

GAHC010077602025



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THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT
(HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Case No. : WP(C)/2087/2025

NURUL HOQUE LASKAR
S/O- ABDUL SUBBUR LASKAR, VILL- GANGANAGAR PART III, P.O-
GONGANAGAR, P.S- KOCHUDHARAM, DIST- CACHAR, ASSAM, PIN-788099

VERSUS

THE STATE OF ASSAM AND 7 ORS.
REPRESENTED BY THE COMMISSIONER AND SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM, ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT,
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-06

2:THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
WILDLIFE AND CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN
ASSAM
ARANYA BHAWAN
PANJABARI
GUWAHATI-781037

3:THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
SOUTHERN ASSAM CIRCLE
SILCHAR
DIST- CACHAR
ASSAM
PIN-788001

4:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
DOOMDOOMA FOREST DIVISION
DOOMDOOMA
DIST- TINSUKIA
ASSAM
PIN-786151

5:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
CACHAR FOREST DIVISION
SILCHAR
P.O.- SILCHAR
DIST- CACHAR
ASSAM
PIN-788001

6:THE RANGE FOREST OFFICER
MONIERKHAL RANGE
SONAI
CACHAR
ASSAM
PIN-788099

7:GUPENDRA MORAN
S/O LATE NANDESWAR MORAN
R/O SONJAN TONGANA
BORDUMSA
DIST- TINSUKIA
ASSAM
PIN-786152

8:FAKRUL ISLAM BARBHUIYA
S/O LATE IRFAN ALI BARBHUIYA
VILL- KANAKPUR PART-I
P.O.- KANAKPUR
P.S.- SILCHAR
DIST- CACHAR
ASSAM
PIN-78800

Advocate for the Petitioner : MR. S B LASKAR, S.U. CHOUDHURY,A. H. AHMED,MS D
DUTTA,MR. H A LASKAR,MR. A S TAPADER

Advocate for the Respondent : SC, FOREST,

**BEFORE
HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SOUMITRA SAIKIA**

ORDER

29.01.2026

Heard Mr. S. B. Laskar, learned counsel for the petitioner, also Heard Mr. D. Gogoi, learned Standing Counsel for the Forest Department appearing for respondent Nos. 1 to 6.

The petitioner seeking claims for release of the elephant named "Gangamala" by the order of this Court to the respondent Forest Department, which was stated to be in the custody of the Divisional Forest Office, Doomdooma.

The elephant suffered a fracture and was accordingly taken by the petitioner for treatment by Respondent No. 7, who is stated to be a person especially with having special knowledge about treatment of elephants through naturopathy.

During the period when the elephant in the custody of the respondent No. 7, the claim was raised by another person from the State of Arunachal Pradesh that this elephant belongs to that person and it was lost in the year 1997. And, in view of this dispute, the elephant has been kept in custody by the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Authorities.

The Divisional Forest Office, Doomdooma has already filed affidavit, making the said averments, however the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department has not arrayed as "Respondent".

Under such circumstances, we direct the Divisional Forest Office, Doomdooma to furnish a complete status report with regard to the elephant –

“Gangamala”, which was stated to be in the custody, and subsequently thereafter in the custody of Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department.

The petitioner is also at liberty to array the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Department of Forest, if so, advised in the mean time.

Let this status report be filed within three weeks from today.

Matter be listed again on 27.02.2026.

JUDGE

Comparing Assistant