

# 3074

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI

IA NO. 533/2025

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 19 OF 2014

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**Dr. Kashmira Kakati**

**APPLICANT**

**Versus**

**Union of India & Ors**

**RESPONDENTS**

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1.	Reply by the Original Applicant to the I.A. No. 533 of 2025 filed by Oil India Ltd. along with an accompanying Affidavit.	
2.	Proof of Service.	

**DATE:** 07.10.2025

**PLACE:** New Delhi

**DRAWN & FILED BY:**



**Eisha Krishn, Mansi Bachani and Gitanjali Sanyal**

Advocates for the Original Applicant

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**SETTLED BY:**

Sanjay Upadhyay

*[Senior Advocate]*

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**REPLY BY THE ORIGINAL APPLICANT TO THE I.A. NO. 533 OF 2025  
FILED BY OIL INDIA LTD.**

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:**

1. That this Hon'ble Tribunal is seized of the above-mentioned Application which raises a significant national conservation concern regarding elephant reserves and elephant corridors which are prime habitats which need to be secured for the larger environmental good and for which, vide Judgment dated 08.12.2017, a set of nineteen directions had been passed to be complied by the Central Government, State of Assam as well as the user agencies namely, Coal India Ltd., Oil India Ltd., Indian Oil Corporation, among others.
2. This Hon'ble Tribunal is currently concerned with the compliance of the directions as mentioned above as has also been mandated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide Order dated 10.08.2022 and finally vide Order dated 27.04.2023, wherein the matter was remanded back to this Hon'ble Tribunal.
3. That it is submitted that the instant IA No.533/2025 filed by the Respondent No.7/Applicant i.e. Oil India Ltd. is a sheer abuse of process of law and is

being opposed by the Applicant and is liable to be dismissed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

4. That at the outset, it is submitted that as is evident from the information supplied by the Respondent No.7/Applicant i.e. Oil India Ltd. in IA No. 533/2025, the proposed site is located in the Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, which is still reeling from the blatant violation of environmental norms by the said Respondent which has still not been remediated from the earlier closed wells' impacts.
5. In this regard, it is pertinent to mention that right from 2015, when this Hon'ble Tribunal constituted the Special Investigation Team to look into, inter alia, the issue of oil seepage, the finding that there is oil seepage has remained constant till as late as March 2023, when the Respondent No.1 submitted a compliance report in the Hon'ble Supreme Court (kindly see pg 2546 of the Reply dated 12.12.2024 filed by the Respondent No.1, MoEF&CC). The Respondent No.1, while reporting the compliance of Direction No.7 of the Judgment dated 08.12.2017 by this Hon'ble Tribunal, categorically states as follows:

*“(i) Oil is leaking from underground pipelines in the Reserved Forest*

*(ii) At several places, oily sludge pits of abandoned wells have been found and natural drains pass through these pits.*

*(iii) Oil spill have been found in several oil producing wells and Crude Gathering Stations. No fencing had been provided at these well sites.*

*(iv) More than 800 wells have been drilled since the operation of Burma Oil Company Ltd. Oil India Ltd does not even have the inventories of these pits.*

*(iv) In the three oil sludge remediation sites visited, the remediation has not resulted in complete conversion of oily sludge into biodegradable matter. They do not even maintain the inventors of abandoned oil wells. Oil India Limited has been unable to stop the release of untreated oil effluent in open sludge pits and seepage areas around oil rigs in the Digboi Oil Field.”*

6. It is also pertinent to mention that the same Compliance Report as mentioned above has been relied by the Respondent No.1, MoEF&CC and has been submitted before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 12.12.2024. This clearly shows the conduct of the Respondent No.7/Applicant i.e. Oil India Ltd. especially in this critical elephant habitat, which is already bearing the brunt of indiscriminate development activities. The Applicant is a wildlife biologist and has studied this habitat extensively and has witnessed the effect that such unbridled activities have had on the area and therefore prays for dismissal of the IA No.533/2025.
7. That even otherwise, the Letter dated 04.12.2023 of the Respondent No.1 which has been placed on record by the Respondent No.7/Applicant i.e. Oil India Ltd. clearly records that the proposed area and diversion involved falls under critical wildlife habitat and corridor which connects the two States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Clearly, the Respondent No.1, MoEF&CC in its wisdom believes that the project is not suitable to be located in this area. The Original Applicant is also placing reliance on the Affidavit dated 07.10.2025 filed by the Respondent No.1, MoEF&CC which has vindicated the Original Applicant's averment.
8. That the Original Applicant has also come across various reports which depict the conduct of the Respondent No.7/Applicant i.e. Oil India Ltd. in this very habitat of Dehing Patkai wherein it has been categorically stated that despite

being a leading public sector company, instead of serving as a beacon for environmental compliance to others in the industry, appears to have evaded environmental norms. The Original Applicant craves liberty to place such reports on record, if required, at the time of arguments.

9. That it is the humble submission of the Original Applicant that the contents of this Affidavit clearly depict that the conduct of the Respondent No.7/Applicant i.e. Oil India Ltd. has been far from compliant and has been involved in severe environmental law violations, that continue till date.
10. That it is humbly submitted that an Independent Committee of wildlife experts be appointed by this Hon'ble Tribunal to verify the bonafides of the project in question before proceeding any further.

**DATE:** 07.10.2025

**PLACE:** New Delhi

**DRAWN & FILED BY:**



**Eisha Krishn, Mansi Bachani and Gitanjali Sanyal**

Advocates for the Original Applicant

29, Presidential Estate

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**SETTLED BY:**

Sanjay Upadhyay

*[Senior Advocate]*

3079

IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI

IA No. 533/2025

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 19 OF 2014

IN THE MATTER OF:

Dr. Kashmira Kakati

Applicant

Versus

UOI & Ors

Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

I, Kashmira Kakati, D/o Late Mr. Hrishikesh Kakati, R/o Heaven', Madhuban Hill, Government Press Road, P.O. Bamunimaidan, Guwahati – 781021, Assam, presently at New Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am the Original Applicant in the abovementioned application, fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the matter and am competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That the contents of the Reply to IA No. 533/2025 have been drafted by my counsel on my instructions and am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case.
3. That the contents of the Reply are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

*G. N. Singh*  
D/5607/2019

I identified the deponent who has signed in my presence

Verification:

Verified at New Delhi on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2025 that the contents of above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed there from.



ATTESTED

NOTARY (Govt. of India)  
Neelam Sharma, Advocate  
Enrol. No.-D1281/2001  
Ch. No. 165A, Gate No. 11  
Patiala House Courts,  
New Delhi-110001  
(M): 9899408301

07 OCT 2025

*Kashmira Kakati*

DEPONENT

07 OCT 2025

*Kashmira Kakati*

DEPONENT

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**NGT PB - Service in Dr. Kashmira Kakati Vs. UoI & Ors. [I.A. No. 533 of 2025 in O.A. No. 19 of 2014]**

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**From** Gitanjali Sanyal <gitanjali@eldfindia.com>

**Date** Tue 10/7/2025 2:07 PM

**To** petalchandhok@trustlegal.in <petalchandhok@trustlegal.in>; shariqcounsel2005@gmail.com <shariqcounsel2005@gmail.com>; rajnishprasadaorsc@gmail.com <rajnishprasadaorsc@gmail.com>; Shri R P Gupta <secy-moef@nic.in>; cs-assam@nic.in <cs-assam@nic.in>

**Cc** Eisha <eisha@eldfindia.com>; Mansi Bachani <mansi@eldfindia.com>; eldflegal@gmail.com <eldflegal@gmail.com>

 1 attachment (627 KB)

2025.10.07 - Reply to IA by Applicant - Kashmira Kakati.pdf;

Dear Ma'am/Sir,

Please find the attached copy of the **Reply to I.A. No. 533 of 2025 in O.A. No. 19 of 2014** on behalf of Original Applicant in the above-mentioned case.

Requesting your good offices to kindly confirm receipt of the same.

Thanks and Regards,

**Gitanjali Sanyal**

**Advocate and Associate Partner**

**Enviro Legal Defence Firm**

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