

**IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

**Original Application No. 555 OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**New Item Titled “India Lost 2.33 Million Hectares of Tree Cover Since 2000 Global Forest Watch” Appearing in the Indian Express Dated 13.04.2024**

**INDEX**

**Next date of hearing: 03.03.2025**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Page Nos</b>
1.	Compliance affidavit on behalf of State of Mizoram in compliance with order dated 18.11.2024 and 29.01.2025 of this Hon'ble Tribunal	1-3

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 28.02.2025



**(ANANDO MUKHERJEE)**

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**IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
PRINCIPAL BENCH  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 555 OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

NEWS ITEM TITLED "INDIA LOST 2.33 MILLION HECTARES OF TREE COVER SINCE 2000 GLOBAL FOREST WATCH" APPEARING IN THE INDIAN EXPRESS DATE 13.04.2024.

**COMPLIANCE AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF STATE OF MIZORAM  
IN COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER DATED 18.11.2024 AND  
29.01.2025 OF THIS HON'BLE TRIBUNAL**

I, VANLALRUATA PAUTU, S/o LALZARA (L), aged about 47, currently posted as the Under Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram, Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

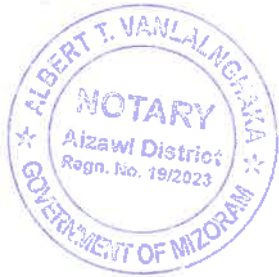
1. That at present, I am posted and working as Under Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram, Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department, and as such, in my official capacity, am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the present case.

2. That this Hon'ble Court vide its order dated 18.11.2024 and 29.01.2025 has directed all States and Union territories to file complete response regarding Forest Cover, Tree Cover etc. for the period from the year 2001 to 2021.



3. It is stated that the Deponent herein has the highest regard for the orders of this Hon'ble Tribunal, and the non-compliance with the order dated 18.11.2024 of this Hon'ble Tribunal was neither intentional nor deliberate, and the Deponent humbly apologizes for the non-compliance of the order dated 18.11.2024.

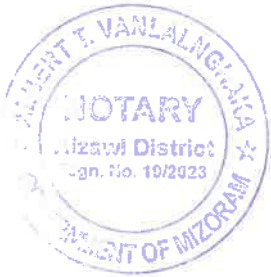
4. In compliance of the order dated 29.01.2025 and 18.11.2024, the Deponent craves leave to place on record the data on change in forest cover and tree cover on the basis of Forest Survey of India ("FSI")'s State of Forest Report (SFR) 2001, 2021 and 2023 along with the factors responsible for loss and action taken report by the State of Mizoram is as follows:-



Status of Forest					Factors Responsible for Loss	ATR for conservation and management of Forest
Geographic Physical Area (in Sq. Km)	Year	Tree Cover (in ha)	Forest Cover	Forest Cover % of Geographical area		
21081	2001	9500	1749400	82.98	Some forest areas have been diverted for infrastructure development projects however the same has been compensated with creation of Compensatory Afforestation on non-forest lands.	The EF&CC Department, State of Mizoram has been making all positive efforts to increase forest cover with enrichment of existing forests with implementation of various Afforestation schemes viz.:- 1. Green India Mission 2. National Afforestation Programme 3. Green Mizoram Programme 4. Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme. 5. CAMPA, etc.
	2021	44400	1782000	84.53		
	2023	56780	1799046	85.34		
	Change from 2021 - 2023	+12380	+17046	0.81		

3

5. As per the above data of the Forest Survey of India from 2001, 2021 and 2023, it is clearly evident that the forest and tree cover in the State of Mizoram has increased during the said period.
6. The Deponent craves liberty of this Hon'ble Tribunal to file any further affidavits in case the need so arises during the course of further arguments in the present matter.
7. I state that the statements of facts mentioned herein are all true and correct to my knowledge, based on official records and nothing material has been concealed therefrom and no part of it is false.



**DEPONENT**  
Under Secretary  
EF&CC Department  
Govt. of Mizoram

**VERIFICATION:-**

I, the Deponent above named do hereby solemnly affirm and verify that what is stated in the foregoing affidavit is true to my knowledge and belief based on the records of the case and I believe the same to be true.

VERIFIED AT AIZAWL, MIZORAM, ON THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025

**DEPONENT**  
Under Secretary  
EF&CC Department  
Govt. of Mizoram

Notarial Registration  
No. 1/2  
Date. 28/2/25

28/2/25  
**ALBERT T. VANLALNGHAKA**  
Advocate & Notary Public  
Aizawl : Mizoram