

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI****ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 20 OF 2025****\IN THE MATTER OF:**

News item titled “Assam’s forests shrink by 83.92 sq. km. in just two years Report” appearing in the Assamtribune.com dated 22.12.2024

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Filed on 04.09.2025

Filed by,



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SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

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**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 20 OF 2025**

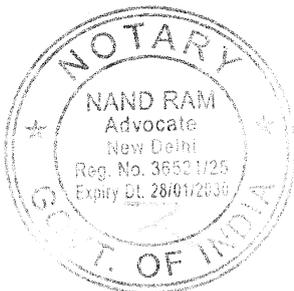
IN THE MATTER OF:

News item titled “Assam’s forests shrink by 83.92 sq. km. in just two years Report” appearing in the Assamtribune.com dated 22.12.2024

**AFFIDAVIT IN COMPLIANCE OF ORDER DT. 22.01.2025
BY THE RESPONDENT - STATE OF TRIPURA**

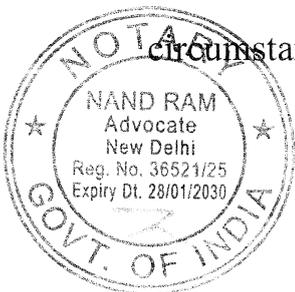
I, Sh. Ranjit Das, TCS, aged 60 years, S/o Gopal Ch. Das, Joint Resident Commissioner to the Government of Tripura, Tripura Bhawan, Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, do hereby solemnly state and affirm as under: -

1. That the deponent is the Joint Resident Commissioner of the Govt. of Tripura and posted at the Tripura Bhawan, New Delhi and in course of discharge of his official duties, deponent has become conversant with the facts of the instant case and being duly authorized on this behalf by Respondent – State, the deponent is fully competent to swear the present affidavit.



2. That the present *suo moto* proceedings have been initiated on the basis of a News item titled “Assam’s forests shrink by 83.92 sq. km. in just two years Report” appearing in the Assamtribune.com dated 22.12.2024, wherein it is reported, *inter alia*, that the North-eastern States of the Country collectively lost 327.30 square kilometers of forest cover between 2021 and 2023.
3. That, vide Orders dt. 22.01.2025, 29.01.2025, 09.05.2025 and 07.08.2025, this Hon’ble Tribunal directed, *inter alia*, the Respondent – State of Tripura to file a response / reply by way of Affidavit.
4. That, in compliance of the aforesaid directions passed by this Hon’ble Tribunal, so far as the Respondent – State of Tripura is concerned, a Status Report on the Forest Cover, Tree Cover in the State of Tripura for the period from 2001 to 2021 has been prepared.

True copy of Status Report on the Forest Cover, Tree Cover in the State of Tripura, is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE - I [Page to 4]**.
5. The answering Respondent – State of Tripura craves leave of this Hon’ble Tribunal to file further detailed affidavit, if required in the facts and circumstances of the present case.




DEPONENT
RANJIT DAS, TCS
 Joint Resident Commissioner
 Government of Tripura
 Tripura Bhawan, New Delhi

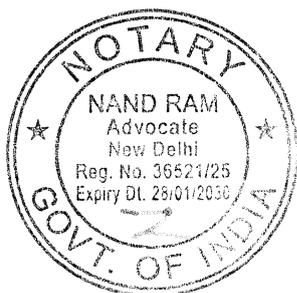
VERIFICATION:-

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 there from.

04 SEP 2025

Verified at New Delhi on this _____ day of _____, 202 .

I identified the deponent who has signed in my presence.



ATTESTED

NAND RAM, ADV.
 NOTARY PUBLIC, DELHI
 GOVT. OF INDIA

CERTIFIED THAT THE DEPONENT
 Sh/Smt/Km. Ranjit Das TCS
 S/o, W/o, D/o Chandrichi Das
 Identified by Shri/Smt. Shayyaleep Singh who solemnly
 affirmed before me at Delhi on 04/09/2025 St. No. 131 that
 the content of the affidavit which have been read & explained
 to his/ her knowledge.

(NOTARY PUBLIC, GOVT.OF INDIA)

04 SEP 2025


DEPONENT
RANJIT DAS, TCS
 Joint Resident Commissioner
 Government of Tripura
 Tripura Bhawan, New Delhi

Status Report on The Forest cover, Tree Cover in the State of Tripura as sought by NGT vide order dated 29.01.2025.

The details of the Forest Cover and Tree Cover in the State of Tripura as per India State Forest Report during the year 2001 to 2021 are given in the table below:

ISFR report 2001-2021					
Year	Geographical Area (sq km)	Forest cover Area(in Sq Km)	Tree Cover Area (in Sq km)	% of Forest Cover	% of Tree Cover
1	2	3	4	5	6
2001	10486	7065	68	67.37555	0.6484837
2003	10486	8093	116	77.1791	1.1062369
2005	10486	8155	134	77.77036	1.2776943
2009	10486	8073	171	76.98837	1.6307458
2011	10486	7977	184	76.07286	1.7547206
2013	10486	7866	213	75.0143	2.0312798
2015	10486	7811	233	74.4898	2.2220103
2017	10486	7726	215	73.67919	2.0503529
2019	10486	7726	231	73.67919	2.2029372
2021	10486	7680.08	252.95	73.24127	2.412264

The main reason for loss of forest cover is considered to be the following:-

Shifting Cultivation:- The traditional method of cultivation is considered as one of the main reason for such change in forest cover.

Diversion of forest land for various purpose:- A total of 6411.7052 ha (64.11 sq km) forest land has been diverted for various purpose during last 20 years which has accounted for reduction of forest cover in the state.

Replacement of old rubber plantation:- An area of 9019.52 ha (90.1952 sq km) of forest land has been used by TFDPC Ltd. for rubber plantation. The old rubber trees being felled and replaced by new rubber trees. These felling of old rubber trees has also accounted for reduction of forest cover in the state.

Allocation of 131564 families over 186819.5139 ha (1868.195139 sq km) of forest area under RoFR:-

An area of 186819.5139 ha (1868.195139 sq km) has been diverted as forest patta over the forest area in the state so far. Under various ongoing schemes rubber plantation have been raised in RoFR lands for livelihood. This has also added to the loss of forest cover in the state, as in many areas forestry crops have been replaced by rubber trees and the trees take time to form the canopy for cover.


 Deputy Conservator of Forest
 Forest Department
 Government of Tripura.