

GAHC010142362021



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

**Case No. : PIL/57/2021**

CHIRIYAKHANA PATHA JYESTHO NAGARIK SANSHTA  
REPRESENTED BY ITS PRESIDENT HAVING ITS OFFICE AT HOUSE NO. 3,  
PALASHPATH, SENDURIALI, P.O. ZOO ROAD, GUWAHATI 24, ASSAM.

VERSUS

THE STATE OF ASSAM AND 5 ORS. B  
THROUGH ITS SECY., URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPTT., GOVT. OF ASSAM  
JANATA BHAVAN, 1ST FLOOR, D BLOCK DISPUR, GUWAHATI 06, ASSAM.

2:THE SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF ASSAM

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPTT.  
ASSAM SECRETARIAT  
DISPUR  
GUWAHATI 781006

3:GUWAHATI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
THROUGH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
NEAR GUWAHATI MEDICAL COLLEGE  
GUWAHATI 781001

4:THE COMMISSIONER

GUWAHATI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANBAZAR  
GUWAHATI 781001

5:THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

GUWAHATI METROPOLITAN DRINKING WATER AND SEWERAGE BOARD  
1ST FLOOR  
TRIPTI TOWERS GANESHGURI

GUWAHATI 781005

6:THE CHAIRMAN

CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD (CGWB) MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPTT. OF WATER RESOURCES  
RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION  
GOVT. OF INDIA  
BHUJAL BHAWAN  
NH-IV  
FARIDABAD 12100

**Advocate for the Petitioner** : MR. A PHUKAN

**Advocate for the Respondent** : GA, ASSAM

**BEFORE**  
**HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SUMAN SHYAM**  
**HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE SUSMITA PHUKAN KHAUND**

**ORDER**

**Date** : 17-01-2023

**Suman Shyam, J**

Heard Mr. A. Phukan, learned counsel for the petitioners. Also heard Mr. S. Bora, learned standing counsel, GMC, GMDA and Jal Board appearing on behalf of respondent Nos. 3, 4 and 5. Mr. K. Gogoi, learned CGC is present on behalf of respondent No. 6. Mr. K.P. Pathak, learned standing counsel PHE has appeared on behalf of respondent No. 2.

By filing this Public Interest Litigation (PIL) the petitioners have flagged a burning issue facing the residents of the city of Guwahati, that is shortage of potable drinking water. It appears that despite a number of projects being floated by the Government, the citizens are yet to get proper supply of drinking water.

Mr. Phukan submits that not to speak of furnishing clean water to the citizens,

there is even no information available in the public domain as regards the measures initiated by the administration for supplying water to the South-West and South-East areas of the city coming within the GMDA area as well as the progress made in the phases of the project implemented so far for other parts of the city. According to Mr. Phukan there is also no clarity as regards the availability of funds as well as the timeline for completion of these projects.

Refuting such arguments, Mr. Bora submits that the work for making potable drinking water available to the Guwahati city dwellers is progressing on a war footing and the department reasonably expects to make potable drinking water available to every house-hold by the end of March, 2024. Mr. Bora prays for 02 weeks time to file a detail affidavit incorporating all such facts including those information which have been called for in the order dated 22-09-2022 passed by this Court.

Prayer is allowed.

We make it clear that the affidavit shall be filed by the Managing Director of the Jal Board by indicating the following aspects:-

- (i) The progress made in the work for supplying drinking water in different parts of Guwahati city and the timeline for completion of the scheme(s).
- (ii) The availability of funds for execution of the projects.
- (iii) Interim arrangements, if any, being made by the authorities for supplying drinking water to the citizens.

The affidavit be filed within 02 weeks by serving advance copy upon the petitioners' counsel. Registry to list this case again on 08-02-2023, as a fixed item.

**JUDGE**

**JUDGE**

GS

**Comparing Assistant**