

GAHC010058202024



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

**Case No. : I.A.(Civil)/924/2024**

PRAMOD KALITA AND 2 ORS

2: SONESH TERON  
S/O. J. K. TERON

3: DIPAK TERANG

VERSUS

THE UNION OF INDIA AND 17 ORS  
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, INDIRA  
PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, JORBAGH ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

2: THE MINISTRY OF INDIAN RAILWAYS  
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY  
RAIL BHAWAN HEAD QUARTERS 1 RAISINA ROAD NEW DELHI

3: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT  
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE  
LAW-U-SIB  
LUMBATNGEN  
NEAR MTC WORKSHOP  
SHILLONG-7930211

4:THE STATE OF ASSAM  
REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT  
OF ASSAM  
ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT  
DISPUR  
GUWAHATI-781006

5:THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM  
REPRESENTING THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE NATIONAL GREEN  
TRIBUNAL KOLKATTA EAST ZONE (TO MONITOR ACTIVITIES IN DEEPOP  
BEEL AREA WITH SPECIFIC TOR) DISPUR SECRETARIAT COMPLEX  
GUWAHATI-6

6:THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND HEAD OF  
FOREST FORCE  
H-BLOCK  
2ND FLOOR  
JANATA BHAWAN  
DISPUR  
GUWAHATI-781006  
ASSAM

7:THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (WILDLIFE)  
H-BLOCK  
2ND FLOOR  
JANATA BHAWAN  
DISPUR  
GUWAHATI-781006  
ASSAM

8:THE COMMISSIONER AND SECRETARY GUWAHATI MUNICIPAL  
ADMINISTRATION  
GUWAHATI

9:THE GUWAHATI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRMAN  
GUWAHATI

10:THE GUWAHATI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
BHANGAGARH  
GUWAHATI

11:STATE BOARD FOR WILDLIFE  
REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRMAN  
DISPUR SECRETARIAT COMPLEX  
GUWAHATI-781006

12:THE NORTH EASTERN FRONTIER RAILWAY  
REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER HEAD QUARTERS  
MALIGAON  
GUWAHATI

13:THE ASSAM STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY  
GUWAHATI

14:CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER  
NORTH EASTERN FRONTIER RAILWAYS  
MALIGAON  
GUWAHATI  
ASSAM

15:THE ASSAM TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
REPRESENTED BY ITS DIRECTOR  
GUWAHATI

16:THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
KAMRUP (M)  
GUWAHATI

17:CENTRAL WETLAND REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
REPRESENTED BY PCCF AND HOFF  
ASSAM  
ARANYA BHAWAN  
PANJABARI  
GUWAHATI-781037

18:THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF ASSAM  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
DISPUR  
GUWAHATI-78100

For the Petitioner :        Mr. D.K. Das, Advocate  
                                      Mr. M. Khataniar, Advocate  
                                      Mr. H. Betala, Advocate  
For the Respondents :     Mr. D. Saikia, AG, Assam

Ms. P. Baruah, Advocate  
Mr. S. Baruah, SC, PCB  
Mr. C. Sarma, Advocate  
Mr. S.K. Medhi, CGC  
Mr. B. Chakraborty, Advocate

**BEFORE  
HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SUMAN SHYAM**

**ORDER**

**Date : 05-04-2024**

***(Vijay Bishnoi, CJ)***

This I.A. is filed on behalf of the PIL petitioner with a prayer to issue a direction to the concerned authority not to do land fill up in the Deepor Beel area and not to allow any type of construction activities in and around the Deepor Beel site till the demarcation notification of Ramsar Site of Deeper Beel is made along with the notification for its Eco-sensitive Zone as required under the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and place the record pertaining to the Cabinet decision taken or pending approval of the Eco-sensitive Zone of Deepor Beel.

2. It appears that during the pendency of this I.A. the counsel for the petitioner has informed this Court that on 27-03-2024 that the State Cabinet has already taken a decision to de-notify the Deeper Beel Wildlife Century. The learned Advocate General, Assam Mr. D. Saikia on 03-04-2024 has submitted that though the State Cabinet has decided to de-notify the Deepor Beel Wildlife Century, however, no formal notification has

been issued till date and he prays for some time to file response on behalf of the State Government.

3. Today an additional affidavit is filed on behalf of the State Government wherein it is stated that the Cabinet in its meeting has decided to de-notify the Deepor Beel Wildlife Century while taking into note of the fact that at the time of notifying the Deepor Beel area as Wildlife Century in the year 2009, certain formalities, which are mandatory in nature, has not been carried out. It is also submitted that though the Cabinet has taken a decision to de-notify the Deepor Beel Wildlife Century but no formal notification has been issued till date in the absence of certain formalities such as to seek prior permission from the State Board of Wildlife and National Board of Wildlife and also prior approval from the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It is stated in the affidavit that only after getting approval from the State Board of Wildlife and National Board of Wildlife as well as from the Supreme Court, the notification for de-notifying the Deepor Beel Wildlife Century will be issued.

4. Having heard the learned Advocate General, Assam and after taking into consideration the fact that the State Government had declared the Deepor Beel as Wildlife Century by issuing a notification in the year 2009, the said notification was challenged before this Court by way of filing W.P.(C) No. 4113/2009 and the fact that the learned Single Judge of this Court has set aside the said notification dated 21-02-2009 vide decision dated 21-12-2017. The said decision of the learned Single Judge was challenged before the Division Bench of this Court by the State of Assam and the Division Bench of this Court vide judgment dated 24-03-2023 passed in W.A. No. 02/2018, has reversed the judgment of the learned Single Judge by allowing the appeal filed by the State. Now

suddenly the State Government has come up with the stand that in the year 2009, when the Deepor Beel Wildlife Century was notified, certain formalities, which was mandatory in nature, had not been carried out. It is informed that against the decision of the Division Bench of this Court on 24-03-2023, passed in W.A. No. 02/2018, a SLP is pending adjudication before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

5. Be that as it may, once the notification declaring the Deepor Beel as Wildlife Century has been affirmed by the Division Bench of this Court and a SLP filed against the decision of the Division Bench is pending consideration in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, we are of the view that any decision to de-notify the Deepor Beel Wildlife Century is not warranted at this stage. Hence, we direct the State Government not to issue any notification de-notifying the Deepor Beel Wildlife Century.

6. This order would, however, be subject to any further order(s) passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the above subject.

The I.A. is accordingly disposed of.

List the PIL No. 18/2023 on 27-05-2024. On the next date, the District Commissioner, Kamrup (Metro) may file his response regarding issuance of Wildlife Management Rules.

**JUDGE**

**CHIEF JUSTICE**

GS

**Comparing Assistant**