

Stop encroachment atop Deopahar



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[Chief](#) Minister [Tarun Gogoi](#) said that the government won't allow the Numaligarh Refinery authority to grab more in forest areas in Golaghat district. Rampant encroachment in [Deopahar](#) reserve forest by the Numaligarh Refinery prominently figured in the meeting attended by the [chief](#) minister who is chairman of the board. Mubina Akhtar, a member of the Board underlined the importance of this forest in the context of [Kaziranga](#) and Karbi Anglong landscape.

[Deopahar](#) is an important elephant habitat and a crucial transit for migrating pachyderms from Karbi Anglong to [Kaziranga](#) and vice-versa. Akhtar on behalf of the [Deopahar](#) Reserve Forest Demand Committee ([Deopahar](#) Sangrakshit Bonanchal Dabi Samity) submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister to declare [Deopahar as](#) a Reserve Forest at the earliest and urged him to intervene in banning all illegal activities in the protected area.

[Deopahar](#), with an area of 134 hectares near Numaligarh, in Golaghat district was notified [as](#) a proposed reserve forest in 1999. Known for its archeological heritage, [Deopahar](#) also hosts unique biological diversity. [Chandan](#) Kumar Duwora of the Wildflowers [group](#) of who is also a signatory of the memorandum, said that [Deopahar](#) is treasure trove of rare flora and fauna. There are many plant species in the forest of [Deopahar](#) which are on the verge of extinction.

[NRL](#) authorities must immediately leave the encroached area and take steps to recreate forests in the elephant corridor where the Refinery erected a [wall](#) obstructing the [normal](#) passage of the elephant herds, he said.

In the SBWL meeting, Mubina Akhtar also urged the forest department to reinstate the intelligence cell in the [Kaziranga National](#) Park immediately. The Cell was created for integrating data in order to control rhino poaching activities. Interestingly, things were beginning to take shape when the cell was called back for reasons unknown.

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Assam Times Staff. editor@assamtimes.org

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