

## BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

## PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

## ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 129 OF 2024

## IN THE MATTER OF:

News item titled "Forest land five times Delhi's geographical area under encroachment govt. data shows" appearing in Deccan Herald dated 05.01.2024.

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Filed on 29.07.2024

Filed by,



SHUVODEEP ROY

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Off. Add: 06, School Lane(GF) , Bengali Market,

New Delhi - 110001

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**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 129 OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

News item titled **“Forest land five times Delhi’s geographical area under encroachment govt. data shows”** appearing in Deccan Herald  
dated 05.01.2024

**AFFIDAVIT IN COMPLIANCE OF ORDER DT. 19.04.2024  
BY THE RESPONDENT - STATE OF ASSAM**

I, Ranadip Dam, Joint Secretary, General Administration Department, Government of Assam and Officer on Special Duty in Office of Resident Commissioner, Assam Bhawan, New Delhi-110001, do hereby solemnly state and affirm as under:--



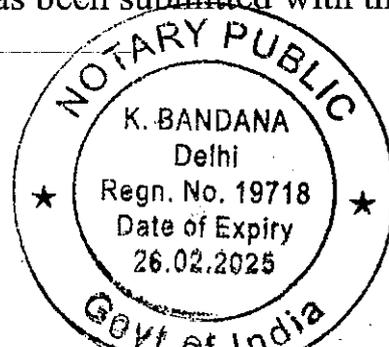
That in my official capacity as Joint Secretary, General Administration Department, Government of Assam and Officer on

Special Duty in Office of Resident Commissioner, Assam Bhawan, New Delhi and in course of discharge of my official duties, I have become conversant with the facts of the instant case and being duly authorized on this behalf by Respondent-State of Assam, I am fully competent to swear the present compliance affidavit.

2. That the present suo moto proceedings have been initiated on the basis of a Newspaper Report titled "*Forest land five times Delhi's geographical area Under encroachment govt. data shows*" appearing in Deccan Herald dated 05.01.2024, wherein it is reported that large encroachment of broadly more than 7,500 sq. kms. of forest land across the Country.

Vide the Order dated 19.04.2024, this Hon'ble Tribunal directed all impleaded Respondents - States to file their respective response in a tabulated compiled form.

3. That pursuant to the said Order dt. 19.04.2024, so far as the Respondent-State of Assam is concerned, a detailed Status Report on encroachment of forest land has been submitted with the details



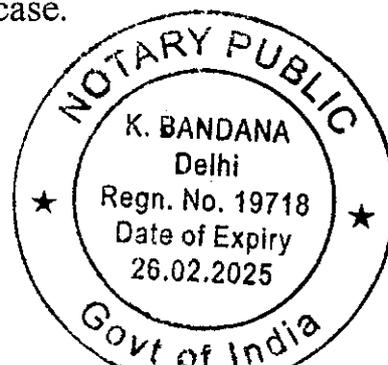
of forest land under encroachment District-wise and a consolidated report for the State of Assam.

As per the Status Report total forest cover in the Respondent- State of Assam is 2831151 Hectare (28311.51 sq. km.) out of which total encroached area as on March 2024 is 362082.62 Hectare (3620.82 sq. km.) and the percentage loss of forest as on March 2024 is 19.92%. Due to the action taken for removal of encroachment by the Respondent-State the total 3388.92 Hectare area was removed as on 2023-24.

True copy of Status Report on District-wise encroachment of forest land in Respondent-State of Assam as on March, 2024, is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE - I [Page 5 to 14]**.

True copy of Consolidated Status Report of Respondent- State of Assam on encroachment of forest land as on March, 2024, is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE - II [Page 15]**.

4. The answering Respondent – State of Assam craves leave of this Hon'ble Court to file further detailed affidavit, if required in the facts and circumstances of the present case.



4  
*[Signature]*  
**DEPONENT**  
Joint Secretary to the Government of Assam  
General Administration Department  
Officer on Special Duty  
Assam Bhawan, New Delhi

**VERIFICATION:**

**IDENTIFIED**

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of the aforesaid affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. No part thereof is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

29 JUL 2024

Verified at New Delhi on this the \_\_\_\_\_ of July, 2024.

**NOTARY PUBLIC**  
K. BANDANA  
Delhi  
Regn. No. 19718  
Date of Expiry  
26.02.2025  
Govt. of India

29 JUL 2024

*[Signature]*  
**DEPONENT**  
Joint Secretary to the Government of Assam  
General Administration Department  
Officer on Special Duty  
Assam Bhawan, New Delhi

**ATTESTED**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC DELHI**  
Govt. of India  
Mob.: 9654768498

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EMPOWERED TO ADMINISTER THE OATH  
SECTION 139 OF CPC 1908  
SECTION 297 OF CRPC 1973  
DELHI HIGH COURT RULES 1967  
PART-6, CHAPTER XVIII-227  
EVIDENCE BY AFFIDAVIT BEFORE NOTAR  
SUPREME COURT RULES, 2013  
ORDER-X-7

Annexure- I 5

By e-mail

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS &  
HEAD OF FOREST FORCE, ASSAM  
ARANYA BHAWAN, PANJABARI, GUWAHATI-781037

E Mail: [hoff-assam@gov.in](mailto:hoff-assam@gov.in)

FG.58/O.A.No.129/2024

Date: 28.05.2024

To,

The Special Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam  
Environment and Forest Department  
Dispur, Guwahati-6

**Sub:** O.A. No. 129/2024 in the matter of Suo Motu matter In News Item appearing in Deccan Herald entitled "Forest land five times Delhi's geographical area under encroachment".

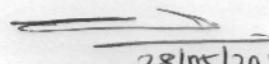
**Ref:** Govt. letter ECF No. 481258/21 dated 27.05.2024.

Sir,

With reference to the above, I am directed submit herewith the detailed report on the above mentioned subject matter in the prescribed format as ANNEXURE-I & II for favour of your kind information and needful.

Enclo: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

  
28/05/2024

Deputy Conservator of Forests (IT)  
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and  
Head of Forest Force, Assam

Copy alongwith copy of enclosures to the Forest Protection Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Agni Wing, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003 (E-mail: [fpd-moefcc@gov.in](mailto:fpd-moefcc@gov.in)) for favour of kind information with reference to e-mail dated 01 May, 2024.

  
28/05/2024

Deputy Conservator of Forests (IT)  
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and  
Head of Forest Force, Assam

















Udalguri				Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary	2622	400												
Cachar & Karimganj				Borail Wildlife Sanctuary	32625	976.8												
Sivasagar				Panidehing Bird Sanctury	3393	0												
Sonitpur				Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary	22000	10000												
Golaghat				Nambor Doigrung Wildlife Sanctuary	9715	0												
Tinsukia				Bherjan-Borjan-Padumoni Wildlife Sanctuary	722	13												
Kokrajhar				Chakrasila Wildlife Sanctuary	4558	3	1.04											
Kamrup Metropolitan				Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary	7864	270		230										
Kamrup Metropolitan				Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary	410	0												
Morigaon				Pabitara Wildlife Sanctuary	3881	0												
Karbi Anglong				Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary	600	0												
Karbi Anglong				East Karbi Anglong Wildlife Sanctuary	22181	157												
Karbi Anglong				Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary	3700	0												
Karbi Anglong				Marat Longri Wildlife Sanctuary	45100	4414												
Nagaon				Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary	7013	11.7	65				11	13						
Sonitpur				Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary	23906	121	85	25.00			20		1282					
	28311.51				513880	21534.83	421.50	3266.57	465.91	3742.36	463.27	219.30	2397.10	3341.50	3388.92			4.19

	Area (in Ha.)	Encroached Area (in Ha.)	Percentage of encroachment
Reserved Forest	1303298.83	340547.79	
National Park & Wildlife Sanctuaries	513880.00	21534.83	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1817178.83</b>	<b>362082.62</b>	<b>19.92%</b>

  
 Deputy Conservator of Forests (IT)  
 Of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &  
 Head of Forest Force, Assam  
 Panjabari, Gauhati-37

Details of encroachment of Forest (in Hactors)

Sl. No	State/UT	Total Forest Cover (in sq km)	Details of encroachment				Total encroachment upto March, 2024 (in Ha.)	Action Taken for removal of encroachment year wise District wise								Percentage loss of forest as on March, 2024 District wise	
			Protecte d Forest	Reserve Forest	Deemed Forest	Sanctuaris and Protected Areas		Any other type of forest	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23
	Assam	28311.51		340547.79	Not Notified	21534.83	362082.62	421.5	3266.57	465.91	3742.36	463.27	219.3	2397.1	3341.5	3388.92	19.92%

Forest Cover as per India State of Forest Report 2021

Deputy Conservator of Forests (IT)  
 O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &  
 Head of Forest Force, Assam  
 Panjabari, Guwahati-37