



**HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE FOR RAJASTHAN AT
JODHPUR**

D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 10045/2026

1. Raj Kumar S/o Shri Pala Ram, Aged About 62 Years, R/o Ward No. 13, Pilibangan, Hanumangarh (Raj.).
2. Satyanarayan S/o Shri Ram Chand, Aged About 53 Years, R/o 115, Pilibangan, District Hanumangarh (Raj.).
3. Sachin Goyal S/o Shri Surender Kumar Goyal, Aged About 27 Years, R/o Ward No. 7, Near Aggarwal Dharmshala, Pilibangan, Hanumangarh (Raj.).
4. Purushotam Dass S/o Shri Om Prakash, Aged About 53 Years, R/o Ward No. 24, Pilibangan, Hanumangarh (Raj.).
5. Raju S/o Shri Ram Singh, Aged About 50 Years, R/o Ward No. 22, Pilibangan, District Hanumangarh (Raj.).



-----Petitioners

Versus

1. The State Of Rajasthan, Through The Secretary, Department Of Local Self, Secretariat, Rajasthan, Jaipur.
2. The Director, Local Self Department, Government Of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
3. The Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government Of Rajasthan, Secretariat, Jaipur.
4. The Municipal Board Pilibangan, Through Its Executive Officer, Pilibangan, District Hanumangarh.
5. The Superintending Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Circle Hanumangarh, District Hanumangarh.
6. The Assistant Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Sub Division Pilibangan, District Hanumangarh.
7. The District Collector, Hanumangarh, District Hanumangarh.

-----Respondents

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Jitender Singh Bhaleria
For Respondent(s) : Mr. S.S. Rathore, AAG
Mr. Ayush Gehlot
Ms. Mehali Mehta

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN MONGA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP SHAH

Order



1. The petitioners herein are residents of Pilibangan, District Hanumangarh (Rajasthan). Their grievance is best captured by the famous Cat Stevens song whose lyrics ask, "Where do the children play¹?" A question that is as metaphorical as it is literal in the present case. Put plainly, the 'only' playground in the town available to the residents of Pilibangan has been chosen as the site for construction of a huge overhead water tank.

2. At first blush itself, it defies common sense. The construction of the tank will inevitably bring with it heavy vehicular movement and all the disruption that accompanies an active construction site, as is clearly evident from the photographs at Annexure-9 (Page 177) appended to the petition. This will render the playground completely unusable during the period of construction. Over and above that, the ongoing construction will pose a serious hindrance to the children using the rest of the playground and will endanger their health and safety.

3. This aspect will be considered in greater detail after the respondents file their reply to the averments made by the petitioners.

4. Issue notice. Learned counsels for the respondents accepts notice.

¹An anti-pollution song in which Cat Stevens acknowledges how far humanity has progressed through technological advances, but protests that in doing so, we have destroyed much of our environment — building over and cementing children's play areas in cities.

5. Learned counsel for Respondent No. 4, Mr. Ayush Gehlot, submits that the proposed overhead water tank measures only 50×50 sq. ft. and is to be constructed in one corner of the playground which measures 350×650 sq. ft., and thus there is no ground made out for interference by this court. However, we are not satisfied with this submission at this stage.

6. He further submits that this is the only available location and there is no other overhead water tank in the entire city. This submission, prima facie, appears preposterous. We cannot help but observe that the respondents do not seem to have made any sincere endeavour to identify an alternate location. The solitary playground meant for the residents of the town has, without adequate justification, been found to be the only suitable site for such construction ! Let an affidavit be filed by competent authority deposing so on oath, if that be the truth.

7. Post the matter on 10.07.2026.

8. A copy of the paper book be supplied to those respondents who have not yet received it.

9. In the meanwhile, status quo with respect to the playground in question shall be maintained till the next date of hearing.

(SANDEEP SHAH),J

(ARUN MONGA),J

