

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
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 on 29.07.2025

Filed by,



SHUVODEEP ROY

ADVOCATE

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New Delhi – 110001

Code: 1672

Email :- shuvodeep_roy@rediffmail.com

Mobile No. 9818182688

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 129 OF 2024**

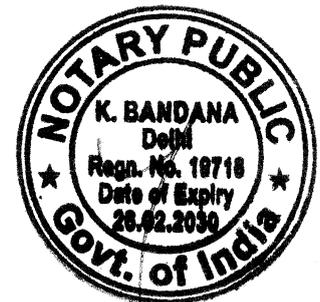
IN THE MATTER OF:

News item titled **“Forest land five times Delhi’s geographical area under encroachment govt. data shows”** appearing in Deccan Herald dated
05.01.2024

**SUPPLEMENTARY AFFIDAVIT
BY THE RESPONDENT NO. 33 - STATE OF TRIPURA**

I, Sh. Ranjit Das, TCS, aged 60 years, S/o Gopal Ch. Das, Joint Resident Commissioner to the Government of Tripura, Tripura Bhawan, Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, do hereby solemnly state and affirm as under: -

1. That the deponent is the Joint Resident Commissioner of the Govt. of Tripura and posted at the Tripura Bhawan, New Delhi and in course of discharge of his official duties, deponent has become conversant with the facts of the instant case and being duly authorized on this behalf by Petitioner-State, the deponent is fully competent to swear the present affidavit.



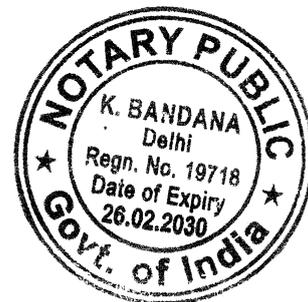
2. That, the answering respondent - State of Tripura had earlier filed an Affidavit dt. 29.07.2024 in Compliance of Order dt. 19.04.2024 containing the Status Report on encroachment of forest land in the State of Tripura. The present Supplementary Affidavit is filed in continuation to the earlier Affidavit dt. 29.07.2024.
3. That, vide Order dt. 28.03.2025, this Hon'ble Tribunal had reproduced the State – Wise tabulated status of encroachment of forest land as filed by the Respondent No. 1 herein i.e., MoEF&CC. As per the said tabulated information, in so far as the answering – Respondent State of Tripura is considered, the extent of encroachment and percentage loss of forest in the State of Tripura is shown as 15.432%. However, the said percentage worked out is inaccurate and were inadvertently placed before this Hon'ble Tribunal by merely adding the individual District – wise percentages and arriving at a cumulative percentage for the entire State. However, the percentage of loss of forest in the entire State has to be worked out as a proportion of total area under encroachment in the State as against the total forest cover in the State. So done, the percentage of loss of forest works out to 0.56% (as against the Total Forest Cover) and 0.67% (as against the Notified Forest Area). The same would be clear from a reference to the **Annexure III** accompanying the present Affidavit.



4. That, in this respect, the answering Respondent – State of Tripura further submits as under:

4.1. That, vide Order dt. 19.04.2024, this Hon'ble Tribunal directed the Respondent States to file a status report showing details of encroachment of forest land, and to supply a copy of the same to the Respondent No. 1 herein.

4.2. That, in compliance of the aforesaid Order dt. 19.04.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, the status report showing details of encroachment for forest land in the State of Tripura was submitted on 15.06.2024 in the prescribed format to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and thereafter, some anomalies were identified in the said data due to typographical errors. Consequently, the said anomalies were corrected and the information was re-submitted to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) vide Communication No. F-6-400/Land/For-2013/Part-IV/247-51 dt. 26.07.2024. However, the same was not incorporated in the State-wise chart showing details of encroachment filed by the Respondent No. 1 herein on 27.03.2025

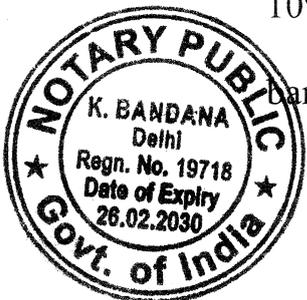


True copy of Communication issued by the Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Tripura vide No. F.19(2024)/Legal/HQ/For-2024/168-73 dt. 15.06.2024 to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE I** [Page 7 to 8]

True copy of Communication issued by the Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Tripura vide No. F-6-400/Land/For-2013/Part-IV/247-51 dt. 26.07.2024 to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE II** [Page 9 to 10]

As stated above, the percentage loss of forest in the entire state has been erroneously arrived at by merely adding the district-wise percentage loss of the forest.

5. That, it is humbly submitted that the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), Volume I, defines forest cover as: 'Forest cover' refers to all lands, more than or equal to one hectare in area, with a tree canopy of more than or equal to 10%, irrespective of ownership and legal status; and includes orchards, bamboo, and palm. As per the said definition in ISFR, the total forest cover in



the State of Tripura is 758477 Hectares whereas Notified Forest Area in the State of Tripura is 629428.7 Hectares.

6. That, in view of the aforesaid, it is humbly submitted that, the correct figures and status of the encroachment of forest land *qua* the answering Respondent – State of Tripura could not be brought on record earlier and has now been rectified by the answering Respondent – State of Tripura which is humbly placed before this Hon'ble Tribunal.

True copy of Status Report on District-wise encroachment of forest land in Respondent-State of Tripura as on March, 2024, is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE - III [Page I to II]**.

As per this Status Report, percentage loss of forest in the Respondent - State of Tripura against the Notified Forest Area is 0.67% and percentage loss of forest against the forest cover in the Respondent – State of Tripura is 0.56%. It is humbly prayed that the same may be brought on record, in the interest of justice.

4. The answering Respondent – State of Tripura craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to file further detailed affidavit, if required, in the facts and circumstances of the present case.



Ranjit Das

DEPONENT

RANJIT DAS, TCS
Joint Resident Commissioner
Government of Tripura
Tripura Bhawan, New Delhi

VERIFICATION:

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of the aforesaid affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. No part thereof is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at New Delhi on this the _____ of July, 2025.

Sudip Roy

IDENTIFIED

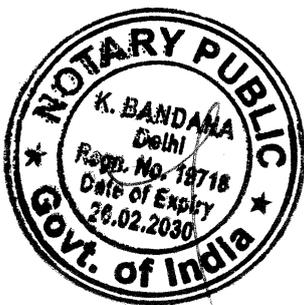
28 JUL 2025

Ranjit Das

DEPONENT

RANJIT DAS, TCS
Joint Resident Commissioner
Government of Tripura
Tripura Bhawan, New Delhi

28/7/2025



ATTESTED
NOTARY PUBLIC DELHI
Govt. of India

618

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Annexure I

COURT MATTER
MOST URGENT

SPEED POST

No.F.19(2024)/Legal/HQ/For-2024/ 168 - 73
Government of Tripura
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Tripura :: Agartala

Date : 15-06-24

To
The Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF & CC)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

Subject : NGT Order dated 19/04/2024 in Original Application (OA) NO. 129/2024
(I.A. No. 180/2024) – regarding.

Sir,

With reference to the above I am directed to annex herewith a status report showing details of encroachment of forest land in the State of Tripura in compliance of the order dated 19/04/2024 of the hon'ble NGT.

This is for favour of your kind information and doing the needful.

Yours faithfully,

Enclo : as stated.


(R. K. Samal, IFS)
PCCF, APR

Copy to:-

1. The PPS to the PCCF & HoFF, Tripura for kind information of the PCCF & HoFF, Tripura.
2. The PS to the PCCF (APR) for kind information of the PCCF (APR)
3. The PS to the CCF, Territorial for kind information of the CCF, Territorial.
4. Sri Shuvodeep Roy, Ld. Standing Counsel of Tripura, 50-Todarmal Road (1st Floor), Bengali Market, New Delhi-110001 for kind information and doing the needful. A status report is also enclosed.
5. The DCF, FCA for information.


PCCF, APR

014

Details of Encroachment of Forest Land as per the order of the Hon'ble NGT Principal Bench

Annexure-I

Sl. No.	District	Total Forest Cover (in ha)	Details of Encroachment					Total Encroachment up to March, 2024 (ha)	Action taken for removal of Encroachment	Percentage loss of Forest as on March, 2024
			Protected Forest (ha)	Reserve Forest (ha)	Deemed Forest	Sanctuaries & protected areas	Any other types of Forest (UGF) (ha)			
1	North Tripura	89790.000	78.880	140.530	0.000	0.000	131.230	350.647	Forest land Measuring area of 175.44 ha, under Jhum cultivation has been recovered from encroachment and action being taken in Dharmanagar subdivision. Forest land measuring area of 25.68 ha has been recovered from encroachment an daction is being taken for recovering the remaining area in Kanchanpur subdivision.	Nil
2	South Tripura	108417.100	0.000	330.190	0.000	195.690	0.000	525.880	19 nos (2 no House construction 4.87 ha and 17 nos Rubber plantation) ejected, Show cause notice issued to 412 nos of encroachers and Hearing conducted for 318 nos of encroachers.	0.480%
3	Unakoti	37673.900	0.000	54.500	0.000	0.000	12.970	67.470	Case filed after hearing at CJM Kailasahar vide case No.CR(Forest) 01 of 2022 which was won by the forest department, and vide case No.CR(Forest) 03 of 2022 is under trial. For Others, Show cause Notice has been issued.	0.168%
4	Khowai	53382.483	82.150	7046.702	0.000	0.000	7760.740	597.310	Show Cause notice issued to 210 encroachments and hearing done for 78 encroachment.	1.276%
5	Gomati	108164.000	132.641	248.056	0.000	0.000	453.763	834.460	Showcause notice issued and hearing is in progress.	0.700%
6	Dhalai	225667.000	55.900	102282.300	0.000	38954.000	72538.600	231.400	Hearing notice was conducted to 58 nos in Ambassa, 39 nos in Manu and showcause notice was issued for 37 nos cases in Manu. On enquiry all have shown patta allotment documents vested under RoFR Act 2006. But demarcation of patta land not completed by the Revenue Department and will be finalized once demarcation of patta land completed by Revenue Department.	5.148%
7	Sepahijala	29543.985	36.610	983.946	425.275	0.000	3.600	1538.646	Action taken for 89 encroachers upto March in Sonamura . Initial Notification of Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary was declared in the year 1987. Final notification is under process. Settlement of Rights of people under progress before the LA Collector. Regular patrolling activity is carried out at encroachment prone areas in Sepahijala Wild life Sanctuary	7.840%
8	West Tripura	21699.200	0.000	96.561	0.000	0.000	0.000	96.561	Notice has issued.	0.450%
	Total	674337.668	386.181	111182.785	425.275	39149.690	80900.903	4242.374		


 Deputy Conservator of Forest
 Forest Department
 Government of Tripura.

No.F-6-400/Land/For-2013/Part-IV/ 247-51

Government of Tripura

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HoFF

Aranya Bhawan, Pt. Nehru Complex, Kunjaban

Tripura : Agartala

Dated 26 July, 2024

To

The secretary

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF & CC)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi-110003

Subject: NGT Order dated 19/04/2024 in Original Application (OA) NO.129/2024(I.A No.180/2024)-regarding.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above I am directed to annex herewith a status report showing details of encroachment of forest land in the State of Tripura in compliance of the order dated 19/04/2024 of the Hon'ble NGT.

This is in cancellation of the earlier vide letter sent vide No.F.19(2024)/Legal/HQ/For-2024/168-73 dated 15/06/2024.

This is for favour of your kind information and doing the needful.

Yours faithfully,



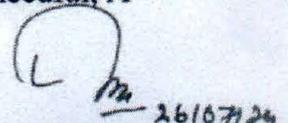
(Animesh Das, IFS)

Deputy Conservator of Forest,
Protection

Encl: As stated

Copy to:

1. PPS to the PCCF & HoFF, Tripura for kind information of the PCCF & HoFF, Tripura
2. The Ps to the PCCF(APR) for kind information of the PCCF(APR).
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Deputy Conservator of Forest,
Protection

Details of Encroachment of Forest Land as per the order of the Hon'ble NGT Principal Bench									Annexure-I	
Sl No.	Name of the Forest District	Total Forest Cover (in ha)	Details of Encroachment					Total Encroachment up to March, 2024 (ha)	Action taken for removal of Encroachment	Percentage loss of Forest as on March, 2024
			Protected Forest(ha)	Reserve Forest(ha)	Deemed Forest	Sanctuaries & protected areas	Any other types of Forest(UG F) (ha)			
1	North Tripura	89790.000	78.880	140.530	0.000	0.000	131.230	350.647	Forest land Measuring area of 175.44 ha, under Jhum cultivation has been recovered from encroachment and action being taken in Dharmanagar subdivision. Forest land measuring area of 25.68 ha has been recovered from encroachment and action is being taken for recovering the remaining area in Kanchanpur subdivision.	0.170%
2	South Tripura	108417.100	0.000	330.190	0.000	195.690	0.000	525.880	19 nos (2 no House construction 4.87 ha and 17 nos Rubber plantation) evicted, Show cause notice issued to 412 nos of encroachers and Hearing conducted for 318 nos of encroachers.	0.480%
3	Unakoti	37673.900	0.000	54.500	0.000	0.000	12.970	67.470	Case filed after hearing at CJM Kailasahar vide case No.CR(Forest) 01 of 2022 which was won by the forest department, and vide case No.CR(Forest) 03 of 2022 is under trial. For Others, Show cause Notice has been issued.	0.168%
4	Khowai	53382.483	82.150	99.580	0.000	0.000	415.580	597.310	Show Cause notice issued to 210 encroachments and hearing done for 78 encroachment.	1.276%
5	Gomati	108164.000	132.641	248.056	0.000	0.000	453.763	834.460	Show cause notice issued and hearing is in progress.	0.700%
6	Dhalai	225667.000	27.730	111.697	0.000	0.000	92.003	231.400	Hearing notice was conducted to 58 nos in Ambassa, 82 nos in Manu and show cause notice was issued for 82 nos cases in Manu. On enquiry all have shown patta allotment documents vested under RoFR Act 2006. But demarcation of patta land not completed by the Revenue Department and will be finalized once demarcation of patta land completed by Revenue Department.	5.048%
7	Sepahijala	29543.985	36.610	983.946	425.275	0.000	3.600	1449.431	Action taken for 89 encroachers upto March in Senamura . Initial Notification of Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary was declared in the year 1987. Final notification is under process. Settlement of Rights of people under progress before the LA Collector. Regular patrolling activity is carried out at encroachment prone areas in Sepahijala Wild life Sanctuary	7.840%
8	West	21699.200	0.000	96.561	0.000	0.000	0.000	96.561	Notice has issued.	0.450%
	Total	674337.668	358.011	2065.060	425.275	195.690	1109.146	4153.159		


 Deputy Conservator of Forests, Protection

Sl. No.	Name of the Forest District	Total Forest Cover (in ha) (ISFR 2023, FSI)	Notified Forest Area (ha) (newly added)	Details of Encroachment					Total Encroachment upto March, 2024 (ha)	Action taken for removal of Encroachment	Percentage loss of forest as on March, 2024
				Protected forest area (ha)	Reserved forest area (ha)	Deemed Forest	Sanctuaries and protected areas	Any other types of forest (UGF) (ha)			
1	North Tripura	104432	84656.7	78.880	140.530	0	0	131.23	350.647	Forest land measuring area of 175.44 ha. under Jhum cultivation has been recovered from encroachment and action is being taken for recovering the remaining area in Dharmanagar Sub Division. Forest land measuring area of 25.68 ha has been recovered from encroachment and action is being taken for recovering the remaining area in Kanchanpur Sub Division.	0.41
2	South Tripura	107377	94061.8	0	330.19	0	195.690	0	525.880	19 nos. (2 no. House construction 4.87 ha and 17 nos. Rubber plantation) evicted. Show cause notice issued to 412 nos. of encroachers and Hearing conducted for 318 nos. of encroachers.	0.55
3	Unakoti	43122	37673.9	0	54.500	0	0	12.970	67.470	Show cause notice issued in Kailashahar Sub Division. Case filed after hearing at CJM Kailashahar vide case No. CR(Forest) 01 of 2022 which was won by the forest department, and case filed after hearing at CJM Kailashahar vide case No. CR(Forest) 03 of 2022 and the cases under trial in Kumarghat Sub Division	0.18
4	Khowai	73969	58722.4	82.150	99.580	0	0	415.580	597.310	Show cause Notice issued to 210 encroachments and hearing done for 78 encroachers.	1.01
5	Gomati	123684	112513.3	132.641	248.056	0	0	453.763	834.460	Show cause Notice issued and hearing is in progress.	0.74
6	Dhalai	182015	185936.8	27.730	111.697	0	0	92.003	231.400	Hearing Notice was conducted to 58 nos. in Ambassa. Hearing notice was conducted for 82 nos. and show cause notice was issued for 82 nos. cases in Manu. On enquiry all have shown patta allotment documents vested under RoFR Act, 2006. But demarcation of patta land not completed by the Revenue Department and will be finalised once demarcation of patta land completed by the Revenue Department in Gumti.	0.12
7	Sepahijala	65525	34405.6	36.610	983.946	425.275	89.215	3.600	1538.646	Action taken for 89 nos. encroachers upto March, 2024 in Sonamura. Initial Notification of Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary was declared in the year 1987. Final notification is under process. Settlement of Rights of people under progress before the LA Collector. Regular patrolling activity is carried out at encroachment prone areas in Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary.	4.47
8	West	58353	21458.2	0	96.561	0	0	0	96.561	Notice has issued.	0.44
Total:		758477	629428.7	358.011	2065.06	425.275	284.905	1109.146	4242.374		0.67%

1. Total encroachment against the notified forest area of this State is 0.67%.

2. The encroachment against the forest cover of this State is 0.56% and the forest cover means, all lands more than or equal to 1 ha. in area, with tree canopy of more than or equal to 10%, irrespective of ownership and legal status: and includes orchards, bamboo and Palm, as per India State of Forest Report 2023 (Volume 1).

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Protection