

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 314 OF 2025

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTO based on the News item titled "Satellite Data Shows Manipur Lost 52000 Acres of Forest in 4 Years: Study" appearing in the NDTV date 06.06.2025

Reply on behalf of Respondent No. 3
(Director General, Forest Survey of India)

I Nagaraja S.V. S/o Late Sh. Vasantha Shetty, aged about 45 years, presently working as Assistant Director in Forest Survey of India, Headquarters, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dehradun do hereby solemnly affirm on oath and state as follows:

1. That I, Nagaraja S.V. holding the post of Assistant Director, in Forest Survey of India Headquarters, Dehradun and I have made myself acquainted with the facts and circumstances of this case and I have been duly authorized and empowered to make and swear this Affidavit and submit the report for and on behalf of Respondent No. 3 (Director General, Forest Survey of India) and I am competent to do so.
2. I, the deponent named above do hereby verify and say that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and are based on official records and nothing material is concealed therein.
3. It is respectfully requested that in view of the foregoing submission this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept the report or pass further Orders as it may deem fit in the interest of justice and proper in the given circumstances of this case.

Date: 17.09.2025

Place: Dehradun

Deponent

Identified by:

Arvind
Mundhe
17/09/2025

MUNDHE ARVIND DATTU

Nagaraja S.V.
नागराज एस.वी. / Nagaraja S.V.
सहायक निदेशक / Assistant Director
भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण / Forest Survey of India
कौलागढ़ रोड, देहरादून / Kaulagarh Road, Dehradun

Comments of Forest Survey of India (FSI) based on the available records

1. Forest Survey of India (FSI) is assessing the forest cover of the country for every two years using remote sensing techniques and publishing the findings in its 'India State of Forest Report' (ISFR).

ISFR 2021 was based on the analysis of LISS III satellite data (spatial resolution of 23.5mts) which was acquired between October 2019 and January 2020. Similarly, ISFR 2023 was analysed based on the LISS III satellite data (spatial resolution of 23.5 mts) which was acquired between October 2021 and January 2022. The changes in forest cover recorded between ISFR 2021 and ISFR 2023 is as follows:

	(sq km)		
Forest Cover Category	ISFR 2021	ISFR 2023	Change
Very Dense Forest	904.55	904.05	-0.50
Moderately Dense Forest	6,260.51	6,217.55	-42.96
Open Forest	9,475.23	9,463.86	-11.37
Total Forest Cover	16,640.29	16,585.46	-54.83

**Source: ISFR-2023*

Thus, a net decrease of 54.83 sq. km in forest cover has been recorded in the state during the period between ISFR 2021 and ISFR 2023. Further, the analysis of satellite data for the period between November 2023 and January 2024 is currently under process and the status of forest cover shall be published in the upcoming India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2025.

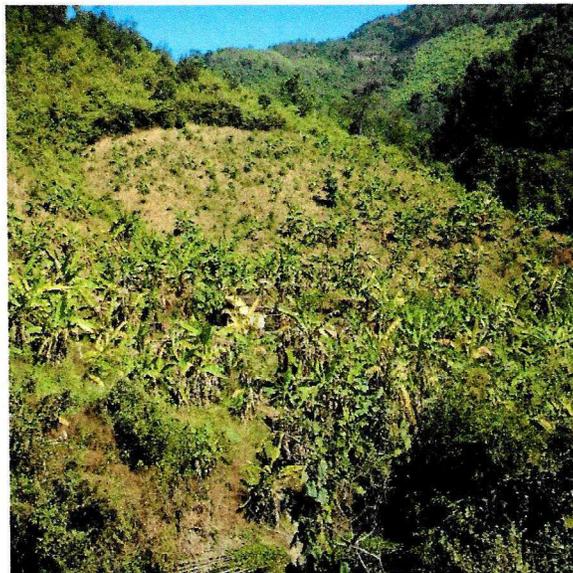
During 2021 and 2022 the analysts from FSI visited Manipur State for ground validation of forest cover change polygons which was analysed in the lab. During the

visit the observations at several locations confirmed negative changes in forest cover due to various factors such as widespread practice of shifting cultivation, clear felling of trees by local people for fuelwood and diversion of forest land for developmental activities. In addition, Opium Poppy (*Papaver somniferum*) cultivation was also observed in certain areas of the state.

2. FSI's record indicate that between January 1, 2024 and July 15, 2025 a total of 537 deforestation alerts (Map attached) have been sent to Manipur State, through a total of 19 emails with a request for feedback after ground verification but no such feedback has been received from Manipur.

Field photographs documenting such instances are given below for reference:

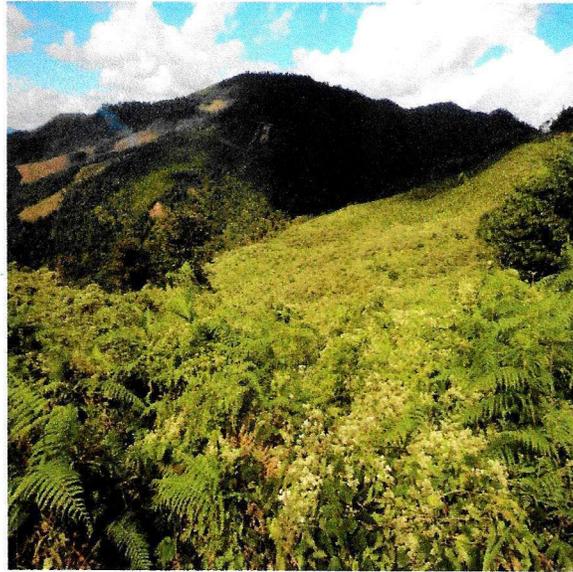
Loss of Forest Cover due to Shifting Cultivation (Banana Crop) at Tuivelzang, Manipur



Date: 12-12-2022

Lat/Long: 24°09'29.6"N 93°34'24.8"E

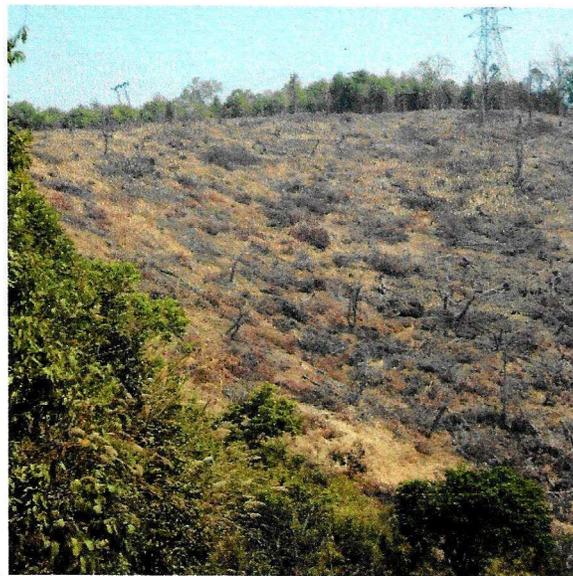
Loss of Forest Cover due to Shifting Cultivation at Ningchou, Manipur



Date: 08-12-2022

Lat/Lon: 24°44'30.5"N 94°29'40.4"E

Clearing of Forest at Tuilaphai, Manipur



Date: 06-03-2021

Lat/Long: 24°20'23.07"N 93°35'58.28"E

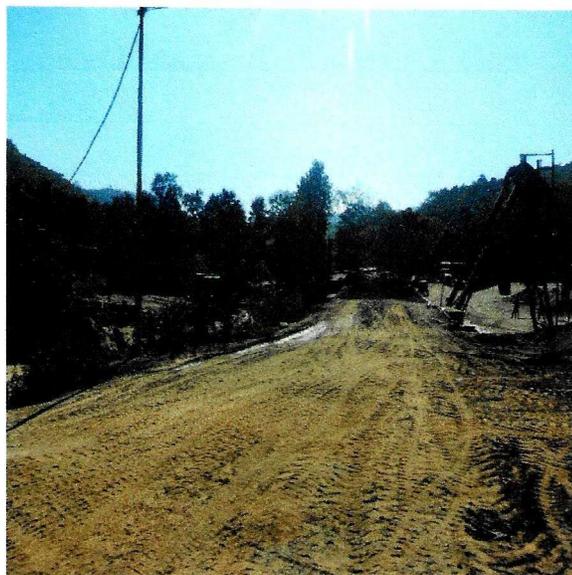
Burning of Forest 148 Tuilaphai, Manipur



Date: 06-03-2021

Lat/Lon: 24°20'54.64"N 93°36'45.17"E

Loss of Forest Cover for Developmental activities at Maukot, Manipur



Date: 12-12-2022

Lat/Long: 24°08'34.8"N 93°32'56.4"E

Loss of Forest Cover for Developmental activities at L. Hengjol, Manipur



Date: 16-12-2022

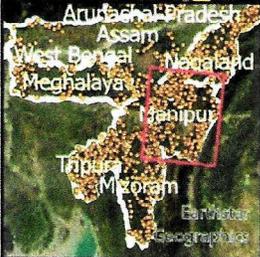
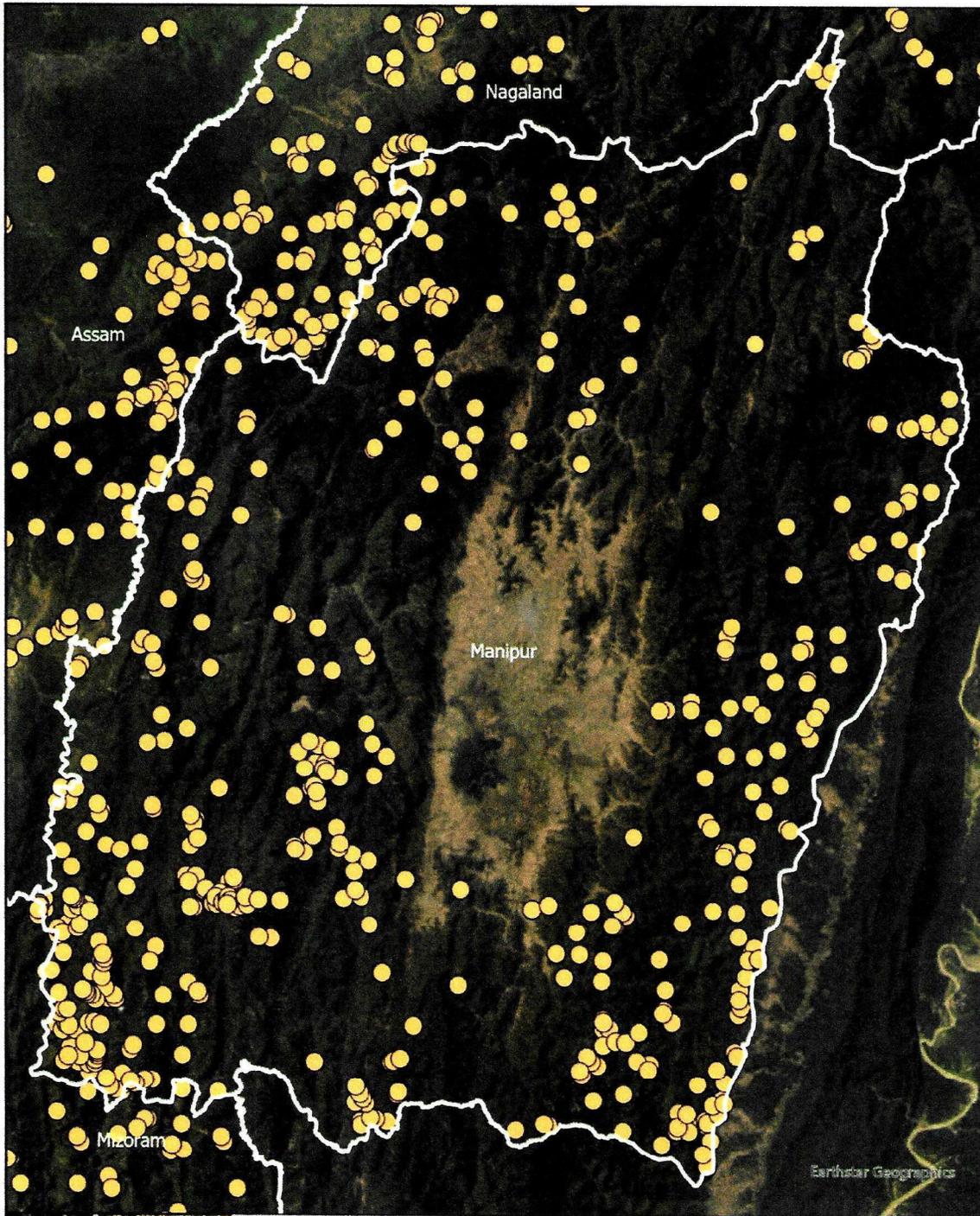
Lat/Lon: 24°48'37.6"N 93°45'22.5"E

Clearing of Forest for Opium Cultivation at Hengjang, Manipur



Date: 06-03-2021

Lat/Long: 24°24'24.88"N 93°39'57.55"E



Deforestation alerts

Deforestation locations discerned using the Anavaran Deforestation Alert System in the period 01 January 2024 to 15 July 2025 and communicated by the Forest Survey of India to various States and UTs.

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 India NSP LCC

