

**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 29.07.2025

Filed by,



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

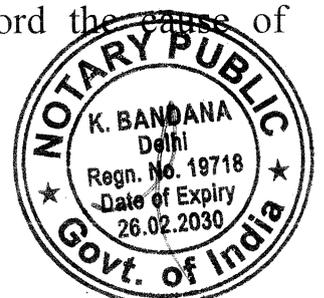
IN THE MATTER OF:

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. 28.03.2025
ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT No. 5 - STATE OF ASSAM**

I, Dr. Surjya Kamal Borah, aged 43 years, Deputy Resident Commissioner & Officer on Special Duty, Assam Bhawan, New Delhi-110001, do hereby solemnly state and affirm as under:--

1. That in my official capacity as Deputy Resident Commissioner & Officer on Special Duty, 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, vide Order dt. 28.03.2025, this Hon’ble Tribunal directed *inter alia* the Respondent – State of Assam to place on record the cause of

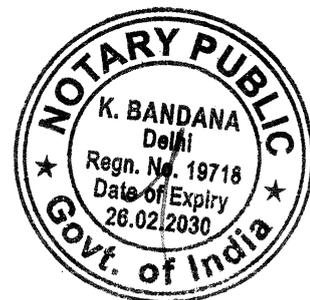


encroachment and loss of forest in the State, and also the steps which are being taken by the State to remove the encroachment and restore the forest.

3. That in compliance of the said Order dt. 28.03.2025 to the said Order dt. 28.03.2025, the Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Assam, submitted to the Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department vide communication No. FG.58/O.A.No.129/2024 dt. 01.07.2025 giving details regarding causes of encroachment and loss of forest and also steps being taken to remove the encroachment and restore forests in the Respondent – State.

True copy of communication vide No. FG.58/O.A.No.129/2024 dt. 01/09.07.2025 regarding submission of details of encroachment, is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE - I [Page 4 to 9]**.

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.



[Signature]
DEPONENT

Deputy Secretary
Govt. of Assam
GAD, DRC & OSD
Assam Bhawan, New Delhi

VERIFICATION:

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.

Verified at New Delhi on this 29th JUL 2025, of July, 2025.

[Signature]
IDENTIFIED

NOTARY PUBLIC
K. BANDANA
Delhi
Regn. No. 19718
Date of Expiry
26.02.2030
★
Govt. of India

29 JUL 2025

[Signature]
DEPONENT

Deputy Secretary
Govt. of Assam
GAD, DRC & OSD
Assam Bhawan, New Delhi

ATTESTED
NOTARY PUBLIC DELHI
Govt. of India

By No. 1873
OSD (AS)

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

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

Date: 01.07.2025

To,

The Special Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department
E Block, 3rd Floor, Janata Bhawan
Dispur, Guwahati-6

Sub: Submission of necessary details regarding encroachment as sought vide NGT Order dated 28.03.2025 in O.A. No. 129 of 2024.

Ref: 1. Govt. letter ECF No. 481258/115 dated 24.06.2025.
2. This office letter No. FG.58/O.A.No.129/2024 dated 26.06.2025.

Sir,

In continuation to this office letter under reference #2, I am directed submit the detailed report sought for as per letter under reference #1 on the Point No. 1 & 2 on cause (s) of encroachment and steps taken to remove the encroachment and restore the forest as below:

1. Cause (s) of encroachment (19.92%) and loss of forest in Assam.

- (i) Due to the practice of Jhum Cultivation by the Local tribal people in Hill Districts of Dima Hasao Autonomous Council, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Barak Valley, parts of Kamrup District.
- (ii) Encroachment and sporadic illegal felling of trees.
- (iii) Issuing land title under FRA Act 2006.
- (iv) Diversion of forest area for developmental activities.
- (v) Encroachment of forest land along the inter-State borders by neighboring States i.e. Arunachal Pradesh (13,104.4 Ha), Mizoram (3,652.28 Ha) and Nagaland (59,070.28 Ha) has been made which has caused reduction of evergreen, semi-evergreen tracts of forest.
- (vi) The forest lands are also degraded due to plantation of tea, rubber, betel nut, palm-oil, taken up by the encroachers. Such reduction in evergreen and semi-evergreen forests has resulted in loss of soil moisture, micro-climate alteration and imbalance of water regime, triggering desertification.

BB
9/07/25

- (vii) Encroachment by people displaced due to floods and land erosion are the major reasons in decline in forest cover in state of Assam which has also resulted in increased incidents of forest fires and more negative impact of flood and land erosion.
- (viii) Unrest/insurgency during 80's & 90's to the State which led to large scale deforestation and encroachment in forest areas.
- (ix) Expansion of the families of existing forest villages/ taungya villages is also a factor contributing towards loss of forest cover.

2. Steps taken by the State to remove the encroachment and restore the forest.

- (i) As per established and enforced legal provision under the Assam Forest Regulation, [189] (Amended 1995) Act, any occupation within the Reserve Forests without any prior permission is strictly prohibited and amounting to violation of Acts and hence it is the bounded and mandatory duties of the administration to evict/eject the such encroaches from the forest land and accordingly the ejection/eviction conducted within the Reserve Forest and Protected Areas time to time to remove the encroachers from forest land and area has been reclaimed with suitable plantation.
- (ii) During the tenure of present Government (since 2021) total encroachment removed from forest area is 10,415,027 hectares. A district wise detail of eviction in Reserve Forest and Protected Area in Assam is enclosed herewith as Annexure-I & Annexure-II.
- (iii) For better protection and management of Forest Area/Forest cover a new battalion of Assam Forest Protection Force (AFPF) was formed as well as approximately 2000 numbers of frontline staffs were recruited in the year 2023. Assam Commando battalion with strength approximately 400 has been deployed for protection of forest area.
- (iv) Improvement of forest roads.
- (v) Regular patrolling in border areas.
- (vi) Taking up of plantation activities in the evicted areas under CAMPA and APFBC scheme.

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- (vii) Under Externally Aided Project of Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) Phase-II, plantation over **12,032 Ha** has been raised since 2019-2020. In addition to this under the CAMPA scheme, plantation over **10,759,145 Ha** has been completed since 2020-2021.
- (viii) In the mega plantation drive called Amrit Brikshya Andolan, a total of 4.31 crore seedlings were planted outside the forest areas during 2023 and 2024.
- (ix) Deforestation Watch, an Artificial Intelligence based alert system utilizing satellite imagery to identify tree felling areas and to disseminate the information to field staff for quick observation and remediation has been deployed on experimental basis to monitor the felling of trees and encroachments.
- (x) **295 nos.** of Eco Development Committees (EDC) and **165 nos.** of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC) have been formed involving local people of the fringe villages around Reserved Forests and Wildlife Protected Areas to provide them alternate livelihood opportunities and motivate them to protect the nearby forest areas.

This is for favour of your kind information and needful action.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

Deputy Conservator of Forests (P.O.-II)
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Head of Forest Force, Assam

District & Division wise Eviction in Reserve Forest

Sl. No.	Name of Division	Name of District	Name of Reserved Forests	Eviction from 2021-22 to 2024-25 (Ha)
1	Kamrup East	Kamrup (M)	Gotanagar	0.01
2			Fatasil	0.62
3		Kamrup (M) & Kamrup	Garbhanga	0.10
4		Kamrup (M)	Chamata	1.00
5	Kamrup West	Kamrup	Barduar	15.55
6			Kulsi	6.92
7			Milmillia	1.00
8			Chhaygaon	0.30
9			Moman	2.80
10			Luki	2.50
11			Nampathar	1.00
12			Borjuli	2.50
13			Bagaikhas	0.20
14			Pantan	2.50
15	North Kamrup	Kamrup	Agiyathuri	0.50
16			Borombor	1.50
17	Goalpara	Goalpara	Dohikata	2.00
18			Pancharatna	50.00
19			Guriajhar	22.00
20			Athiabari	90.00
21			Baghmara	10.00
22			Deosila	110.00
23			Kanyakuchi	125.00
24			Kahibari	21.50
25			Salpara	8.00
26			Bandarmatha	67.00
27			Dhamor	36.00
28			Kumarkhali	88.00
29			Nalbari	64.00
30	Cachar	Cachar	Borak RF	7.00
31			Innerline RF (Part)	67.52
32			Sonai RF	25.50
33			Upperjiri	0.90
34	Karimganj	Karimganj	Tilbhum	150.00
35			Patharia	15.00
36			Duhalia	358.30
37			Longar	81.00
38			Singla	24.00
39			Badshahitila	134.50
40	Hailakandi	Hilakandi	Innerline	222.63
41			Katakhal	25.00
42	Dhubri	Dhubri	Chandardinga	2.00
43			Dudhnath Hill	11.50
44			Sakati	0.00

45	Nagaon	Nagaon	Borpani	3.00
46		Morigaon	Tetelia Bagara	5.00
47	Nagaon South	Hojai	Lumding	1410.00
48			Kaki	20.00
49	Sonitpur West	Sonitpur	Charduar RF	2.00
50			Balipara RF	11.00
51			Senglimari RF	25.90
52	Sonitpur East	Sonitpur	Naduar RF	5.00
53	Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur	Ranga	2.50
54			Pabha	1750.00
55	Digboi	Tinsukia	Upper Dehing (West Block)	24.00
56			Tirap	0.13
57	Haltugaon	Kokrajhar	Chirang RF	190.00
58	Chirang	Chirang	Manas (pt-I)	223.00
59			Manas (pt-II)	10.00
60			Chirang Ripu RF	285.00
61	Dhansiri	Udalguri	Bhairabkunda	3.00
Total (in ha.)				5826.89

Eviction in the National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries of Assam

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Sl. No.	Name of the National Parks (NP) & Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS)	District wise location	Eviction from 2021-22 to 2024-25 (Ha)	Remarks
1	Dibru- Saikhowa NP	Tinsukia and Dibrugarh	30	
2	Orang NP	Darrang and Sonitpur	2899	
3	Sikhna Jwhlao National Park	Chirang and Kokrajhar	218	
4	Sonai Rupai WLS	Sonitpur	100	Sub-judice. NGT case and PIL in Gauhati High Court
5	Marat Longri WLS	Karbi Anglong	59.14	
6	Burachapori WLS	Sonitpur	1282	
Total			4588.14	
			830	Eviction of encroachment on revenue Land adjacent to Burachapori WLS which has been handed over to Nagaon WL division
Grand Total			5418.14	