

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

I.A No. 12/2026/EZ  
in  
Appeal No. 2/2026/EZ

Lakhyajyoti Gogoi

....Applicant

Versus

MoEF&amp;CC &amp; Ors.

....Respondents

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*Filed by:*

*Vikram Rajkhowa*

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**REJOINDER OF THE APPLICANT TO THE  
REPLY OF RESPONDENT NO. 6 (M/S SJVN LTD.)****MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

1. That I am the applicant in the above mentioned application, hence I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case, and also competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That save and except what has been specifically admitted in this affidavit and what appears from the records, the deponent categorically denies the rest of the statements and submissions made in the Reply Affidavit of Respondent No. 6.
3. That as regard the averments made in paragraph 1 and 2, the same requires no comments from the deponent. However, non-submission of paragraph wise response by the respondent No. 6 may be considered as deemed admission of the averments made by the petitioner.



4. That as regard the averments made in paragraph 3, 4 and 5, the deponent begs to deny the same, which is not borne out by the records. The deponent further begs to state as follows:

- (i) EC was granted to user agency on 23.08.2025 and the applicant came to learn subsequently that the same was advertised on 29.08.2025 in the newspaper Echo of Arunachal and Eastern Sentinel, according to Compliance Report submitted by the user agency.
- (ii) An appeal under Section 16 of the NGT Act may be preferred by aggrieved person within 30 days from the date on which the order or decision or direction or determination is communicated to him.
- (iii) The Hon'ble Apex Court has held that 'communication' contemplated under Section 16(h) of the NGT Act is intended to be *in rem* and not *in personam*. Therefore, 30 days will be counted from the date it was communicated to the public, which in this case is the date of advertisement on 29.08.2025 and ending on 27.09.2025.
- (iv) The proviso to Section 16 of the NGT Act provides for a further period not exceeding 60 days if the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal within the said period of 30 days, if the Hon'ble Tribunal is satisfied.
- (v) The instant appeal was filed before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 19.11.2025, i.e., around 53 days from the last date of preferring an appeal and 83 days from date of advertisement. Hence, the appeal was preferred around 7 days prior to the maximum period of 90 days as per Section 16 of the NGT Act.



A copy of the Half Yearly Compliance Report submitted by the user agency is annexed as **ANNEXURE - 1.**

5. That as regard the averments made in paragraph 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, the deponent begs to state that the applicant being a resident of Assam was not aware about the advertisements dated 29.08.2025 published in Arunachal Pradesh and came to learn about the grant of EC around 20.09.2025. The applicant took around a week to seek further information about the project and collect preliminary materials. Thereafter he contacted with Advocate in his home district Tinsukia, who advised him to approach Gauhati High Court by preferring PIL. But the Hon'ble High Court was closed due to Durga Puja vacation from 27.09.2025 to 12.10.2025, i.e., around 16 days. The applicant being a resident of Digboi, around 500 km from Guwahati approached Advocate at Gauhati High Court after its reopening to seek legal opinion. Thereafter, it took some time to decide on the appropriate forum, going through the voluminous materials and connecting with the present Ld. Counsel and engaging him around 06.11.2025. Some more time was taken by the engaged Counsel in arranging the voluminous documents, preparing the appeal and filing the same on 19.11.2025.

A copy of the Gauhati High Court calendar for 2025 is annexed as ANNEXURE – 2.

A List of Voluminous Documents regarding the instant Appeal is annexed as ANNEXURE – 3.

6. That as regard the averments made in paragraph 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 the deponent begs to refer and rely upon the forgoing paragraphs and states that the environmental issues highlighted in the instant appeal is not an adversarial litigation, rather it highlights public concern.



According to a news report in the DownToEarth magazine dated 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026, the recent tragedy on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at the NEEPCO (North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.) colony of the Panyor Lower HEP (known as the Ranganadi dam) and nearby Poosa village under Yazali circle in Arunachal Pradesh, was wiped out by gushing water with speculation about cloud bursts as well as release of heavy water through the dam gates. The tragedy left around 1 dead, 4 disappearances, 18 NEEPCO quarters and around 50 houses were washed away, among other damages. Independent researchers think hydropower development in fragile environment has a contributory role in the devastation.

(<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/natural-disasters/what-exactly-happened-at-the-needco-colony-in-arunachal-investigations-on-as-flash-flood-claims-one-life-with-four-disappearances>)

Be it stated that in comparison to the above-mentioned Panyor (Rangandai) HEP, which is 405 MW, the Etalin HEP is around 3097 MW, i.e., almost 7.5 times bigger in size. And requires diversion of around 1151.1 hectares of biodiversity-rich community forestland and the felling of around 2.7 lakh trees, putting at risk up to 555 species of birds, 60 species of mammals, 48 species of amphibians, and 381 species of butterflies, among several others in a rich biodiversity hotspot.

The Hon'ble Apex Court has held that –

*“An appeal to NGT in such matters is no ordinary matter; it has the potential of irrevocably changing the environment with the possibility of likely injury. Application of judicial mind by an independent tribunal in such cases, at the first appellate stage, is almost necessity.”*



A copy of the news report dated 25.06.2026 published in the DownToEarth.com is annexed as ANNEXURE – 4.

7. That as regard the averments made in paragraph 17, 18 and 19, the deponent begs to state that the instant appeal was preferred around 7 days prior to the maximum period of 90 days as provided under Section 16 of the NGT Act, i.e., within 83 days. It is further stated that the applicant and his Ld. Counsels combined, have taken around 61 days from coming to the knowledge of the applicant about the grant of EC.
8. That as regard the averments made in paragraph 20, the deponent begs to state that non-submission of paragraph wise response by the respondent No. 6 may be considered as deemed admission of the averments made by the petitioner. The applicant further states that according to a news report dated 11.04.2026 published in the Energyworld.com, the Etalin HEP has changed hands from Respondent No. 6 SJVN to central public sector undertaking NHPC Ltd. around November 2025 itself. However, the same was not brought to the knowledge of this Hon'ble Court in their reply.

A copy of the news report dated 11.04.2026 published in the 'Energyworld.com' is annexed as ANNEXURE – 5.

9. The statements made in this affidavit are true to my knowledge, as well as the annexures enclosed herewith are true copies of the original, and the rest are my humble submissions before this Hon'ble Court.



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SI. No. ....  
Date: 2 JUN 2026

-X-

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Lakhyajyoti Gogoi, son of Sri. Kanak Gogoi, aged around 36 years, resident of Balijan, Kenduguri village, Digboi, in the district of Tinsukia, Assam, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I am the applicant in the above mentioned application, hence, I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That the statements made in this affidavit and in paragraphs 1 to 9 are true to my knowledge, those made in paragraphs 4 & 5 (PART) being matters of record derived there from, which I believe to be true to my information and the rests are my humble submissions before this Hon'ble Court.

Bornali G.  
NOTARY  
Kamrup (M), Guwahati  
Regd. No. KAM-50

Identified By  
Ankur Jyoti Sarma  
Advocate/Advocate Clerk  
Enrl. No. 629123

Lakhyajyoti Gogoi  
DEPONENT

**Verification**

Verified at Guwahati on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026, that the contents of this affidavit in paragraph 1 to 9 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.



Lakhyajyoti Gogoi  
DEPONENT

**Half Yearly Compliance Report  
2025  
01 Dec(01 Apr - 30 Sep)**

**Acknowledgement**

<b>Proposal Name</b>		Environment Clearance of Etalin HEP 3097 MW	
<b>Name of Entity / Corporate Office</b>		SJVN LIMITED	
<b>Village(s)</b>		Adapowa	
<b>District</b>		DIBANG VALLEY	
<b>Proposal No.</b>	IA/AR/RIV/544875/2025	<b>Category</b>	River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects
<b>Plot / Survey / Khasra No.</b>	N/A	<b>Sub-District</b>	Etalin
<b>State</b>	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	<b>Entity's PAN</b>	*****EQUIRED
<b>MoEF File No.</b>	J-12011/60/2006-IA-I(R)	<b>Entity name as per PAN</b>	SJVN LIMITED

**Compliance Reporting Details**

<b>Reporting Year</b>	2025
<b>Remarks (if any)</b>	Six monthly compliance report of Etalin HEP for the period of April 2025-September 2025
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01 Dec(01 Apr - 30 Sep)

**Details of Production and Project Area**

**Name of Entity / Corporate Office** SJVN LIMITED

	Project Area as per EC Granted	Actual Project Area in Possession
Private	0	0
Revenue Land	0	0
Forest	1175.03	1175.03
Others	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1175.03</b>	<b>1175.03</b>

**Production Capacity**

Sr. no	Product Name	units	Valid Upto	Capacity	Production last year	Capacity as per CTO
1	Etalin HEP	MW	N/A	3097	Pre-construction	

**Conditions**

## Specific Conditions

Sr.No.	Condition Type	Condition Details	
1	MISCELLANEOUS	The plastic waste shall be disposed of by recycling and not by land filling.	
PPs Submission: Agreed to Comply Shall be complied			Date: 28/11/2025
2	Statutory compliance	The project proponent shall obtain clearance from the National Board for Wildlife, if applicable.	
PPs Submission: Complied NA			Date: 28/11/2025
3	MISCELLANEOUS	The copies of the environmental clearance shall be submitted by the project proponents to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn has to display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.	
PPs Submission: Being Complied The project proponent shall have a well laid down environmental policy duly approved by the Board of Directors (in case of Company) or competent authority, duly prescribing standard operating procedures to have proper checks and balances and to bring into focus any infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental / forest / wildlife norms / conditions.			Date: 27/11/2025
4	MISCELLANEOUS	The project proponent shall prominently advertise it at least in two local newspapers of the District or State, of which one shall be in the vernacular language within seven days indicating that the project has been accorded environment clearance and the details of MoEFCC/SEIAA website where it is displayed.	
PPs Submission: Complied The EC was widely advertised in two locally newspaper namely Echo of Arunachal Eastern Sentinel on 29.08.2025 and copies of same are enclosed as Annexure-I.			Date: 27/11/2025
5	PUBLIC HEARING	Land acquired for the project shall be suitably compensated with the prevailing guidelines and all commitments made during the Public Hearing shall be fulfilled.	
PPs Submission: Being Complied Being complied			Date: 28/11/2025
6	Statutory compliance	Six monthly compliance reports shall be submitted by the PP to Regional Office, MoEFCC, Shillong without fail until completion of the works.	
PPs Submission: Agreed to Comply Shall be complied			Date: 28/11/2025
7	Statutory compliance	The project proponent shall obtain Consent to Establish / Operate under the provisions of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 from the concerned State Pollution Control Board/ Committee.	

## THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

(The High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram Arunachal Pradesh)

2025

(National year 1946-1947saka)

IN RESPECT OF THE PRINCIPAL SEAT AT GUWAHATI

	JANUARY				FEBRUARY					MARCH					
Sun		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30	2	9	16	23
Mon		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31	3	10	17	24
TUE		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25
WED	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26
THU	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27
FRI	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		7	14	21	28
SAT	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22		1	8	15	22	29
HOLIDAY	1-2 New Year Holiday 13-17 Magh Bihu & Tusu Puja 26 Republic Day 31 Medam-Me-Phi				3 Sri Panchami 26 Siva Ratri					14-15 Dol Jatra/ Holi 31 Id-ul-Fitre					
	April				May					June					
Sun		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29
Mon		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30
TUE	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	
WED	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	
THU	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	
FRI	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	
SAT	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	
HOLIDAY	14-19 BIHU VACATION 19 Good Friday				12 Buddha Purnima					7 Id-Uz-Zuha 30 SUMMER VACATION					
	July				August					September					
Sun		6	13	20	27	31	3	10	17	24		7	14	21	28
Mon		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29
TUE	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30
WED	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	
THU	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	
FRI	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	
SAT	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	
HOLIDAY	1-11 SUMMER VACATION				15 Independence Day 16 Janmastami 25 Tithi of Srimanta Sankar Dev					12 Tithi of Sri Sri Madhab Dev 28-30 LONG VACATION					
	October				November					December					
Sun		5	12	19	26	30	2	9	16	23		7	14	21	28
Mon		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29
TUE		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30
WED	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31
THU	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	
FRI	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	
SAT	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	
HOLIDAY	1-10 LONG VACATION 18 Kati Bihu 20-21 Kali Puja/Diwali				5 Guru Nanak's Birthday					22-31 WINTER VACATION Christmas Holidays					
RESTRICTED HOLIDAYS	17 <sup>th</sup> January - Silpi Divas 23 <sup>rd</sup> January - Netaji's Birthday 27 <sup>th</sup> January - Busu Dima Festiva 28 <sup>th</sup> January - Gwither Balthow San (Balthow Puja) 12 <sup>th</sup> February - BirChilarai Divas 14 <sup>th</sup> February - Shab e-Barat 18 <sup>th</sup> February - Karbi Dehal Kachir Dom 19 <sup>th</sup> February - Ali-Aye-Lingang 10 <sup>th</sup> March - Balthow Puja/ Kharing Kharing Balthow Puja 28 <sup>th</sup> March - Lailat ur Quadar 10 <sup>th</sup> April - Mahavir Jayanti 16 <sup>th</sup> April - Deuri Bihu 19 <sup>th</sup> April - Easter Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> April - Sati Sadhani Divas 27 <sup>th</sup> April - Tithi of Sri Sri Damodar Dev 2 <sup>nd</sup> May - Tithi of Gopal Dev 27 <sup>th</sup> May - Tithi of Hari Dev 11 <sup>th</sup> June - Baikhow Festival									12 <sup>th</sup> June - Janmotsav of Sri Sri Madhab Dev 20 <sup>th</sup> June - Death Anniversary of Sri Bishnu Prasad Rabha 6 <sup>th</sup> July - Muharram 13 <sup>th</sup> July - Birthday of Nepali Poet Bhanu Bhakta Acharya 13 <sup>th</sup> August - Death Anniversary of Bir Tikendrajit 3 <sup>rd</sup> September - Karam Puja 5 <sup>th</sup> September - Fateha Dwaj Daham 16 <sup>th</sup> September - Abirbhab Tithi of Sri Sri Thakur Anukul Chandra 23 <sup>rd</sup> October - Bhatri Dwitia & Abirbhab Tithi of Sri Bhubaneswar Sadhu Thakur 28 <sup>th</sup> October - Chhat Puja 1 <sup>st</sup> November - Kuki Chavang Kut 24 <sup>th</sup> November - Death Anniversary of Guru Teg Bahadurji 24 <sup>th</sup> November - Lachit Divas 2 <sup>nd</sup> December - Assam Divas 5 <sup>th</sup> December - Sikkui Ruoi 10 <sup>th</sup> December - Martyr's Day					
Note:	1. Sunday, Second Saturdays, Fourth Saturdays and other holidays for the High Court are shown in Red 2. Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> April will be working day of Hon'ble Court, shown in <span style="background-color: #cccccc;"> </span> 3. Date shown in Black are Court Working days 4. Date shown in Green are Office working days														

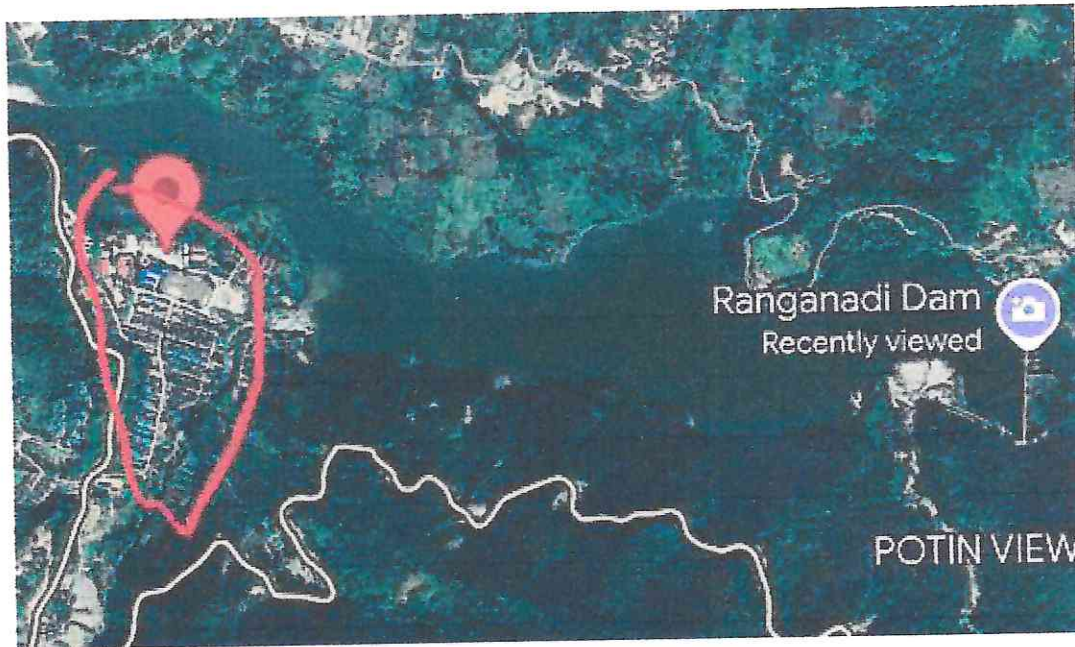
Total Court Working Days: 210 days

**LIST OF SOME OF THE TECHNICAL AND VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS**

Sl.No.	Particulars
1.	Executive Summary of DPR of 2013
2.	DPR (Final)Vol. 1 Main Report – Part A Chapters 1 to 9 (July 2013)
3.	DPR (Final)Vol. 1 Main Report – Part B Chapters 10 to 19 (July 2013)
4.	DPR (Final)Vol. II Hydrological Studies (July 2013)
5.	DPR (Final)Vol. IIIA Geological & Geotechnical Studies (July 2013)
6.	DPR (Final)Vol. IIIB Geological Drawings (July 2013)
7.	Terms of Reference dated 26.04.2013
8.	Minutes of Public Hearing dated 12.12.2014
9.	Social Impact Assessment and Rehabilitation & Resettlement plan (January 2015)
10.	Cumulative Impact & Carrying Capacity Study of Dibang Sub Basin in Brahmaputra River Valley (Final Report) Vol. I (July 2016)
11.	Environment Management Plan of Etalin HEP
12.	Wildlife Conservation Plan of 2019 by WII
13.	Environment Clearance dated 23.08.2025
14.	Review of Wildlife Conservation Plan
15.	Article Public Health Perils of Etalin HEP
16.	Article Why Etalin HEP is flawed
17.	Letter from SANDRP
18.	News report of 'Athu-popu'
19.	Study published in the Environmental Development journal

**What exactly happened at the NEEPCO colony in Arunachal?  
Investigations on as flash flood claims one life, with four  
disappearances**

*Speculations about cloud bursts and opening of dam gate rife, but little  
clarity as of now*



The NEEPCO Colony marked in red.Credit: Google Maps

[Sandipan Talukdar](#)

Published on:

25 Jun 2026, 3:44 pm

On June 24, the Poosa area of Arunachal Pradesh's Keyi Panyor district woke up to horror. A huge gush of water washed away houses of the NEEPCO (North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.) colony and nearby Poosa village under the Yazali circle.

The NEEPCO colony is the residential complex for officials of the Panyor Lower Hydroelectric project, known as the Ranganadi dam in local

parlance. News came flashing about the horrific incident with speculation about cloud bursts as well as release of heavy water through the dam gates.

### **Cloud burst, dam or other unseen factors?**

Dams or hydroelectric power projects have been an issue of serious concern in Northeast India, with wide scale resistance against them. Massive protests last year against a proposed dam over the Siang river is still fresh in memories of the people of Arunachal Pradesh. A devastation of the scale that occurred at Poosa readily triggered speculation that a cloud burst in the upper regions of the state had accumulated heavy water in the dam and that its gates were opened, causing the devastation or that the dam had broken.

Notably, the Ranganadi dam has been a concerning issue for Assam, especially for its impact in Lakhimpur district. The dam is over the Ranganadi river that originates in Arunchal and flows down to Lakhimpur district of Assam before meeting the Brahmaputra.

Pill Reka, a youth of Yazali village, 9 kilometres away from the devastation site told *Down To Earth (DTE)* that there was heavy rain throughout the night of June 23 that continued till noon next day. He thinks that the incident to be a cloud burst.

However, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a cloud burst is defined as 100 mm of rainfall in an hour. A Sandeep, the head of the meteorology center, Itanagar said there was 73 mm of rainfall in 24 hours prior to the flash flood, from 8.30 AM of June 23 till 8.30 AM of June 24. "However, most of the rainfall occurred during 5.30 AM to 8.30 AM of June 24," he said confirming that it doesn't comply with IMD's definition of a cloudburst.

Reka also denied that the flash flood was due to opening of the Ranganadi dam gates as the NEEPCO colony is situated upstream of the dam gates. "The heavy water came through a channel known as 'Poosa

river' locally. The dam is on the Panyor river (or Ranganadi river)," he said.

An official of the SDMA (State Disaster Management Authority) apprised *DTE* that the water released from the dam was around 10 AM. "The discharge through the gate was 201.413 cumec while the inflow was 163.36 cumec," he said.

Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman, an independent researcher on the Brahmaputra basin however thinks that hydropower development has a contributory role in the devastation. "Any structural intervention in the riverbed, such as a dam, causes flow changes both upstream and downstream of the dam site. The accumulated rain water would have dissipated in a different manner and the devastation would be much lesser. The dam head always contains substantial amount of water stored for electricity generation, which can substantially add as a backflow to the accumulated flows caused by the rainfall, adding to the severity of the disaster upstream of the dam site. Often it is assumed that only the downstream areas are worse affected due to a dam, but upstream areas can also suffer serious consequences through altering the natural drainage conditions," Mirza told *DTE*. "There could be a change in the micro climate of the catchment area that can shift the region of cloudburst or severe downpour, which is known to occur in the lower catchment area of the Ranganadi dam site. We don't have a proper scientific study on it," he added.

Sarat Phukan, a geologist and senior professor at Gauhati University, offered a different interpretation of the recent flash flood. "Backwater effect from the reservoir can cause inundation in low-lying areas. However, based on the reported force and velocity of the floodwaters, the devastation at the NEEPCO colony is unlikely to have been caused by reservoir backflow alone. Backwater may raise the water level, but it does not usually generate a high-energy flash flood," Phukan said.

"At this stage, without a detailed geomorphological and hydrological investigation, at least two plausible mechanisms deserve consideration. First, the small mountain channel flowing through the NEEPCO colony may have been temporarily blocked upstream by landslide debris,

sediment, or fallen trees. Intense rainfall could have impounded water behind such a natural blockage, and its sudden breach would have released a powerful flood wave downstream. Second, a highly localised cloudburst may have occurred farther upstream in the catchment, beyond the coverage of available rain gauges. In steep Himalayan terrain, such events can produce destructive flash floods within a very short time."

A Sandeep told *DTE* that the 73 mm rainfall data was recorded by the station at Yazali, a distant node of the possible remote areas that Phukan suggests.

S NO.	STATE	DISTRICT	STATION	TYPE	LAT	LOH	DATE (D-M-Y)	TIME (UTC)	RAINFALL CUMULATIVE
1	ARUNACHAL_PRADESH	LOWER_SUBANSIRI	YAZALI	CWC	27.54	93.75	6/24/2026	3:00:00	72.8
2	ARUNACHAL_PRADESH	UPPER_SUBANSIRI	DAPORHO	CWC	27.98	94.22	6/24/2026	3:00:00	39.3
3	ARUNACHAL_PRADESH	UPPER_SIANG	TUTING	CWC	28.99	94.89	6/24/2026	3:00:00	28
4	ARUNACHAL_PRADESH	UPPER_SUBHANSERH	DAPORHO	AWS	27.9883	94.22	6/24/2026	3:00:00	27
5	ARUNACHAL_PRADESH	PAPUMPARE	ITANAGAR	AWS	27.076	93.6043	6/24/2026	3:00:00	24.5
6	ARUNACHAL_PRADESH	LOWER_SUBANSIRI	DEED	AWS	27.5937	93.5671	6/24/2026	3:00:00	22
7	ARUNACHAL_PRADESH	TIRAP	DEOMALI	AWS	27.1919	95.4636	6/24/2026	3:00:00	15.5
8	ARUNACHAL_PRADESH	KAMLE	RAGA	AWS	27.7923	94.0753	6/24/2026	3:00:00	15
9	ARUNACHAL_PRADESH	LEPARADA	BASAR	AWS	27.995	94.704	6/24/2026	3:00:00	13.5
10	ARUNACHAL_PRADESH	EAST_KAMENG	SEPPA_PAMPOLI	AWS	27.3178	93.0042	6/24/2026	3:00:00	10.5
11	ARUNACHAL_PRADESH	PAPUMPARE	YUPIA	ARG	27.1388	93.7169	6/23/2026	20:00:00	10
12	ARUNACHAL_PRADESH	LOWER_SUBANSIRI	ZIRO_MANIPOLYANG	AWS	27.5298	93.8385	6/24/2026	3:00:00	7.5

Source: MC, Itanagar

Drawing a geological analogy, Phukan added, "Following the great Assam earthquake of 1950, several rivers and streams in the eastern Himalaya were temporarily dammed by landslides. The Subansiri river,

for example, remained blocked for several days in its upper reaches, and when the natural dam eventually failed, it caused widespread devastation downstream in Assam. Although the present event is much smaller in scale, the mechanism of temporary blockage followed by sudden release is a well-recognised geomorphic process worthy of investigation."

Keshab Krishna Chatradhara, a prominent river activist based in Assam also says that the opening of dam gates cannot be attributed as being behind the incident. Chatradhara also thinks that the small channel was blocked in the upper reaches, which later opened due to heavy rain. "As the devastation site is upstream of the dam elevation, it is not likely that the dam has caused the devastation of that scale. Moreover, had the dam got broken it would have caused severe problems in Assam."

### **Scene of destruction**

The incident gave no time to anyone. Early in the morning (between 6.30 and 8.30 AM), a huge wall of water came rushing down with a massive sound and within moments, the entire area became unreachable. Pill Moni, a young faculty at the Deranatang Government College in Itanagar, hails from Yazali village. She got worried for her relatives at the devastation site. Moni told *DTE* that she was unable to contact her relatives and with great difficulty got to know that they were safe only late in the afternoon.

The SDMA told *DTE* that till June 25, one death and four disappearances have been reported with several people injured. But the exact number of people affected and total loss is still being assessed. The residents of the NEEPCO colony and the villages have been evacuated to safer places by SDRF, NDRF and local authorities. Beru Dulom, the district disaster management officer of Keyi Panyor district, told *DTE* that about 18 residential quarters of the NEEPCO colony were washed away by the furious gushes of the flash flood.

According to a local journalist Manoj Singh, around 50 houses were washed away across the NEEPCO colony and the Poosa area along with

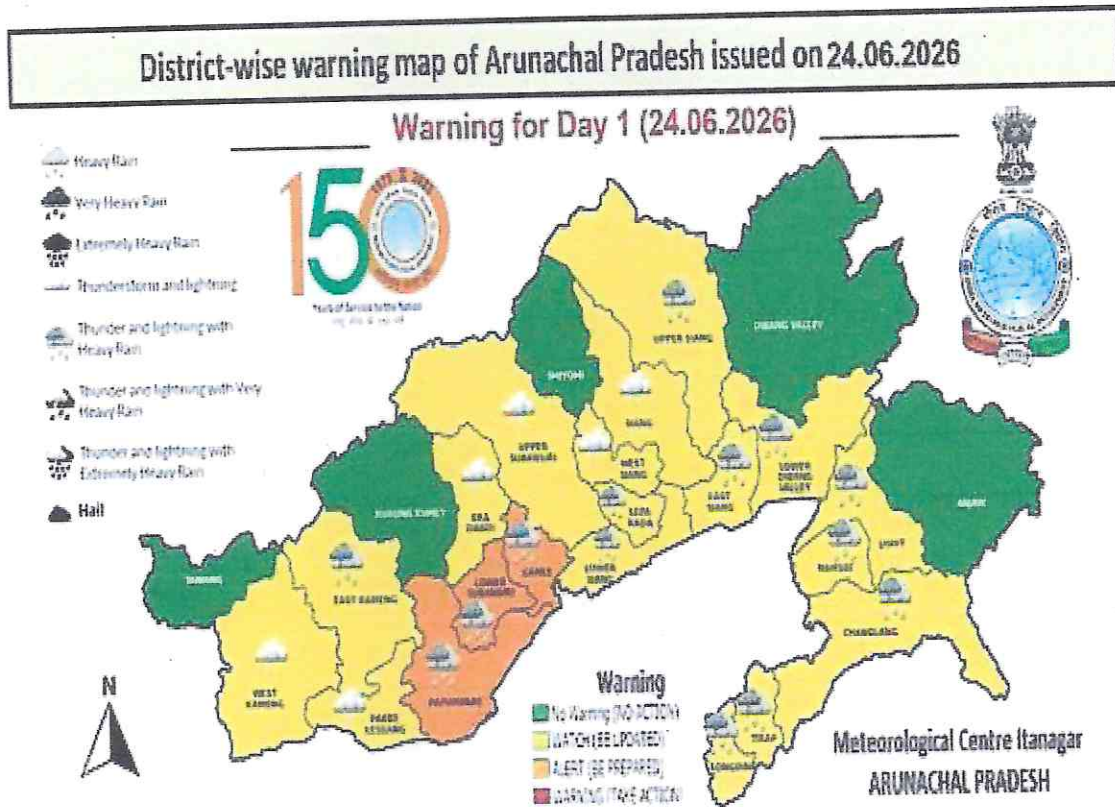
several cars and livestock. He added that landslides in about 50 places between state capital Itanagar and Pitapool (near the devastation site) have blocked road communication. "I was awaiting to go to Poosa in helicopter from Naharlagun along with others, but the copter didn't take off due to the weather conditions. The critically injured patients were taken to Ziro as all roads to Itanagar were blocked," he said.

### **Disaster-prone Arunachal**

An officer at SDMA, on condition of anonymity, gave a short account of previous such incidences. "These kinds of events have been happening regularly here. It has been almost a decade now since I am posted here and I have seen many such occurrences. In 2025, a similar incident occurred at Dirang. In 2023 or 2024, there were severe damages at Darjeeling village in Mechuka. In 2024, a local stream in Itanagar washed away many houses." Notably, all these incidents occurred without specific warnings, he pointed.

When contacted, a staff member at the State Emergency Operation Centre told *DTE* that they received a yellow alert on June 23 for the Lower Subansiri district (Keyi Panor is a newly crafted district with parts from Lower Subansiri district). However, on June 24, the meteorology brought an orange alert after the devastation.





The meteorology centre produces district level warnings for the next five days and forecasts for the next seven days. Although the prediction models the IMD uses can produce block level forecasts, they restrict it to the district level for operations.

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# NHPC firming up ₹30k cr investment plan for Arunachal power project

This project was previously with SJVN Ltd and private developers. The state government is now pushing for central public sector undertakings to develop stalled projects.

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NHPC is preparing a ₹30,000 crore investment plan for the 3,000 MW Etalin hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh.

NEW DELHI: NHPC Ltd is firming up an investment proposal for its mega 3,000-megawatt Etalin hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh, envisaging an investment of around ₹ 30,000 crore, said people close to the development.

The project was given to SJVN Ltd by the state before it was given to NHPC in November last year.

Etalin was among the hydropower projects that were earlier allotted to private sector developers about 15 years ago but could not start due to approval delays.

The state government then decided to bring in central hydro public sector undertakings to give a push to the languishing projects.

In response to an emailed query by ET, NHPC said that the signing of memorandum of agreement with Arunachal Pradesh is underway and the project proposal is under approval.

The Etalin plant is being envisaged as a run-of-the-river project involving the construction of two concrete gravity dams on Dri and Tangon rivers, tributaries of Dibang river.

The plant is in the Dibang Valley district of Arunachal Pradesh, where NHPC is implementing a 2,880 MW Dibang Multipurpose project in the lower reaches of the river in the state.

NHPC was assigned Etalin Hydroelectric Project by the Centre in November 2025 for further development, following its earlier transfer to SJVN Limited. The state conveyed its in-principle approval for the transfer in December last year.

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The move comes close after the Cabinet approved two hydro projects this week in Arunachal Pradesh worth ₹ 40,000 crore.

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