

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION  
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 by:**

Filed on: 10.11.2025  
New Delhi



**[Avijit Mani Tripathi]**

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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
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**IN THE MATTER OF:**

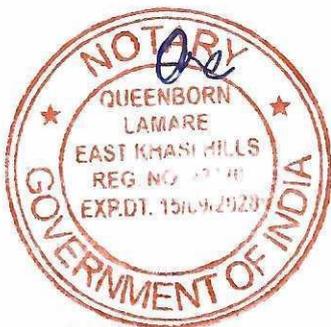
NEWS ITEM TITLED "FOREST LAND FIVE TIMES DELHI,S  
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**REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT  
STATE OF MEGHALAYA**

Joint Secretary  
to the Govt. of Meghalaya  
Forest & Environment Department

I, Sainpyniar S. Syiemlieh, MCS, Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Forest and Environment Department, having office at Secretariat, Secretariat Hills, Shillong, Meghalaya – 793 001, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I am presently posted as the Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Forest and Environment Department and as such in my official capacity I am conversant with the facts and records of the case and competent and authorised to swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent - State of Meghalaya.
2. That the present affidavit is being filed to place on record the status of encroachment on forest and tree cover in the State of Meghalaya as per the directions issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal. The summarized information, up till March 2025 is as follows:



SL / Instrument No 215  
Date 04 - 11 - 2025

State	Total Forest Cover (Sq. Km.)	Area under encroachment (in Sq. Km)	Percentage loss of forest due to encroachment
Meghalaya	17046.07	98.23979	0.44%

That in respect of the above forest encroachment, offence reports have been drawn against the encroachers, and the matter is pending in the respective courts. A detailed chart showing break-up of above data and type of forest encroached, district-wise is annexed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE R-20/1.

Joint Secretary  
to the Govt. of Meghalaya  
Forest & Environment Department

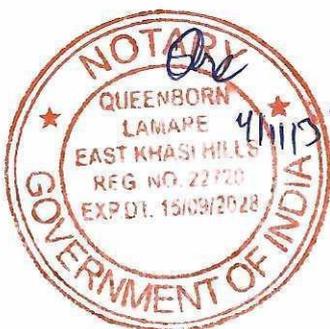
3. That Recent report of FSI show forest cover of Meghalaya as follows:

Year of Forest Report (biennial)	Percentage of Forest cover as reported therein	Total forest cover of the State reported therein in Square kms
2017	76.45	17146.00
2019	76.32	17,118.79
2021	76	17,046.00
2023	75.65	16,966.84

4. That it is most respectfully submitted that the State of Meghalaya has taken certain steps to reduce encroachment of forest in the State which are detailed as follows:



- a. Government owned recorded forest areas have been digitised and have been communicated to the Forest Survey of India Dehradun. The boundaries of registered private forests and community forests, sacred groves, biodiversity heritage sites etc. have also been digitised. The process of identification and demarcation of the remaining forests under the control of private owners and community is already in progress. North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC) was entrusted with the project to delineate such areas through remote sensing and GIS technique which has been completed, and now the field verification and ground truthing is underway.
- b. Advanced technological interventions which are resource intensive are also being harnessed to manage and combat encroachment in forests. The development of a highly advanced digital application titled "Integrated Forest Management Command And Control System" is at an advanced stage of installation and implementation in the state of Meghalaya which will ensure detection and removal of encroachment in real time.
- c. Cognizance of encroachment of forest land, whenever detected, is taken immediately and offence reports (complaint cases) under section 119(a) of CrPC, 1973 (now BNSS) are being filed before competent court of law. Further, serving eviction notices and



conducting eviction drives are done periodically on a priority basis under the provisions of Meghalaya Forest (Ejectment Of Unauthorised Person From Reserved Forest) Rules, 1979 and Meghalaya Forest Regulation, 1973. It may be mentioned that most of the encroachments had occurred prior to 1980 and several Offence reports (complaint cases) filed in respect of these cases are still pending in competent courts. Further, the State is also ascertaining pre-1980 encroachment where are fit for regularization by identifying 'eligible' and 'ineligible' cases as the case may be keeping in view the guidelines of MOEF issued vide letter No.13.1/190-F.P.(1) dated 18.09.1990.

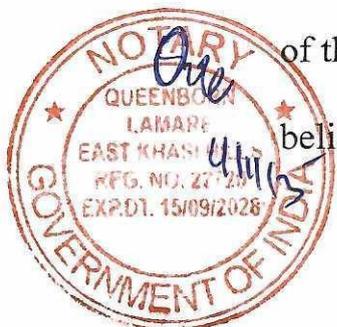
5. That the aforesaid information submitted on behalf of Respondent - State of Meghalaya may kindly be taken on record and the captioned case may kindly be disposed of with appropriate directions.

It is prayed accordingly.

  
 Joint Secretary  
 to the Govt. of Meghalaya  
 Forest & Environment Department  
 DEPENDENT

#### VERIFICATION:

Verified at Shillong on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November 2025 that the content of the above affidavit is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief derived from official records of the Respondent - State of

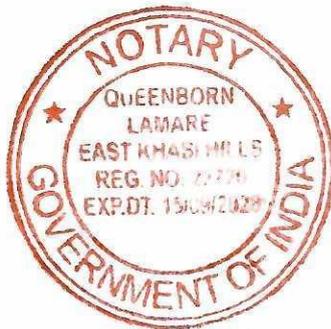


Meghalaya and that nothing is false and nothing material is concealed therefrom.

Joint Secretary  
to the Govt. of Meghalaya  
Forest & Environment Department

Identified by

*[Signature]*  
A.H. Khomwary  
Adv



Solemnly Affirmed before me this Day on 4/11/23 The deponent is identified by Mr A.H. Khomwary Adv  
I Certify that the contents of the Affidavit are read over and Explained to the Deponent who verified the same before me.

*[Signature]*  
Queenborn Lamare  
NOTARY  
East Khasi Hills District  
Reg. No. 22720

**Details of Encroachment of Forest in Meghalaya**

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total Forest Cover (in Sq. km)	Details of encroachment					Total encroachment upto March, 2024 (in Ha.) (District wise)	Action taken for removal of encroachment year wise (District wise)	Percentage (%) loss of forest as on March, 2024 (District wise)
			Protected Forest (in Ha.)	Reserve Forest (in Ha.)	Deemed Forest (in Ha.)	Sanctuaries and Protected Areas (in Ha.)	Any other type of Forest (in Ha.)			
	East Khasi Hills	1716.21	0.23	-	-	-	-	0.23	Offence Reports have been drawn against the encroachers and the matter is pending in the respective Courts.	0.000083%
	Ri-Bhoi	2138.31	-	2.01	-	-	-	2.01		0.00082%
	East Jaintia Hills	2531.00	-	8281.91	-	-	-	8281.91		2.17%
	West Jaintia Hills		-		-	-				
	West Garo Hills	2832.45	-	100.508	-	-	-	100.508		0.03%
	South-West Garo Hills		-		-	-				
	East Garo Hills	2255.92	-	1415.1	-	-	-	1415.1		0.54%
	North Garo Hills		-		-	-				
	West Khasi Hills	3880.26	-	-	-	-	-			-
	South-West Khasi Hills		-	-	-					
	South Garo Hills	1691.92	-	24.221	-	-	-	24.221	0.012%	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17046.07</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>9823.749</b>	-	-	-	<b>9823.979</b>	<b>0.44%</b>	

**Details of Encroachment of Forest in Meghalaya**

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total Forest Cover (in Sq. km)	Details of encroachment					Total encroachment upto March, 2024 (in Ha.) (District wise)	Action taken for removal of encroachment year wise (District wise)	Percentage (%) loss of forest as on March, 2024 (District wise)
			Protected Forest (in Ha.)	Reserve Forest (in Ha.)	Deemed Forest (in Ha.)	Sanctuaries and Protected Areas (in Ha.)	Any other type of Forest (in Ha.)			
1	Meghalaya	17046.07	0.23	9823.749	-	-	-	9823.979	Offence Reports have been drawn against the encroachers and the matter is pending in the respective Courts.	0.44%

**AVIJIT MANI TRIPATHI**  
ADVOCATE ON RECORD  
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

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Dated: 06.11.2025

To,  
The Registrar,  
National Green Tribunal,  
Principal Bench, New Delhi

**Subject:** O.A. No.129 of 2024 titled as News Item titled "Forest land five times Delhi's geographical area under encroachment govt data shows" appearing in Deccan Herald dated 05.01.2024" – Compliance of Order dated 31.10.2025

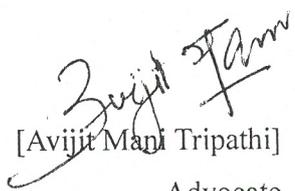
Sir,

It is to inform you that vide order dated 31.10.2025 passed in the subject case, the Hon'ble NGT has imposed cost of Rs.10,000/- (Ten thousand only) on the State of Meghalaya. (Copy of order enclosed as enclosure-I)

The undersigned is the designated Standing Counsel for the State of Meghalaya before the Hon'ble NGT and seeks permission to tender the afore-stated amount of cost imposed by the Hon'ble Tribunal on the State of Meghalaya by way of Demand Draft bearing No. 853291 dated 06.11.2025 drawn on UCO Bank, SUPREME COURT COMPOUND Branch, Delhi. (Original Demand Draft enclosed as Enclosure-II).

It is requested of you to kindly accept the demand draft in satisfaction of payment of cost imposed on State of Meghalaya by this Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 31.10.2025 passed in O.A. No.129 of 2024 and oblige.

Thanking you,

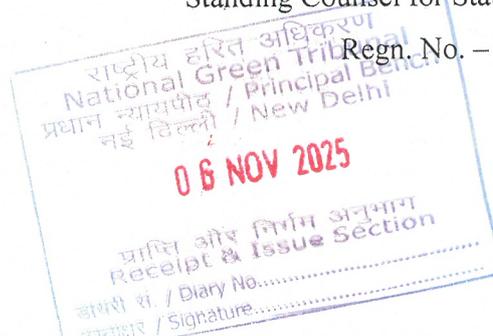
  
[Avijit Mani Tripathi]

Advocate

Standing Counsel for State of Meghalaya

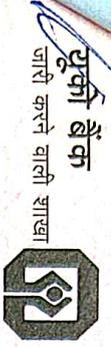
Regn. No. – UP/01066/2009

Encl: As above



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Phone: +91- 11- 43582788, +91-9958537705 email: avijitmani@gmail.com

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यूको बैंक  
जारी करने वाली शाखा

UCO Bank  
SISYANGPUR COMPOUND (STUC)

केवल तीन महीने के लिए  
Valid for THREE MONTHS ONLY

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

REGISTRAR NGT

माँजे जोनेपर ON DEMAND PAY

Ten Thousand only

को या उनके आदेश पर OR ORDER

रुपये RUPEES

\*\*\*\*\*10,000.00

UTILITY FORMS PVT. LTD. / CTS - 2010

Purchaser AVIJIT MANI TRIPATHI

अदा करें

₹ 10,000.00

मूल्य प्राप्त VALUE RECEIVED

कुते यूको बैंक  
For UCO Bank

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
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\*\*\*\*\* Not Over INR. 10,000.00 \*\*\*\*\*

1742639 SERVICE BRANCH, NEW DELHI 1742

अदाकर्ता शाखा/DRAWEE BRANCH

स. प्रबंधक / Asst. MANAGER

(कार्मिक सं. / EMP. NO. 56199)

Please sign above

प्रबंधक/MANAGER

(कार्मिक सं. / EMP. NO. 56199)

NWD/COD/001

853291 0000280001

1B