no control over the flow of traffic. The minutes also clearly state that the road is a dead end and does not create a thoroughfare and does not connect to any other public road.

- (vi) The minutes also clearly states that, if the area is diverted the road along with the Right of Way would go out of the control of the Forest Department and growth of human activities such as construction of shops, sheds, houses etc. would increase in the near future and it would not be possible to stop these, as the ROW areas would not be under the control of the Forest Department. The MoM also clearly states, that, the Forest Department itself needs quick access to the area and easy



5/12/24
Saligram Chettri
NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
Regd. No. KAM-14

Ymay Jyoti

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
Assam, Guwahati

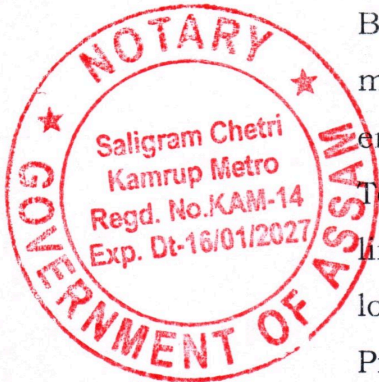
✖

movement of patrolling parties and Forest Force for protection purposes if the area is retained under the control of the Forest department, the access control would be exercised by the Forest Department and any unauthorized construction etc. on along the road can be easily evicted and the protection of the said area would enhance. It is also clearly stated that since the Forest Department does not have adequate fund or expertise to construct such a road with sharp gradient and the Department may take assistance from PWD to construct a road including funding from the available resources of PWD, while the PWD will not be having any rights on the road, other than the maintenance and upkeep of the said road. From the MoM, it is very clear that the actual facts are totally different from what has been narrated falsely by the petitioner.

Vinay Gupta

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
Assam, Guwahati

- (vii) The answering respondent begs to provide the actual location of Bhuban temple and the forest road leading to it. The two google maps, second being an enlarged version of the first map enclosed herein clearly amplifies the actual location of Bhuban Temple and road leading to it. The road is marked in red color line that can be clearly seen from the image. The temple is located inside Barak RF but is outside the boundary of the Proposed Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary. Most of the road except a treacherous 'U' turn, also falls outside the Proposed Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary. The length of the road falling within the Proposed Sanctuary, pertaining to the 'U' turn, is roughly 1.11 km. out of the total length 8 km. of the road. The Bhuban Temple also, though located inside Barak RF, is kept outside of the Proposed Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary, so



Saligram Chetri
NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
Regd. No-KAM-14

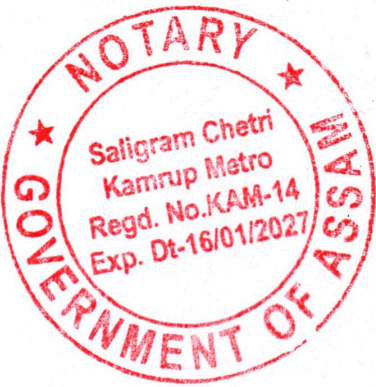
that devotees do not have to face any hardship in reaching to the temple.

The copies of the above-mentioned Google maps are annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure -III**.

(viii) Besides, there are additional facts and circumstances/ news reports which have been gathered by the answering respondent and which are quite relevant in the present matter lying for consideration before the Hon'ble Tribunal. The same are as follows:

- a) In reply to Lok Sabha question No. 3, 4, 5 on 26th February 2013 the Ministry of Home affairs Govt of India, replied that **three devotees were killed on 12/02/2010 in Bhuban Hills (which was the day of Maha Shivaratri)**. Further news report of "North East Now" dated 5th March, 2022 states that five people found dead in different location in Bhuban Hills of Cachar District. Another news report "Barak Bulletin" dated 2nd March, 2022. It may be noted that Maha Shivaratri was on 1st March, 2022. The news report also stated that they died in Bhuban Hill Pilgrimage expedition. Further, Maha Shivaratri again was on 18th February, 2023, and as per the report of Assam Tribune dated 19th February, 2023, at least two devotees were reported to be dead.

These reports clearly reveals the fact, that there is large gathering of devotees on the Maha Shivaratri at top of the Bhuban Hill and due to lack of appropriate road communication from the ground to



5/12/24
Saligram Chetri
NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
Regd. No. KAM-14

- X -

the Bhuban Temple which is more than seven hundred meters at the top of the Bhuban Hill, several devotees had to embrace death which is very unfortunate. It is not understood why the petitioner has kept these news reports out of the sight of the Hon'ble Tribunal. This only indicates that the petitioner has a hidden agenda and a malafide intention only to malign the Forest Department.

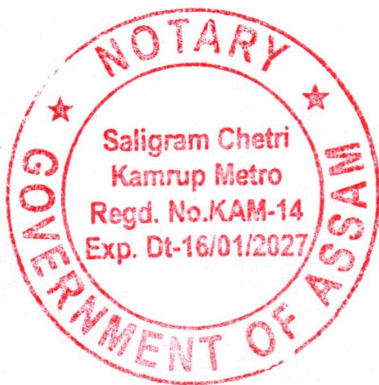
- b) Further, it was reported on 17th July, 2024 by Barak Bulletin that arms were recovered from Bhuban Pahar and Hmar militants were killed in crossfire. As can be seen from the report, a large cache of arms was stated to have been recovered from the Bhuban Hills and the police had to engage into arms fight with the heavily armed militants. In this regard, the tweet of the Director General of Police, Assam and the Press Note contained therein says that three persons were apprehended with AK-47 Rifles while approaching Bhuban Hills. And during that interrogation, it was revealed that their counterparts were taking shelter around Bhuban Hill with huge cache of arms to carry out some subversive activities in Assam-Manipur border areas. The Police along with commando battalion launched a special operation in the areas of Bhuban Hills where the Police team approached the difficult hilly terrain in the said hills, the Police encountered a sudden firing attack by the suspected militants taking shelter at the backside of the steep hills. And there was heavy exchange of fire from both the sides.



5/12/24
 Saligram Chetri
 NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
 Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
 Regd. No-KAM-14

Imay Jyoti
 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
 Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
 Assam, Guwahati

- c) Such events clearly demonstrate that the Proposed Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary which is located at the tri-junction of Assam Mizoram and Manipur border areas flanked by the Barak RF and the Inner line RF is at a great security risk. In absence of proper road communication, the forest, police and security forces are at great risk and in absence of movement of the forces the proposed sanctuary might become a haven for hiding of militants, anti-social elements, drug traffickers and arms-smugglers.
- d) It is surprising that despite this being a news item concerning Bhuban Hills, the petitioner has deliberately ignored such news and such tweets by the law enforcement authorities of the state, by not bringing the same to the notice of the Hon'ble Tribunal. The petitioner has failed to bring these materials of high consequence and great security concern before the Hon'ble Tribunal.
- e) Further, the answering respondent begs to state that the southern boundary of the Proposed Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary goes along the Mizoram border and at least three encroachments have been reported by the DFO Cachar Division which may be seen in the map annexed herein.
- f) Thus it is very much clear that in the absence of proper security and proper road communication, it will be next to impossible to control encroachments, forest destruction, tree felling and activities such as militant hideouts, arms smuggling and drug trafficking which are of great threat to the internal security of the state.



Saligram Chetri
NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
Regd. No-KAM-14

Ymay Gupta
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
Assam, Guwahati

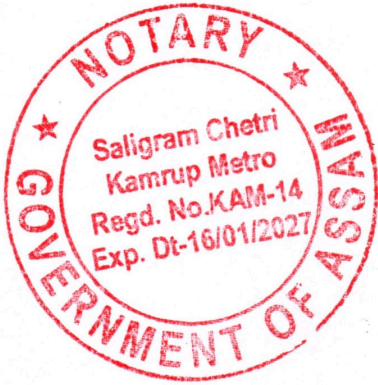
In this aspect, the Answering Respondent begs to state that the Government of Assam has rightly set up a Commando Battalion in the Inner Line Reserve Forest (ILRF) at Damcherra.

- (ix) Nature of the Road: - The forest road in question is made of Paver blocks and this is how the rural roads are constructed as per the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna (PMGSY) guidelines.

Moreover, upgradation of old 'Kutchra' roads in forest areas to 'Pucca' road is governed by notification F.No.11-48/2002-FC dated 29/04/2005 of the Govt. of India in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi, which requires the following conditions to be met for construction of 'Kutchra' road to 'Pucca' road:-

- The 'Kutchra' road must be existing prior to 1980 'Pucca'.
- If the road is not black topped/tarred, the upgradation is allowed without any permission.
- If the 'Pucca' road is tarred, it would need prior Environmental Clearance (EC).
- As black topped 'Pucca' road would require prior EC, the permission of the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) would be required as well.

Thus in view of the above, it is just and proper to say that, there is no violation of any guideline, either of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 or Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and The



Saligram Chetri
NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
Regd. No-KAM-14

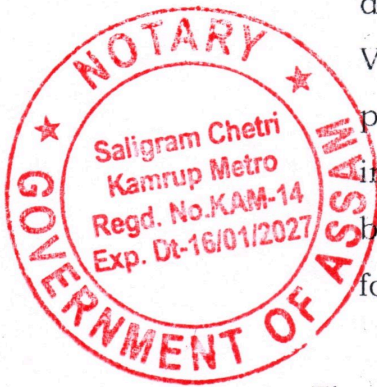
Ymay P. P. P.
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
Assam, Guwahati

-IX-

Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 2023, as the upgraded forest road is only a paver block road.

- (x) In view of above averments, made by the answering respondent the petition is rendered infructuous in totality. The petitioner has not only assailed the cause of devotees of Lord Shiva several of whom have lost their lives, and since the area is within reserve forest and the access to the temple is well established several decades prior to 1900. So the action of the department cannot be questioned by the petitioner. Further, given the grim security situation as reported in the paragraphs above and also the situation of continuous encroachments from Mizoram side and area is being used as hide outs by armed militants, the Forest Department needs access to the area by way of vehicular movements and the same has been done in accordance to the established law of the land. The petitioner, who has no concern about the security and safety of the forest, has nothing to say, other than doing a misconstrued sensationalisation of alleged violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 2023. His petition is devoid of facts and it is based of his figment of his imagination hence, the answering respondent begs to submit before the Hon'ble Tribunal that the petition may be rejected forth with.

The reports/evidences supporting the above statements as well as the notification F.No.11-48/2002-FC dated 29/04/2005 of the Govt. of India are annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure- IV** (Collectively).



Saligram Chetri
NOTARY GOVT. OF ASSAM
Kamrup (Metro) Guwahati
Regd. No. KAM-14

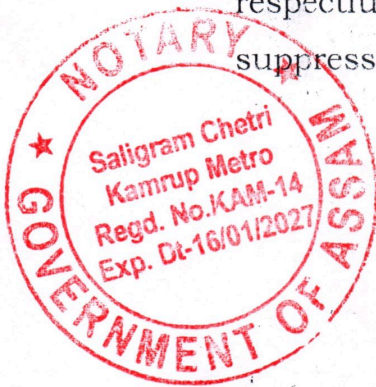
May 2024
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
Assam, Guwahati

8. With regards to the averments made by the petitioner in para 6.1 to 6.18 and thereafter, 7 (7.1 to 9.11) and 8, I state that, the statements made in those paragraphs practically holds no merit, and are totally made with a malafide intention, simply to malign the image of the Forest department and the image of a particular officer. This is clear from the above submissions made by the answering respondent with evidences, and hence the same are vehemently denied and it is reiterated once again that the petition holds no merit and has no ground to survive.

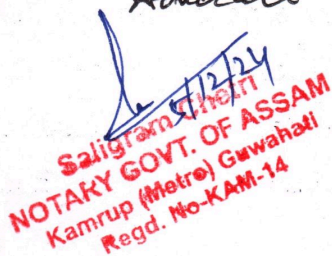
9. Therefore, the answering respondent begs to submit that the prayer to petitioner may be quashed without any further deliberation, and to levy heavy penalties on the petitioner for wasting valuable time of the Hon'ble Tribunal as a matter in which the petitioner has no primary knowledge or stake and has acted in haste with ulterior motives.

10. That the statements made out in the foregoing paragraphs are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and the same are also my respectful submissions before this Hon'ble Court and that I have not suppressed any material facts.

Vinay Gupta
 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
 Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
 Assam, Guwahati



Identified by -
 Sanli Bora
 Advocate



Vinay Gupta
 Deponent
 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
 Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden
 Assam, Guwahati



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসমপত্ৰ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্তৃপত্ৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY

নং ৫৫১ দিশপুৰ, বুধবাৰ, ২৭ জুলাই, ২০২২, ৫ শ্ৰাবণ, ১৯৪৪ (শক)

No. 551 Dispur, Wednesday, 27th July, 2022, 5th Shrawana, 1944 (S. P.)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 25th July, 2022

No. FRW.11/2020/30.- In exercise of the power conferred by Section 35 of Wildlife (Protection) act, 1972 as amended upto date, the Governor of Assam is pleased to declare its intention to constitute the area described in the Schedule annexed hereto as to the Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Governor of Assam, further hereby appoints the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, Silchar to enquire into and determine the existence, the nature and extent of any rights /claims alleged to exist in favour of any person or persons, in or over any land within the limit described in the Schedule below. The enquiry into the above will be as per procedure laid in the section 19 to 26-A (both inclusive except clause (e) of sub-section (2) of section (24) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 read with section 35 of the said Act.

SCHEDULE-A

LOCATION

District (Civil) Cachar
 Subdivision (Civil) Sonai
 Name of the Forest Division Cachar Forest Division, Silchar
 Name of Range Monierkhal Range, Sonai
 Area 320.00 Sq km
 Name of the area Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary

SCHEDULE-B

- A. **Wildlife** : The Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary is an hot spot for Primates, reptiles and rare & endangered medicinal plants. The area has **eight recorded species of primates, highest in India and Assam** (except Dampa Tiger Reserve in Mizoram which also has eight species). They are Slow loris (*Nycticebus coucang*), Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), Pig tailed Macaque (*Mnemestrina*), Stump-tailed Macaque (*Macaca arcloides*), Assamese Macaque (*M. assamensis*), Capped langur (*Trachypithecus pileatus*), Phayre's Leaf Monkey (*T. phayrei*) and Hoollock Gibbon (*Hylobates hoolock*).

The area is also good habitat for King Cobra and various other species of reptiles. Four species and Hornbills are found. Assam's last Green Peafowl is recorded in the area. There are also presence of **both Gorals and Himalayan Serow** in this area. The Barak river systems is an excellent habitat for Gangetic River Dolphin.

- B. **Biodiversity and Conservation Significance** : The proposed Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary act as an important for micro fauna and is a repository of rare and endangered flora of medicinal importance.

C. **Map** : A map of Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary attached herewith as Annexure-I

D. **Area** : The Area of the proposed Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary is 320.00 square kilometers (Approx.)

E. **Concessions**: There are no rights and concessions within the said area.

F. **Boundary description of the Barak – Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary**

1. The boundary runs downs stream along Pan Chhara Nallah from the intersection at Assam Mizorum Border till the point where it takes a sharp westward bend at -

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
1	24°27'09.69" N	92°52'39.09" E

2. From GPS Point A, the boundary runs along an unknown Nallah(1) along the GPS points given below :

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
2	24°27'10.45" N	92°52'40.26" E
3	24°27'12.03" N	92°52'41.52" E
4	24°27'16.40" N	92°52'43.25" E
5	24°27'19.29" N	92°52'44.67" E
6	24°27'31.91" N	92°52'49.61" E

3. The boundary further runs along the below GPS Coordinates to meet the ridge line.

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
7	24°27'56.23" N	92°53'06.64" E
8	24°28'02.30" N	92°53'08.15" E
9	24°28'04.00" N	92°53'11.27" E

4. Along the ridge line the boundary runs along the coordinates given below:

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
10	24°28'04.36" N	92°53'11.30" E
11	24°27'58.40" N	92°53'19.42" E
12	24°27'53.08" N	92°53'22.54" E
13	24°28'00.50" N	92°53'34.89" E
14	24°27'59.30" N	92°53'44.51" E
15	24°28'03.33" N	92°53'51.20" E

5. From the last coordinate mentioned under Sl. No 4, The boundary runs eastwards along the GPS coordinates given below till it meets the Sonai River.

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
16	24°28'03.33" N	92°53'50.68" E
17	24°27'50.38" N	92°54'11.46" E
18	24°27'47.39" N	92°54'28.38" E
19	24°27'52.91" N	92°54'32.78" E
20	24°27'52.53" N	92°54'40.88" E
21	24°27'52.58" N	92°54'48.00" E
22	24°27'50.83" N	92°54'49.91" E
23	24°27'54.27" N	92°54'52.78" E
24	24°27'55.81" N	92°54'56.23" E
25	24°27'55.71" N	92°55'01.86" E
26	24°28'00.56" N	92°55'05.15" E
27	24°28'01.12" N	92°55'06.50" E
28	24°28'02.76" N	92°55'12.00" E
29	24°28'01.15" N	92°55'18.23" E
30	24°28'01.37" N	92°55'25.33" E
31	24°28'03.01" N	92°55'30.01" E
32	24°28'02.34" N	92°55'35.36" E
33	24°28'01.09" N	92°55'38.18" E
34	24°27'57.31" N	92°55'43.44" E
35	24°27'54.52" N	92°55'50.80" E
36	24°27'57.05" N	92°55'55.64" E
37	24°27'58.50" N	92°56'00.61" E
38	24°28'00.22" N	92°56'08.85" E

6. Thence the boundary runs north i.e downstream of the Sonai River till the point --

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
39	24°29'08.47" N	92°56'47.52" E

7. From the (GPS point) the boundary goes eastward along the coordinates given below till it meets an unknown Nallah(2) at --

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
40	24°29'09.63" N	92°56'52.65" E
41	24°29'07.13" N	92°56'59.45" E
42	24°29'06.22" N	92°57'04.59" E

8. Thence the boundary runs along the unknown Nallah till it meets (confluence) another unknown Nallah(3) at -

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
43	24°29'35.65" N	92°57'18.89" E

9. The boundary further runs along the upstream of the unknown Nallah(3) till it meets the foothills of the Bhuban range at -

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
44	24°29'32.59" N	92°57'41.22" E

10. The boundary runs along the foothills of the Bhuban range in most parts except at Bhuban temple area where the boundary runs around it. The boundary coordinates are given below :

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
45	24°29'32.61" N	92°57'41.16" E
46	24°29'33.12" N	92°57'41.75" E
47	24°29'33.01" N	92°57'42.34" E
48	24°29'34.37" N	92°57'43.02" E
49	24°29'35.11" N	92°57'44.23" E
50	24°29'38.96" N	92°57'44.65" E
51	24°29'40.56" N	92°57'46.54" E
52	24°29'42.42" N	92°57'48.05" E
53	24°29'44.27" N	92°57'50.17" E
54	24°29'47.04" N	92°57'51.62" E
55	24°29'47.54" N	92°57'51.86" E
56	24°29'48.24" N	92°57'52.57" E
57	24°29'49.48" N	92°57'53.12" E
58	24°29'51.25" N	92°57'53.75" E
59	24°29'53.76" N	92°57'54.02" E
60	24°29'57.34" N	92°57'54.93" E
61	24°30'01.11" N	92°57'57.36" E
62	24°30'03.84" N	92°57'57.79" E
63	24°30'08.55" N	92°58'01.40" E
64	24°30'08.81" N	92°58'01.89" E
65	24°30'10.34" N	92°58'02.53" E
66	24°30'12.28" N	92°58'04.40" E
67	24°30'16.81" N	92°58'04.36" E
68	24°30'19.58" N	92°58'06.75" E
69	24°30'24.21" N	92°58'09.78" E
70	24°30'30.90" N	92°58'09.16" E
71	24°30'33.08" N	92°58'17.22" E
72	24°30'27.00" N	92°58'28.11" E
73	24°30'30.91" N	92°58'36.27" E
74	24°30'35.61" N	92°58'42.98" E
75	24°30'42.13" N	92°58'48.64" E
76	24°30'51.26" N	92°58'53.74" E
77	24°30'52.51" N	92°58'54.57" E

78	24°31'00.47" N	92°58'56.71" E
79	24°31'16.63" N	92°59'00.42" E
80	24°31'35.85" N	92°59'07.18" E
81	24°31'45.95" N	92°59'04.91" E
82	24°31'53.99" N	92°59'10.39" E
83	24°31'57.69" N	92°59'13.55" E
84	24°32'06.28" N	92°59'17.23" E
85	24°32'16.35" N	92°59'18.83" E
86	24°32'20.12" N	92°59'21.40" E
87	24°32'28.61" N	92°59'19.12" E
88	24°32'31.50" N	92°59'20.25" E
89	24°32'42.73" N	92°59'17.50" E
90	24°32'56.67" N	92°59'08.24" E
91	24°33'07.59" N	92°58'58.98" E
92	24°33'30.14" N	92°59'03.73" E
93	24°34'01.24" N	92°59'21.01" E
94	24°34'36.47" N	92°59'26.79" E
95	24°35'27.88" N	92°59'40.62" E
96	24°36'46.74" N	92°59'51.18" E
97	24°36'49.96" N	93°00'11.93" E
98	24°37'10.88" N	93°00'35.93" E
99	24°37'28.25" N	93°00'38.62" E
100	24°37'52.69" N	93°00'26.20" E
101	24°38'48.64" N	93°00'06.41" E
102	24°39'17.86" N	93°00'01.45" E
103	24°39'49.59" N	93°00'11.52" E
104	24°40'22.68" N	93°00'11.88" E
105	24°40'50.66" N	93°00'24.93" E
106	24°41'02.03" N	93°00'26.31" E
107	24°41'10.29" N	93°00'31.75" E
108	24°41'25.96" N	93°00'44.40" E
109	24°41'40.92" N	93°00'44.79" E
110	24°41'42.59" N	93°00'54.35" E
111	24°41'44.93" N	93°01'03.71" E
112	24°42'06.48" N	93°01'19.95" E
113	24°42'57.91" N	93°02'02.43" E
114	24°42'51.98" N	93°02'22.29" E
115	24°43'09.43" N	93°02'50.27" E
116	24°43'31.14" N	93°03'13.15" E
117	24°43'36.11" N	93°03'14.98" E

11. Thence, the boundary runs along the Barak river till Assam Mizorum Border, except in three sections – hereby called section I, II, III where the boundary takes a circuitous route, to avoid Revenue area and Forest Villages and after that, again runs along the Barak river, at the end of the said sections.

The detour coordinates of section I:

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
118	24 ⁰ 43'27.15" N	93 ⁰ 03'46.82" E
119	24 ⁰ 43'02.70" N	93 ⁰ 04'03.93" E
120	24 ⁰ 42'51.36" N	93 ⁰ 04'19.18" E
121	24 ⁰ 42'42.95" N	93 ⁰ 04'29.27" E

The detour coordinates of section II:

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
122	24 ⁰ 35'53.35" N	93 ⁰ 04'15.08" E
123	24 ⁰ 35'18.48" N	93 ⁰ 04'03.21" E
124	24 ⁰ 34'55.04" N	93 ⁰ 03'41.41" E
125	24 ⁰ 34'31.46" N	93 ⁰ 03'28.18" E

The detour coordinates of section III:

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude
126	24 ⁰ 29'42.38" N	93 ⁰ 01'51.42" E
127	24 ⁰ 28'58.89" N	93 ⁰ 01'38.95" E
128	24 ⁰ 28'19.63" N	93 ⁰ 02'11.25" E
129	24 ⁰ 27'48.80" N	93 ⁰ 02'19.46" E

12. For the (N 24⁰24'42.23" E 93⁰00'30.94" - tri-junction point of Assam, Manipur and Mizoram) the BBWLS Boundary runs along the Assam Mizoram Border till it touches the entry point of Pan Charra Nallah.

R. S. PRASAD,

Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Environment and Forest Department.

Report regarding Construction of Road to Bhuban Temple under Cachar division

The Bhuban Temple, a site of historical and spiritual significance, dates back two centuries to the era of the Dimasa Kingdom. The temple's history is inscribed on two panels on its walls:

श्रीश्रीभूवनेश्वर शिव प्रीतिकाम तस्मिन् हतोः श्रीश्रीयुक्त हेंडम्वेश्वरस्याधिकारे स्वर्णपुरनगर् मध्य चन्द्रगिरि श्रीश्रीमन्मराज पात्र जयसिंह बर्म सशिल बरने मन्मदिष्टकादिचयोर्विचित्र निम्मितेव प्रासाद पर्णमिति।

When translated, the inscription states:

"It was constructed by Joysingha Barma (जयसिंह बर्म), the wise minister of the Heramba kingdom, at the advice of the Dimasa-Heramba king Krishnachandranarayana (1774–1813 C.E.)."

(Source: Upendra Chandra Guha, *Cachar er Itibritta*, 2005, p. 08).



Every year during Mahashivratri, lakhs of pilgrims visit the temple via a temporary road that winds through lush forests. This road is specially opened for the pilgrimage, as there is no permanent or easily accessible route to the temple. Along the way, temporary bamboo bridges are constructed to ensure the safety of pilgrims navigating the remote and challenging terrain.

For the rest of the year, the road is primarily used by Forest Department personnel for patrolling, as the dense forests in the region are vulnerable to illegal tree felling and other criminal

activities. Vehicular movement on this road is nearly impossible, especially near the temple, due to landslides during the rainy season. This makes patrolling by vehicles particularly challenging for forest staff. The google earth images of the road are available for the year 2013, 2019 and 2024.



The temple's location near the borders of Manipur and Mizoram further underscores the importance of regular patrolling to maintain ecological balance and regional security.

On November 29, 2022, senior officers of the Forest Department, including the PCCF (HoFF), CCF (Southern Assam Circle), and DFO (Cachar), visited the Bhuban Temple at the top of the Bhuban Pahad. During the visit, it was discussed that an approach road is essential for patrolling by the Forest Department to ensure effective protection of the area and to prevent any mishaps during the annual pilgrim festival at the temple.

Thereafter, during a meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam on November 29, 2022, at Circuit House, Silchar, the need for constructing a permanent road to the Bhuban Hill area was emphasized. Such a road is essential for forest protection, enabling quick and regulated access to prevent tree felling, illegal activities, and encroachments such as jhumming and unauthorized constructions.

Given the Forest Department's lack of technical expertise and resources for constructing a road with steep gradients, the PWD was tasked with providing construction and maintenance support. While the PWD will handle construction and upkeep, the road will remain under the Forest Department's control, ensuring regulated access and protection of the evergreen forest. This vehicle-accessible road is vital for enabling efficient patrolling, preserving the pristine forest, and facilitating safe access for pilgrims.

As it was an old kaccha road used by both pilgrims and the Forest Department, paver blocks were placed to make it suitable for vehicular movement. This rural road was constructed with paver blocks and is not a blacktop road. It is not intended for general thoroughfare.

The Government of Assam declared its intention to constitute the area described in the Preliminary Notification (Annex 2) dated 27th July 2022 as the Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary. It is to be noted that the area is still a Reserved Forest, as it has not yet been finally notified as a wildlife sanctuary by the Government of Assam.







**VIJAY
TRIMBAK
PALVE**

Digitally signed by VIJAY TRIMBAK PALVE
DN: cn=IN, o=PERSONAL, title=5529,
pseudoym=R92Z487J0M36432a9c871e6
6eac72495
2.5.4.20=4e27f528fe0f05d9e99a5292402b
07b5c9aebb047ca2e1d250f9f2a0cfa89
, postalCode=414032, sn=Vijay, cn=Vijay,
serialNumber=C564c4e82a0f42f451a192
2f2e2aa384d2b68e0a0a7069ba965f75
1f2ccb, cn=VIJAY TRIMBAK PALVE
Date: 2024.11.30 18:31:47 +05'30'

MINUTES OF THE FIELD VISIT ON CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACH ROAD TO BHUBAN HILLS UNDER BARAK RF, CACHAR FOREST DIVISION, SILCHAR ON 29TH NOV, 2022

Officers present:

Enclosed as Annexure-I

In the morning of 29th November, 2022, at the Circuit House, Silchar, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam instructed the PCCF & HoFF Assam, the CCF SAC & the DFO Cachar Division in presence of the Deputy Commissioner Cachar that the matter of approach to the top of Bhuban Hill has to be settled by taking either of the following two approaches:

Approach 1: Diversion of the area under FC Act and afforestation in an equivalent area elsewhere, in which case, the road as well as the ROW of the road shall be under the control of the PWD; the Forest department shall have no control over the road as it will be a public road.

Approach 2 : The entire land to be under the control of the Forest Department by way that the road to be developed by PWD on behalf of the Forest Department. In that case the entire control of the road and ROW shall continue to be with the Forest Department.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister directed that either of the two solutions to be finalised by today and to be briefed to him by the evening hours.

Following the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sri M.K. Yadava, IFS PCCF & HoFF Assam, Sri P.Sivakumar, CCF SAC, Sri Tejas Mariswamy, IFS, DFO, Cachar Silchar, Sri Samir Baidya, DCF, REWP, Assam along with other officials visited the site and took stock of the situation and it was noticed that the local people have an inkling that a PWD road will be constructed here and have already started constructing pakka and kaccha sheds/shops in the area on the sides of the present kaccha road leading to the Bhuban hill.

All such works were stopped on the spot and the occupants were told to remove the structures forthwith. Further, it was seen that areas surrounding the proposed road already seen to have marks of human presence such as lopping, jhumming, pan jhum etc.

After drilling into the entire solution for long-term forest protection and access to the Bhuban Hill, the following decisions were arrived at:

1. The road is a dead end and does not create a thoroughfare and does not connect to any other public road.
2. Further, that if the area is diverted, the road along with the ROW would become non forest and stopping establishments coming up along the ROW will not be possible as the area shall go out of the control of Forest Department. As already seen on the ground, the human activities such as construction of shops, Sheds, houses, dwelling units and other activities such as Jhum, Pan Jhum, lopping and felling of tress would

increased in near future and it would not be possible to stop these as the ROW areas would not be in control of the Department.

3. The Forest Department itself needs quick access to the area and easy movement of patrolling parties and Forest Forces for protection purposes. Further, if the area is retained under the control of Forest Department, the access control would be exercised by the Forest Department and any unauthorised constructions etc can be easily evicted and protection of the said area would enhance. And the pristine nature of the forest of the evergreen forest occurring in the area can be maintained. Further, the entry and the exit would be regulated by the Forest Department.
4. Since the Forest Department does not have adequate fund or the expertise to construct such a road with sharp gradient, the Department may take assistance from PWD to construct the road, including funding from the available resources of PWD; while the PWD would not be having any rights on the land other than maintenance & upkeep of the said road.

In view of the above, it was decided that the road construction would be taken up departmentally through the PWD from the resources available with the PWD. The Forest Department will have full control of the road as it will be a departmental road with right of PWD to maintain it at regular interval. The DFO, Cachar Division, Silchar is hereby directed to take up the matter with local PWD authorities and the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar for early action in the regard as decided above.



(M.K. Yadav IFS),
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
& Head of Forest Force, Assam,
Panjabari, Guwahati-37

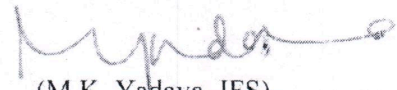
Memo No. HoFF/Camp/SLC/2022

Dated 29th November, 2022

Copy to


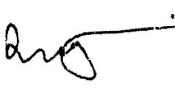


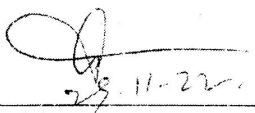



- 1) The PPS to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam for favour of kind information and necessary action.
- 2) The PS to the Hon'ble Minister, Environment & Forest Department, Govt of Assam for favour of kind information and necessary action.
- 3) The Addl. Chief Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Assam for favour of kind information and necessary action.
- 4) The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Lower Assam Zone, Indira Nagar, Basistha, Guwahati-29 for information & necessary action.
- 5) The Chief Conservator of Forests Southern Assam Circle, Silchar for information & necessary action.
- 6) The Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal) FC Act, Assam for information & necessary action.
- 7) The Chief Engineer, PWD, Roads, Chandmari, Guwahati, Assam 781003.

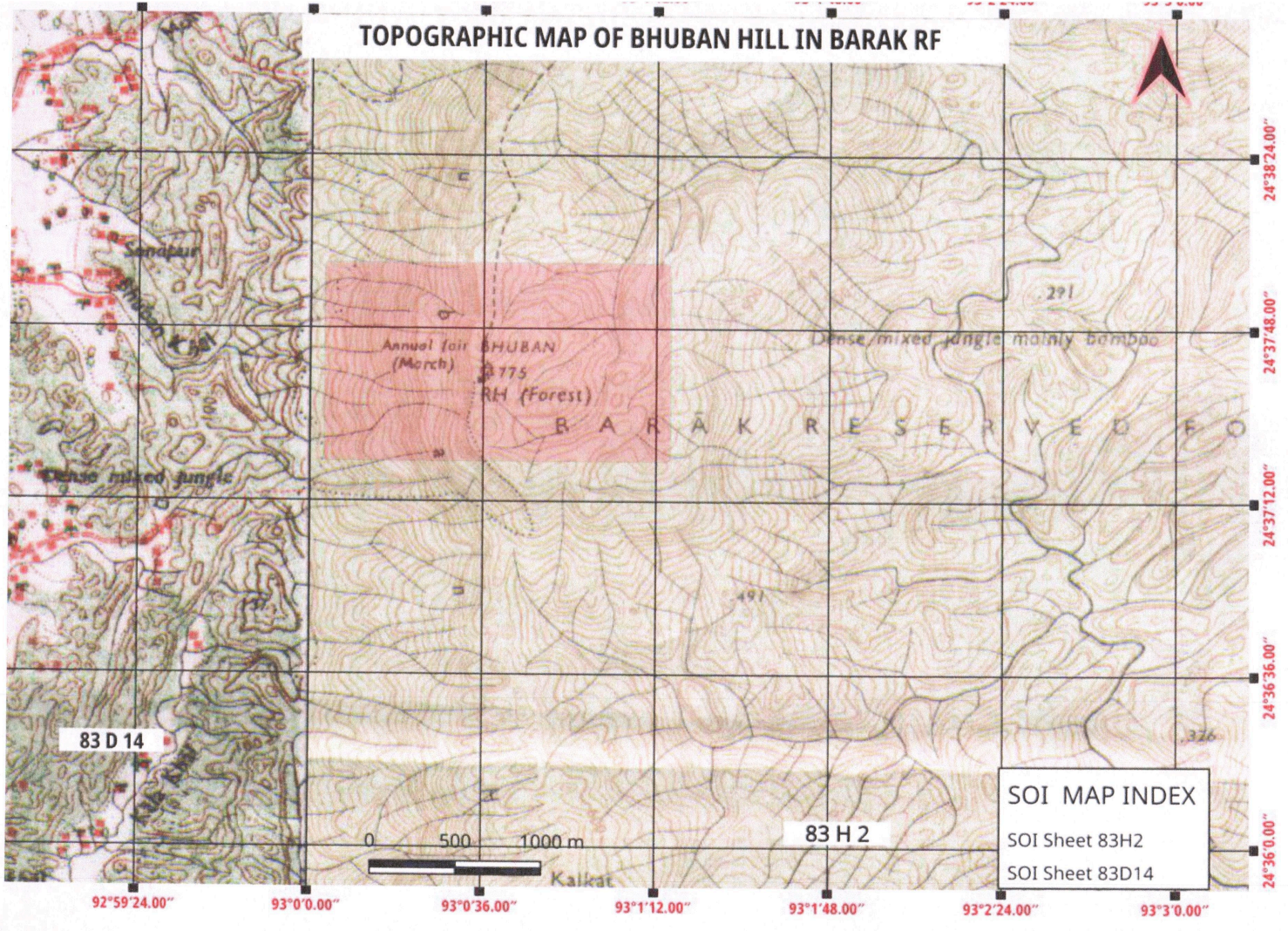
- 8) The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, Silchar for information & necessary action.
- 9) The Divisional Forest Officer, Cachar Division, Silchar for information & necessary action.



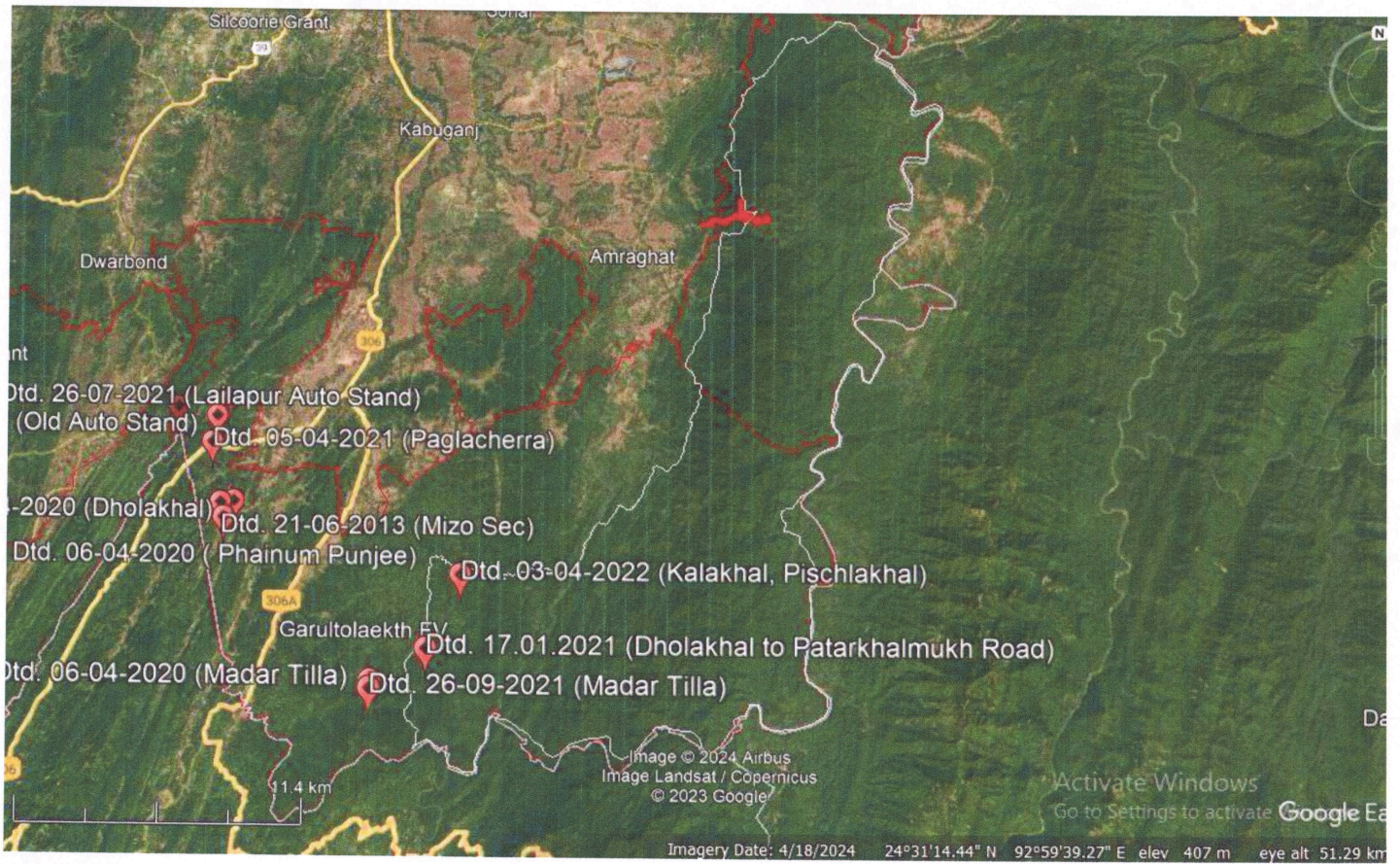
(M.K. Yadava, IFS),
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
& Head of Forest Force, Assam,
Panjabari, Guwahati-37

**Members present in the meeting held on 29-11-2022 chaired by the PCCF & HoFF,
Assam in the Office Chamber of the CCF, SAC, Silchar**

Sl. No.	Name of the Officer	Designation	Mobile No	Signature
1	Sri M. K. Yadava, IFS	PCCF & HoFF		
2	Sri P. Sivakumar, IFS	CCF, SAC		
3	Sri T. Mariswamy, IFS	DFO, Cachar		
4	Sri Vasanthan, B IFS	DFO, Karimganj		
5	Sri A. Dutta, AFS	DFO, Hailakandi	94359724339	 29/11/22
6	Sri J Ali Ahmed, AFS	DCF, O/o CCF, SAC		 29/11/22
7	Samir Bheedya, AFS	DCF, RE. W.P., Assam	91015562413	 29/11/22
8	Maitim Kundrum	DFC S.F. Div Kroongaj	9435023941	
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				



-48-

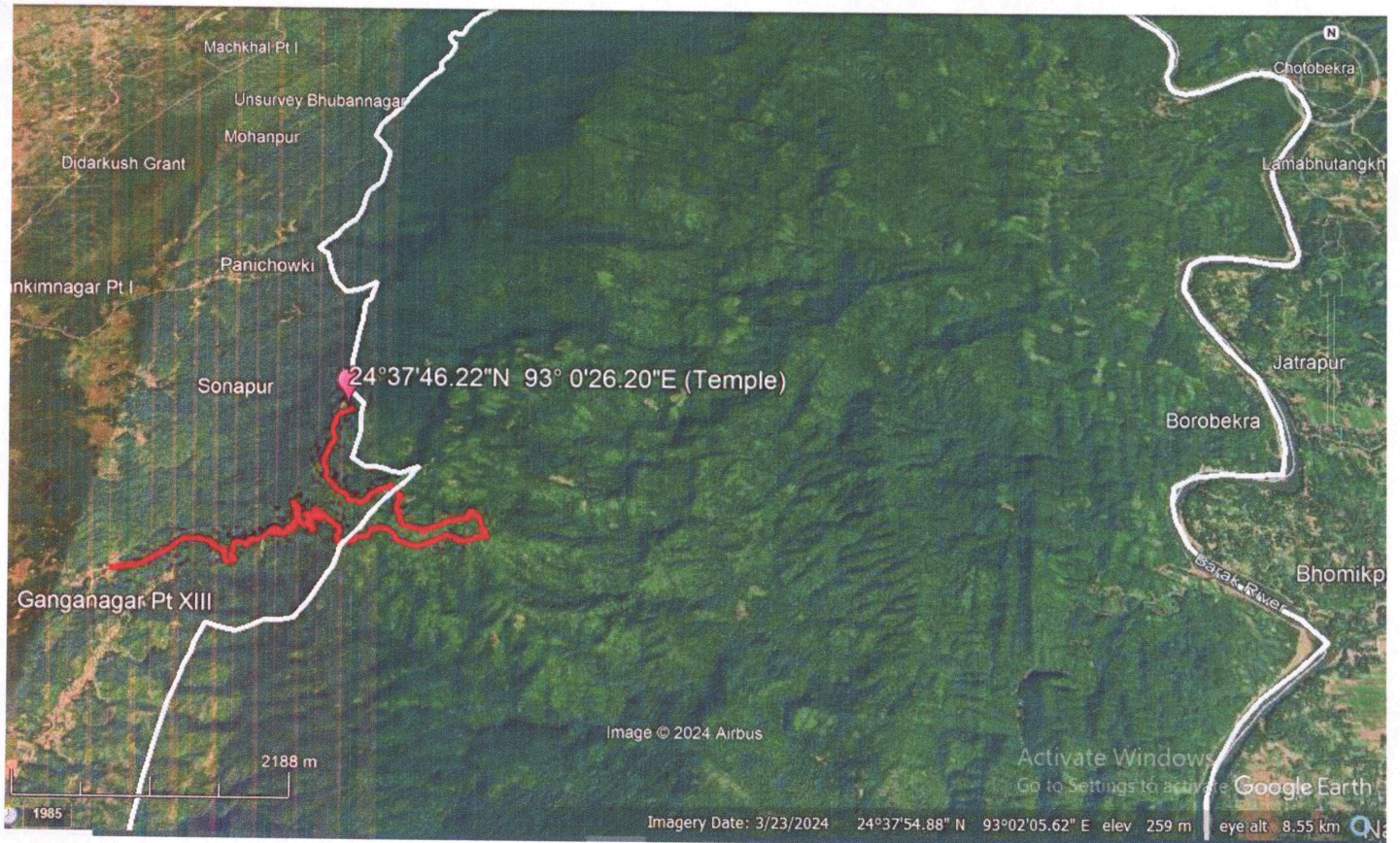


95

ANNEXURE - III



- 36 -



-18-

ANNEXURE - IV**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS****LOK SABHA****UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.435****TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 26TH FEBRUARY, 2013/PHALGUNA 7,1934 (SAKA)****STAMPEDE INCIDENTS****435. SHRI RATAN SINGH:****Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:****(a) the details of incidents of stampede reported in the country and the total number of persons killed/injured, gender-wise during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;****(b) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;****(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the action taken against the responsible persons, State/UT-wise;****(d) the details of the financial assistance provided to the families of the victims of such stampedes during the said period, State/UT-wise; and****(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such cases in future?****ANSWER****MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS****(SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)****(a): As per available information, the details of incidents of stampede during the last three years are as under:-**

Place	Date	State/UT	No. Persons*	
			Killed	Injured
Jety Ghat, Kakdwip, South Parganas	14.01.2010	West Bengal	07	16
Bhuban Hills, District	12.02.2010	Assam	03	-----
Village Managarh, Pratapgarh	04.03.2010	Uttar Pradesh	63	28
Hardwar Kumbh	14.04.2010	Uttrakhand	02	14
Dera Sacha Sauda, Sirsa.	29/30.4.2010	Haryana	05	02
Jagannath Temple	13.07.2010	Orissa	01	02

-2-

L.S.U.S.Q.NO. 435 FOR 26.02.013

Pullumedu District	Idukki	14.01.2011	Kerala	102	44
Catholic Village, district, Phelk.	Church, Phokhungi,	28.05.2011	Nagaland	0	----
Gurudwara Darbar, Shahbad, Kurukshetra.	Nanak Village Markanda,	20.06.2011	Haryana	0	----
Gurudwara Nanak Darbar, Ajrana, Kurikshetra	Guru Village Khurd,	18/19.7.2011	Haryana	0	----
Gaiparnath temple, Kota.	Mahadev	10.08.2011	Rajasthan	2	----
Haridwar		08.11.2011	Uttrakhand	20	44
Hussain Tekri District Ratlam (MP)	Shariff,	14.01.2012	Madhya Pradesh	12	04
Bhavnath Junagadh.	Temple,	20.02.2012	Gujrat	7	29
Tirumala Hills, district Chittor.		26.05.2012	Andhra Pradesh	0	3
Rajgir, District Shariff.	Bihar	02.09.2012	Bihar	1	6
Adalatganj Ghat (PS ahore, Patna)		19.11.2012	Bihar	17	30
Allahabad Station, UP.	Railway	10.2.2013	Uttar Pradesh	37	43

* Gender-wise details is not centrally maintained in each case-

(b) to (d): Since responsibility for arrangements of Law and Order for such occasions entirely vests with the State Government, it is the State Government which takes up inquiry in this regard. Further, it also provides medical assistance and other necessary relief to the persons/families affected in such incidents.

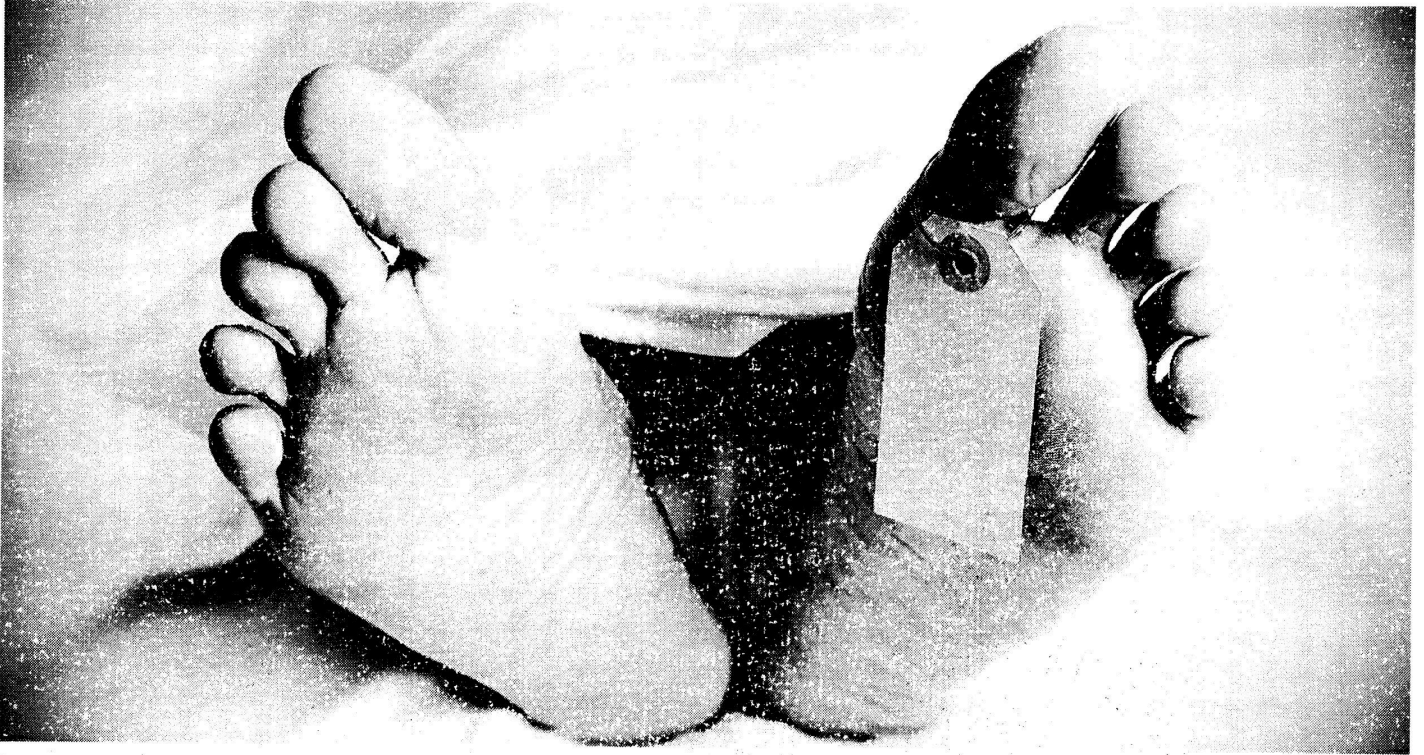
(e): A detailed advisory was issued to all States/UTs on 1.10. 2008 making the States/UTs aware of the need to manage such gatherings and suggesting measures such as allowing manageable number of persons to visit the temples/shrines at a particular time; proper access control procedure/system at every entry/exit point; establishing sound alert system; regular training of staff in evaluation procedures' etc. to avoid recurrence of incidents of stampede in future. Further, on the basis of inputs received from security agencies, advisories are being issued from time to time.



Northeast News

Assam: Five found dead in Bhuban Hill , Cachar

by NE NOW NEWS
March 5, 2022 11:27 am



Recreation of five images

Guwahati: At least five people were found dead across different locations at a 17th century Shiva Temple on the Bhuban Hill in Cachar.

It has been suspected that the five persons were devotees of Lord Shiva and had gone to the temple on the night of Shivratri at the Bhuban Hill in Cachar.

[Ready for a challenge? Click here to take our quiz and show off your knowledge!](#)

As per officials, the deceased were identified as Anand S Chakraborty, Sanjay Das, Vikram Paul, N Kurmi and Anand Ghatowar.

Also Read: [Assam: Huge consignment of smuggled tobacco products seized in Guwahati](#)

All the deceased were identified as residents of Silchar.

[Ready for a challenge? Click here to take our quiz and show off your knowledge!](#)

Initially, it was suspected that they died due to a stampede that might have taken place due to massive footfall in the temple.

However, the authorities denied the reports.

✓It has been reported that of the five, V Paul and A Ghatowar died of pressure strokes.

Kurmi, however, died of hyperthermia

Chakraborty was suspected to have slipped on his way to the temple.

Where were the five individuals found dead?

Bhubani Hill, Odisha

Guwahati, Assam

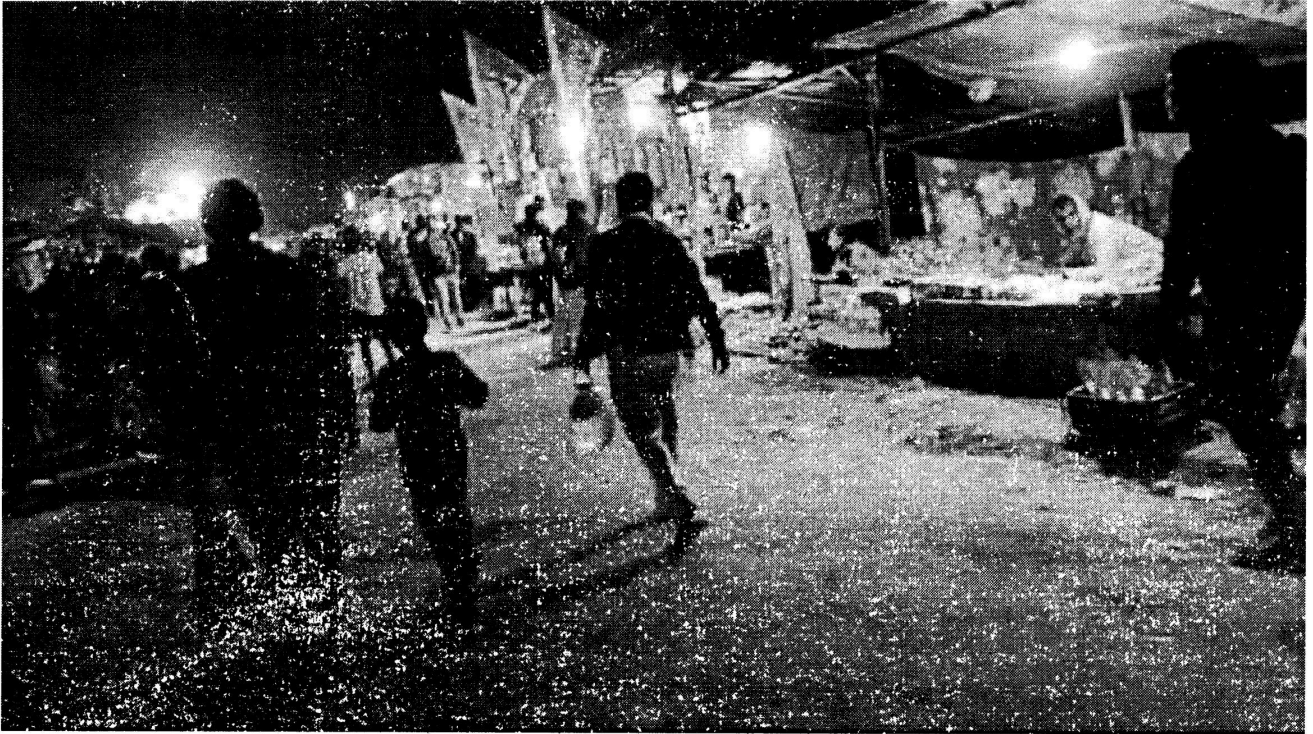
Silchar, Assam

Karlong, Dima Hasao

11 >

Page 11 of 11

Home > News >



Also read in

NEWS

Cachar Police Recovers Three More Dead Bodies From Bhuban Hills During Shivratri; Death Toll Rises To 5

By Barakbulletin On March 2, 2022 - 8:12 pm

Three more dead in Bhuban Pilgrimage Expedition. Cachar Police has recovered the dead bodies of three more pilgrims today from the Bhuban Hill Ranges. 37-year-old Ananda Ghatwar of Borkhola Chandranathpur was reported dead on March 2. His dead body was found near the main temple uphill the infamous Bhuban Pahad. On the same evening, two more dead bodies were recovered by the police.

The other dead body that was found was of Sanjay Das, from Katigorah. The police are yet to identify one of the deceased. The dead bodies have been sent to Silchar Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem. According to a local source, these two bodies were found from the Hatubhanga area towards Motinagar.

On the other hand, the dead body of a female that was recovered on Tuesday is yet to be identified. The dead body is now kept in the morgue of the Medical College. With this, the total number of deaths has climbed up to 5 during the holy occasion of Shiv Ratri 2022.

It is worth mentioning here that, the number of pilgrims during this year's Shiv Ratri, doubled in number compared to last year's. On the second day too, the number of pilgrims was higher. It has been estimated that a total of 4 lakh Shiv believers climbed up the Bhuban Hills to offer their prayers and wishes. The Covid pandemic has affected the count in the last two years, but this year, given all the favourable conditions, the pilgrims didn't want to miss this chance. That's why the number of pilgrims increased and so did the number of deceased.


[Assam](#)
[Barak Valley](#)
[Bhuban Pilgrimage](#)
[Cachar](#)
[shivaratri](#)
[Silchar](#)
[Home](#)
[About Us](#)
[Contact Us](#)


© 2024 – Barak Bulletin. All Rights Reserved.

The Assam Tribune

86 years of service to the nation

ASSAM

Mahashivratri: Two dead at Bhuban Hills in Cachar

By Staff Correspondent - 19 Feb 2023 12:24 PM



Photo: IANS (Representational image)

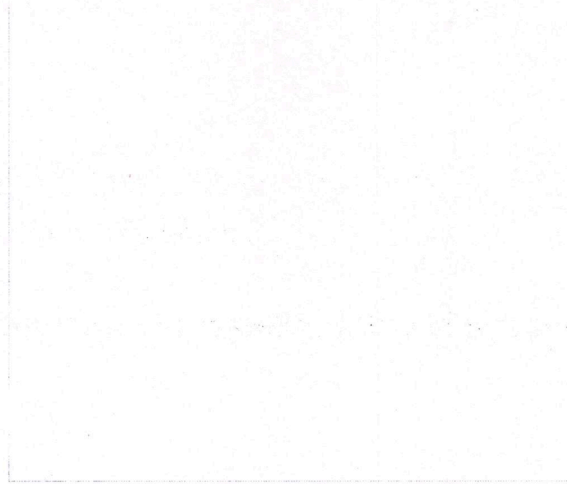
The Assam Tribune is now on Telegram. [Click here to join our channel \(@assamtribuneoff\)](#) and stay updated with the latest headlines.

Cachar, Feb 19: At least two persons have been reported to be dead at Bhubhan Hills during the Mahashivratri celebrations, police informed.

According to senior police officials, one person identified to be a resident of Dholai constituency died owing to cardiac arrest, while body of another person who was allegedly

missing in the crowd was recovered from the vicinity.

Also Read - Oilfields Amendment Bill passed to attract investment, delink petroleum from mining



Cachar Additional SP Subrata Sen said that even as it has been a sea of devotees with over 5 lakh people turning up at the Bhuvan Hills to offer prayers to Lord Shiva , security arrangements have been kept tight and no untoward incident has been reported.

Staff Correspondent

0 comments

Sort by



Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin

Recommended Stories

Home > News >



Also read in

NEWS

Arms Recovered From Bhuban Pahar, Hmar Militants Killed In Crossfire: SP Cachar

By Barakbulletin On July 17, 2024 - 9:59 pm

In a significant operation on Monday, the Cachar Police, based on credible intelligence, apprehended three suspected trained militants near the Gangangar Part-VI area of Cachar district. The arrest occurred around 4:30 PM when a police team was dispatched to Krishnapur Road under Kachudharam Police Station in the East Dholai area of Cachar. The three were arrested from an autorickshaw and were heavily armed. Following their arrest, Cachar Police launched an operation to unearth their involvement and got into an armed fight between the militants and the police.

Based on the statement released by the Cachar Police, the suspects have been identified as Lallungawi Hmar (21), Lalbiakng Hmar (33), and Joshua (35). The trio, reportedly from the Hmar community, were found carrying sophisticated arms and ammunition in an autorickshaw. The cache included an AK-47 rifle, one pistol, and live ammunition, all of which were seized by the authorities. Among the three militants, two were from the Bhubankhal area of Cachar while the third, Joshua was from the Tipaimukh area of Churachandpur district in Manipur. SP Cachar in a press conference on Wednesday revealed that Joshua was the mastermind of this group and their commander.

During interrogation, the suspects revealed that their accomplices were hiding in the Bhuban Pahar (Hills) region of the Assam-Manipur border, allegedly preparing for subversive activities. Acting on this information, a special operation was launched, involving senior police officers and personnel, along with commando battalions. The security forces faced challenges due to the difficult hilly terrain and heavy retaliation from militants equipped with bulletproof jackets and helmets.

The statement read, "There was heavy exchange of fire from both the sides. The apprehended militants wearing bulletproof jackets and helmets sustained grievous injuries in their persons and immediately shifted to Sonai PHC, Sonai for treatment. Later on, they were referred to the SMCH, Silchar wherein the attending doctor declared death". However, approximately 6 to 7 militants managed to escape into the dense forest cover under the protection of nightfall.

SP Cachar further said, "From the bordering areas of Cachar the militants have entered Assam and were seeking shelter. After we were successful in arresting the three militants, we found more about the group and their cadre who were hiding in the hilly areas of Bhuban intending to conduct subversive activities in the bordering area. We conducted a special operation to find out the militants who were hiding but all of a sudden the militants launched firing on us. 6 to 7 suspected armed militants fired on the police team and in tactical retaliation the police team also had to launch fire. In the exchange of fire, the three militants that were apprehended were shot. Three police personnel from the team were also injured in the firing".

The SP also revealed that the apprehended militants were from a Hmar militant organisation and were trained cadres.

Further search operations in the encounter area led to the recovery of another AK assault rifle, additional live ammunition, and numerous empty cases. The entire region has been cordoned off, and a thorough search is ongoing to locate the fleeing militants. Security forces have bolstered their presence in the area, and the situation remains under sharp watch. The Superintendent of Police have also assured that the police team is on strict vigil to foil any such militant attempts.



NOTE

Today at about 4.30 PM based on a credible input regarding movement of suspected militants at Krishnapur road under Kachudharam Police Station, a police team rushed to the location. Accordingly, three persons namely Lallungawi Hmar (21 yrs) S/O Lalremsang Hmar R/O K.Bethel Bhubankhal Dilkush grant P.O. Fulertrol P.S. Lakhipur, Assam; Lalbikung Hmar (33 yrs) S/O Lal Thavel Hmar R/O K.Bethel Bhubankhal Dilkush grant P.O. Fulertrol P.2S. Lakhipur, Assam; Joshua (35 yrs) S/O Tianghmingthang, Senvonl lailak, Tipaimukh, Sub division Churachandpur, Tipaimukh (p), Manipur loaded with sophisticated arms and ammunitions were apprehended near Ganganagar part-VI while on way towards Bhuban Hills in an autorickshaw. During the search one AK 47 rifle, one single barrel rifle and one pistol were recovered alongwith live ammunitions which were duly seized. During their thorough interrogation they revealed that their counterparts are still taking shelter at around Bhuban Hills with huge cache of arms to carry out some subversive activities in the Assam Manipur border areas. Subsequently, a special operation was launched led by ASP HQ along with Police Station staff and AG commandos in the general areas of Bhuban Hills side for apprehension of the suspected militants being led by the apprehended culprits. Later, when the police team approached the difficult hilly terrain in the said hills police team encountered a sudden firing attack by the suspected militants taking shelter in back side of the steep hills. Police team immediately took their positions and retaliated. There was heavy exchange of fire from both the sides. The apprehended militants wearing bulletproof jackets and helmets sustained grievous injuries in their persons and immediately shifted to Sonai PHC, Sonai for treatment. Later on, they were referred to the SMCH, Silchar wherein the attending doctor declared death. On the other hand, about 6/7 suspected militants hiding in the difficult hilly terrain managed to flee away from the spot towards the dense forest taking the cover of darkness and uneven terrain. Further, the place of occurrence of the firing incident was thoroughly searched and recovered one more AK assault rifle alongwith live ammunitions and a number of empty cases which were duly seized as per procedure. The entire area has been cordoned by the security personnel and search operation is being carried out in search of fleeing militants. I have visited the place of occurrence and security forces have been deployed in the entire area. Three police personnel also got severely injured during the exchange of fire and admitted in the SMCH, Silchar. Further investigation into has been on. Situation is under sharp watch.

F. No. 11-48/2002-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
F.C. Division

Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003,
New Delhi, the 29th April 2005.

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
All States/UTs.

Sub: **Guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for up-gradation of
'Kutchra road constructed prior to 1980 in forest areas, to Pucca roads'**

Sir,

In continuation of this Ministry's letter of even number dated 14-9-2004 regarding guidelines for repair and maintenance of roads constructed on forest lands prior to 1980, and with reference to the above-mentioned subject I am directed to convey the approval of the Central Government to the following guidelines, meant for up-gradation of 'Kutchra roads constructed prior to 1980 in forest areas, to Pucca roads':—

1. The up-gradation of roads constructed in forest areas prior to 1980 from 'Kutchra to Pucca' is allowed to the extent that these roads are not black topped/tarred, and if during the process of up-gradation, these roads need to be black topped/tarred, prior environmental clearance shall be sought by the user agency in this regard.
2. For such up-gradation in protected areas like National Park/Sanctuaries, prior permission of National Board of Wildlife and the Supreme Court shall be taken by the State / UT Government.
3. Fire for melting of coal tar and mixing, shall be lit at a safe distance from the trees/vegetation, which shall be decided by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. For such constructions, it is better to avoid dry/hot windy seasons. For this purpose, fuelwood shall be purchased by the implementing agency in advance from the depot of State Forest Development Corporation.
4. No crushing/breaking of stones shall be allowed inside forest areas. Readymade materials shall be used for up-gradation of such roads.
5. Both sides of the up-graded roads shall be reinforced with brick/stone works, and vegetative measures to check soil erosion, at the project cost, in consultation with the Divisional Forest Officer.
6. No tree felling shall be allowed.

7. No widening of roads shall be undertaken without prior permission of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
8. No breaking of fresh forest land shall be carried out.
9. Plantation activities if the concerned Divisional Forest Officer funds it necessary, shall be taken up along the road at the project cost immediately. The plantation shall be maintained at the project cost.
10. No labour camp shall be established on the forest lands.
11. No work shall be allowed after sunset.
12. Any other conditions that the Divisional Forest Officer may impose from time to time to the protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area, shall be applicable.
13. Any damage to forest area due to such up-gradation works shall be compensated by the implementing agency from the project cost. The extent of damage shall be assessed by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
14. State Forest Department shall establish permanent check posts at strategic locations on such roads which are already up-graded/under up-gradation.

Yours faithfully,



(Anurag Bajpai)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raji, Government of India, New Delhi.
5. The principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All States and UTs.
6. The Chief Conservator of Forest (Central), All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests.
7. The Nodal Officer (FC), Forest Department, All States/UTs.
8. Director (FC).
9. AIGF(P)/AIGF(S)
10. Guard file.