

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 314 OF 2025**

IN THE MATTER OF:

NEWS ITEM TITLED "SATELLITE DATA SHOWS MANIPUR LOST 52000 ACRES OF FOREST IN 4 YEARS: STUDY" APPEARING IN THE NDTV DATED 06.06.2025

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Date:29.01.2026
New Delhi



Filed By
Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar
Advocate for the State of Manipur/Respondent 4
324, Lawyers Chamber Block 'D'
Additional Building Complex
Supreme Court of India
Registration No. 1593
Email:ramesh.pukhrambam@gmail.com
Ph:9811851800

Service of Response in Original Application 314 of 2025 (News Item Titled &Quot; Satellite Data Shows Manipur Lost 52000 Acres Of Forest In 4 Years : Study &Quot; Appearing In The Ndtv Dated 06.06.2025 Vs Central Pollution Control Board)

Office of Ramesh Pukhrambam <courtclerkoframesh@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 7:03 PM

To: mscb.cpcb@nic.in, ro.nez.shil@gmail.com, dgfsi@fsi.nic.in

Cc: Ramesh Pukhrambam <ramesh.pukhrambam@gmail.com>

Sir(s)/Ma'am(s),

I am attaching herewith a copy of the Response being filed by me on behalf of the Respondent No. 4 in the above-captioned matter. This may be treated as service upon you.



Response -NGT OA 314 of 2025.pdf

6758K



BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 314 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

NEWS ITEM TITLED "SATELLITE DATA SHOWS MANIPUR LOST 52000 ACRES OF FOREST IN 4 YEARS: STUDY" APPEARING IN THE NDTV DATED 06.06.2025

RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 4 TO THE REPLY
FILED BY THE RESPONDENT NO. 3 (DG, FSI)

I, Shri Anurag Bajpai, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Government of Manipur, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. I am working in the aforesaid capacity and I am conversant with the facts of the present case.
2. That the present response on behalf of the respondent no. 4 is being filed in compliance with the direction issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal in Order dated 31.10.2025 passed in the above-mentioned matter.

PARAWISE RESPONSE

3. It is most respectfully submitted that the averments made in Para No. 1 of the Reply Affidavit of the Respondent No. 3 are true and are matter of record.
4. That with regards to the averments made in Para No. 2, it is most respectfully submitted that an email was received from the Forest Survey


L. Nivedita
Advocate


H. Iboyaima Singh
Oath Commissioner (Judicial) Manipur
Regd. No. 587 of 2025



of India with respect to FSI-"Anavaran"- Deforestation Alert System introduced by Forest Survey of India for ground verification feedback of the deforestation alerts.

5. It is humbly submitted that upon verification of the 2,776 deforestation alerts which were received during the said period, 2,646 alerts were found to be repeated. It is further submitted that one of such alerts was marked outside the State and falls under the State of Mizoram.
6. It is most respectfully submitted that the actual number of alerts falling within the State of Manipur is 511 in total, all of which have been verified on the ground by concerned Divisional Forest Officers. A ground verification report of the same has been communicated to the Forest Survey of India on 26.12.2025. The summary of verified deforestation alerts for the period 18.09.2024 to 04.11.2025 is reproduced hereinbelow:

Sl no	Particulars	Total number
1	Jhum Cultivation	335
2	No deforestation	109
3	Inaccessible areas due to law and order conditions	21
4	Road/Railway expansion at Forest Clearance site	10
5	Remnants of Forest Fire	8
6	Extraction of firewood (coppicing) for local bonafide consumption	8
7	Regeneration after forest fire	4


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8	Settlement	3
9	Bamboo brakes and bamboo harvested area	3
10	Non-forest land/ non working plan area	5
11	Site preparation for plantation	2
12	Landslide	2
13	Dumping site for road expansion, FC cleared (NH 202 Jessami-Meluri)	1
Total		511

A true and correct copy of the Letter to FSI communicating the verification report is marked and annexed herewith as ANNEXURE A-1 (Page No.5-11)

7. It is most respectfully submitted that the ground verification report of the aforesaid 2,776 deforestation alerts took longer time due to the prevailing law and order situation in the State of Manipur since May 2023, contributing to delay in carrying out the ground verification, especially in hilly areas.
8. It is, therefore, humbly prayed that this instant response may kindly be taken on record.
9. It is submitted that the answering Deponent further craves the leave of this Hon'ble Court to file Additional/Supplementary Affidavit as and when required or as directed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.


L. Nivedita
Advocate


H. Iboyaima Singh
Oath Commissioner (Judicial) Manipur
Regd. No. 587 of 2025


28/11/2026
DEPONENT
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
& Head of Forest Force
Government of Manipur



VERIFICATION

I, the above-named Deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of paras 1 to 9 of my affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and based on record. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at Imphal on this ²⁴28 day of January, 2026.

[Handwritten Signature]
28/1/2026

DEPONENT

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
& Head of Forest Force
Government of Manipur

[Handwritten Initials]

L. Nivachita

Advocate

Solemnly affirmed before me on 28/01/2026
WEDNESDAY at 11:AM
 in the Court premises of the declarant who is
 identified by Nandil SA
 The declarant seems to know the contents
 fully well on their being read and explained
 to him/her.

[Handwritten Signature]
28/01/2026
H. Iboyaima Singh
Oath Commissioner (Judicial) Manipur
Regd. No. 587 of 2025

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 Dattu
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.

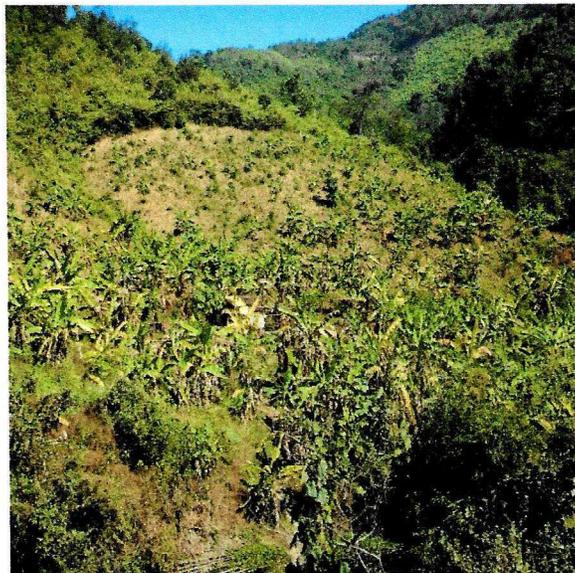
During 2021 and 2022 the analysts from FSI visited Manipur State for ground validation of forest cover change polygons which was analysed in the lab. During the

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:

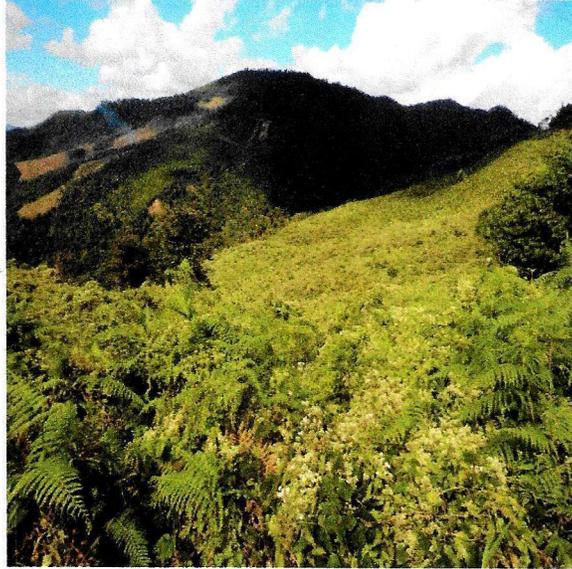
Loss of Forest Cover due to Shifting Cultivation (Banana Crop) at Tuivelzang, Manipur



Date: 12-12-2022

Lat/Long: 24°09'29.6"N 93°34'24.8"E

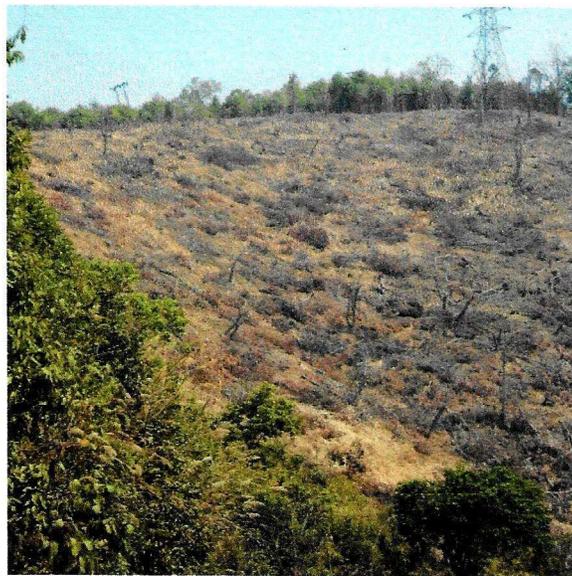
Loss of Forest Cover due to Shifting Cultivation at Ningchou, Manipur



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

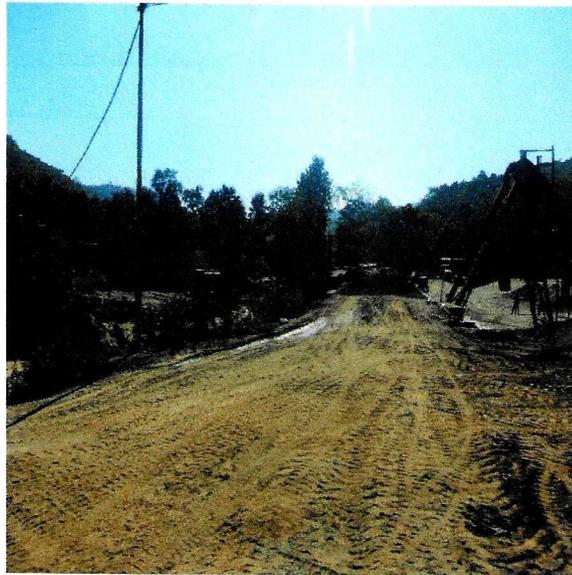
Burning of Forest at Tuilaphai, Manipur



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

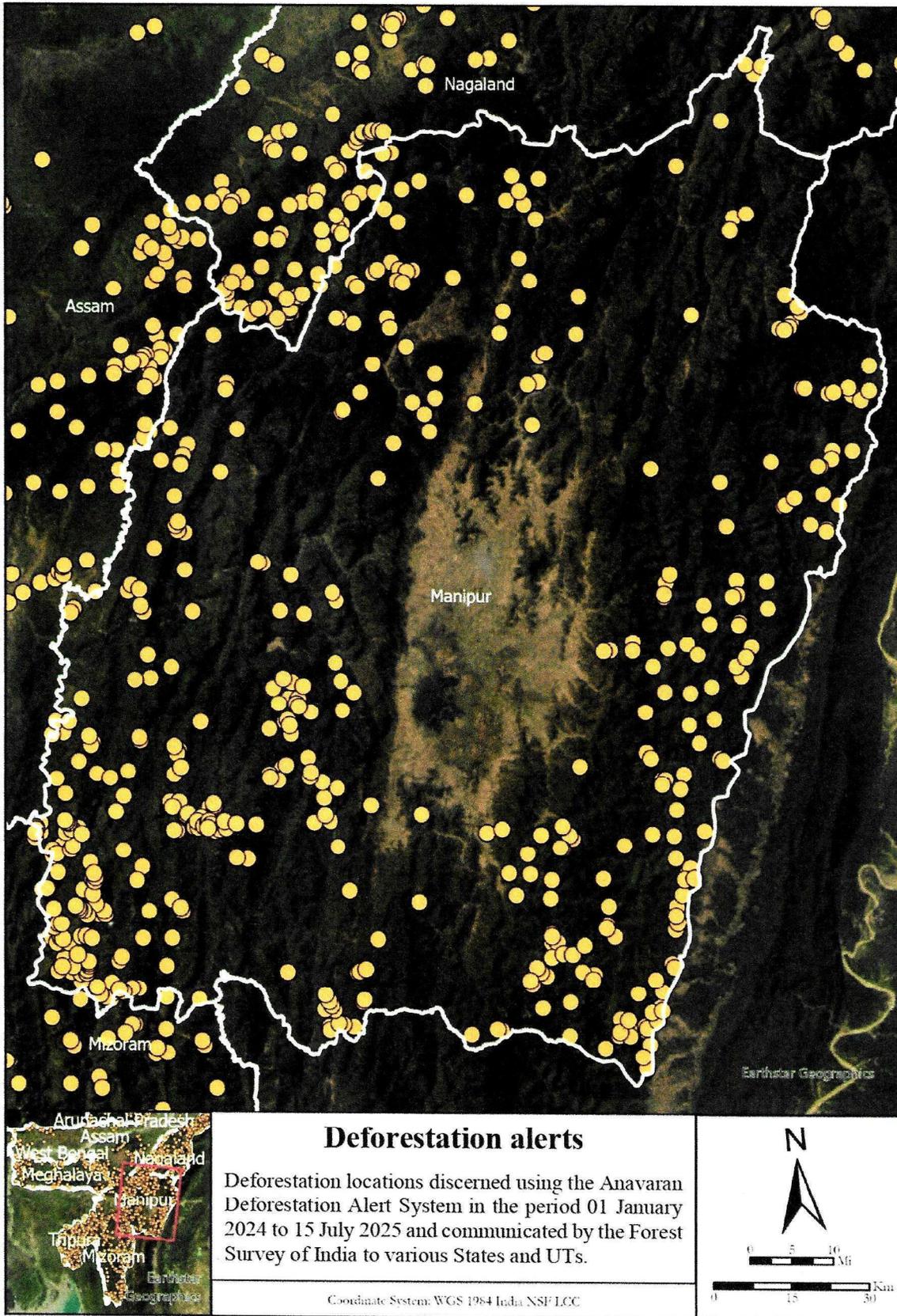
Lat/Lon: 24°48'37.6"N 93°45'22.5"E

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



Handwritten signature