

## Protest against proposed destruction of Doboka Sal forest



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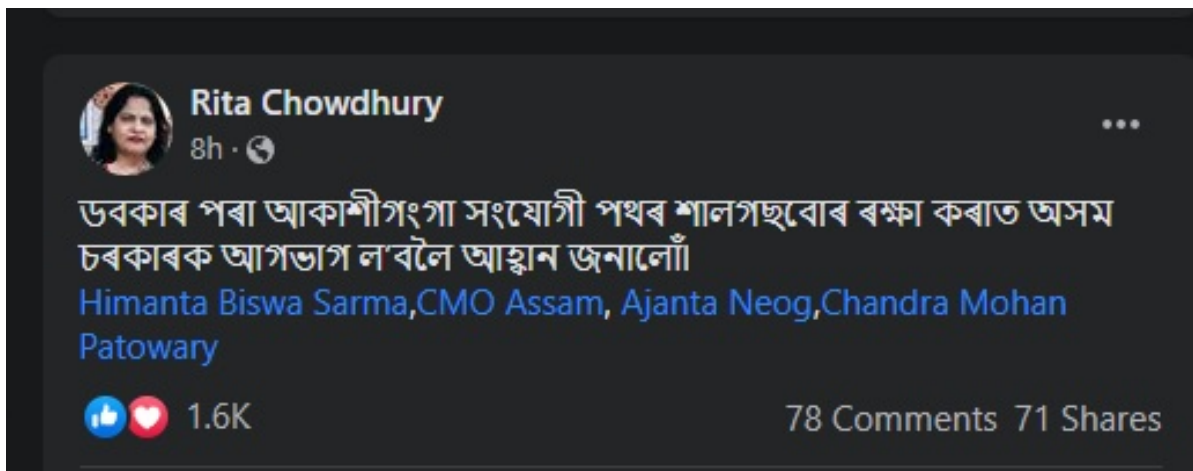
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Leading poet, novelist and Sahitya Akademi winner Rita Chaudhary urged the state government not to destroy the sal trees (*Shorea robusta*) on the road connecting Dabaka to Akashiganga. The eminent writer and wife of Industry Minister Chandramohan Patwari has tagged her post - industry minister Chandramohan Patwari, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sharma and Finance Minister Ajanta Neog and urged them to plant more trees.

Already protesters in Dabaka are demanding protection of Sal trees. The photo and videos of the protest went viral on social media.

Locals fear that the evergreen environment of the Dobaka reserve forest will be lost.

Preparations have already begun to widen the 12-km area of the national highway through the forest. The road will be constructed from Dabka to Akashiganga. The forest department has also given permission for construction of roads through the Dabaka forest. About 4,000 precious sal trees will be cut for construction of the roads. Threats will also come down to forest animals.




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BY WAHIDUR RAHMAN

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