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

Case No. : WP(C)/2002/2024

HASMAT KHAN AND 90 ORS S/O- LT. GHATU KHA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA,P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI, P.S.-TARABARI, DIST.- BARPETA, ASSAM,PIN - 781305.

2: LAL MIA S/O- LT. NANDU MIA @ CHANDU MIA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

3: ABDUR RAHMAN DEWAN S/O- LT. NOWAB ALI DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

4: JAMAL KHAN S/O. LT. MAJLISH KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

5: SALU KHAN S/O. LT. MIRJAN KHAN



RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

6: ABDUL MALEK @ ABDUL MALEK MIA S/O- LT. ABU BAKKAR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

7: SHAHAR BHANU D/O- LT. MANIK MIR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

8: MUNSER KHAN S/O- HASMAT KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

9: SAMAN DEWAN S/O- MUTLEB DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

10: HAYET KHAN S/O- LT. HAKIM KHANS RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI



DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

11: ABDUL KALAM DEWAN S/O- LT. MUNNAF DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

12: GIAS UDDIN DEWAN S/O- LT. MUNNAF DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

13: ASRAB DEWAN S/O- LT. MUNNAF DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

14: ANU KHA S/O- HASMAT KHA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

15: SIDDIQUE MIAH S/O- LT. GHATU MIAH RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.



16: BILAL MIYA @ BILAYAT MIA S/O- LT. ICHUMUDDIN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

17: IBRAHIM MOLLA S/O- LT. FALU MULLA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

18: JAYNAL MIR S/O- ABDUL JALIL RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

19: FERDDUS ALI KHANDAKAR @ FEDDUS KHANDAKAR S/O- LT. ABBAS KHANDAKAR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

20: AKBAR ALI KHANDAKAR S/O- LT. ABBAS KHANDAKAR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

21: MAJIBAR KHANDAKAR S/O- LT. ABBAS KHANDAKAR



RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

22: ABDUL BATEN KHANDAKAR S/O- LT. ABBAS KHANDAKAR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

23: HABIJUL KHAN @ HAFIJUR KHAN S/O- LT. NEWAZ KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

24: AMINUL KHAN S/O- LT. NEWAZ KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

25: KHALIL MIYA S/O- LT. JALAL UDDIN MIA @ JALAL MIAH RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

26: ACHAR UDDIN MOLLA @ ACHU MULLA S/O- SUMESH MOLLA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI



DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

27: ACHIYA BEGUM AGED ABOUT 50 YEARS W/O- LT. JAHURUL @ JUHUR KHANDAKAR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

28: SAHIDUL KHANDAKAR S/O- LT. ABDUL HAI KHANDAKAR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

29: JAYNAL ABEDIN KHANDAKAR JAYNAL KHANDAKAR S/O- LT. ABDUL HAI KHANDAKAR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

30: SUTAN KHAN S/O- HASMAT KHA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

31: SALIM KHAN S/O- LT. MAJLISH KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM



PIN - 781305.

32: ABDUL SABUR MIAH @ ABDUS SABUR S/O- LT. ALAL UDDIN @ JAJAL UDDIN MIA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

33: NUR ISLAM MIYA S/O- LT. GHATU MIYA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

34: RAHMAN MIYA S/O- LT. ALAUDDIN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

35: ANOWAR MIYA S/O- LT. MANIR MIYA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

36: MATIYAR RAHMAN @ MATIYAR MIA S/O- MALEK MIYA @ ABDUL MALEK MIYA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

37: RAMJAN ALI MIYA



S/O- LT. ABU BAKKAR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

38: RUP KHAN S/O- LT. NAWAZ KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

39: BULBUL MIA S/O- LAL MIYA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

40: AHAMMAD ALI S/O- SEKENDAR ALI RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

41: SEKANDAR ALI S/O- LT. TORAF ALI @ TORAB ALI RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

42: SATTAR DEWAN S/O- LT. MUTALEB DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI



P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

43: SAHAJAHAN MIYA S/O- ABDUL BAREK RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

44: MAINUL SIKDAR S/O- LT. MATI SIKDAR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

45: ASMA KHATUN W/O- LT. FALU KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

46: MOKTAR ALI MIYA S/O- LT. ALAL RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

47: DALIMAN NESSA D/O- LT. JAHUR MIYA W/O- LT. HIKMAT RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA



ASSAM PIN - 781305.

48: KHUDEJA BEGUM S/O- LT. BASER KHANDAKAR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

49: ATIKUL ISLAM S/O- LT. HAZRAT MIAH RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

50: ZAKIR HUSSAIN S/O- LT. NOWAB ALI DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

51: SATTAR MOLLA S/O- LT. HAYET @ CHANU MULLA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

52: ABDUL MIYA @ ABUL MIYA S/O- LT. GHATU MIYA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.



53: RABIAL DEWAN S/O- LT. MOTLEB DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

54: TAIBAR RAHMAN MIYA S/O- LT. ANJU MIA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

55: KALAM KHAN S/O- LT. FALU KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

56: AYUB KHAN S/O- LT. HAKIM @ HAKIM KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

57: RABIAL KHANDAKAR S/O- LT. ABDUL HAI KHANDAKAR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

58: IDRIS DEWAN S/O- ATOWAR DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA



P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

59: HANIF ALI S/O- LT. ABU BAKKAR ALI RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

60: JAMIR KHAN S/O- LT. KARIM KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

61: KHALIL MIYA S/O- LT. JALAL UDDIN @ JALAL MIA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

62: EAR UDDIN S/O- LT. TOTAM MIYA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

63: RAHIM MIYA S/O- LT. AMIR RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA



ASSAM PIN - 781305.

64: JAKIR HUSSAIN S/O- LT. KURPAN MIYA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

65: SAFIKUL KHAN S/O- HASMAT KHA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

66: MD HAFIJUR MIA @ MD HAFIJUR RAHMAN MIA S/O- MD LAL MIA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

67: NURUL ISLAM KHAN S/O- SALU KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

68: GOLAP KHAN S/O- JULMAT KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.



69: JALIL DEWAN S/O- LT. ABDUL ALI RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

70: SURPAN KHAN S/O- LT. CHULTAN KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

71: SHAHIDUL ISLAM S/O- JULMAT KHAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

72: EUSUF ALI DEWAN S/O- LT. ABDUS SAMAD DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

73: SADEK ALI DEWAN @ SADEK ALI S/O- LT. ABDUS SAMAD DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

74: JAMAL MIA @ SAH JAMAL MIA S/O- LAL MIA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA



P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

75: MAJIBAR MIA S/O- ANJU MIA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

76: KURPAN MOLLA S/O - LT. FALU MOLLA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

77: SHAHIDUL DEWAN S/O- LT. HAIDAR DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

78: MAJJAM DEWAN S/O- LT. HAIDAR DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

79: BASSORUDDIN MOLLAH S/O- LT. SUMESH MOLLA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA



ASSAM PIN - 781305.

80: ACHARUDDIN MOLLA @ BACHU MOLLA S/O- LT. SUMESH MOLLA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

81: TAYBAR DEWAN S/O- LT. ABDUL ALI DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

82: RAHMAN DEWAN S/O- LT. MOTALEB RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

83: RAHIZ UDDIN DEWAN S/O- LT. SAHEB ALI DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

84: ABDUL BAREK MIA S/O- LT. ABUBAKKAR ALI RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.



85: ABDUL KADER S/O- LT. ABDUL ROUF @ ROUP MIA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

86: ASAN UDDIN MIA @ ACHAN MIA S/O- LT. SABU MIA @ ABU MIA RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

87: TAJUDDIN DEWAN S/O- MONNAF DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

88: BILLAL HUSSAIN S/O- LT. MUNNAF DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

89: NAJRUL DEWAN S/O- LT. HAIDAR DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

90: MONOWAR DEWAN S/O- LT. HAIDAR DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA



P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305.

91: JULFIKKAR DEWAN S/O- LT. ABDUL MAJID DEWAN RESIDENT OF VILLAGE - GANAKPARA P.O.- MAKRIKUCHI P.S.- TARABARI DIST.- BARPETA ASSAM PIN - 781305

## VERSUS

THE STATE OF ASSAM AND 4 ORS REPRESENTED BY ITS COMMISSIONER AND SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM, REVENUE DEPARTMENT, DISPUR, GUWAHATI, ASSAM- 781006.

2:THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER BARPETA ASSAM - 781301.

3:THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (REVENUE) BARPETA ASSAM - 781301.

4:THE SUB DIVISIONAL OFFICER (SADAR) BARPETA ASSAM - 781301

5:THE CIRCLE OFFICER CHENGA REVENUE CIRCLE CHENGA ASSAM - 781305.

6:DWIPENDRA NATH GOSWAMI S/O- LATE DHARANI DHAR DEB GOSWAMI R/O- VILL- BAHARI

P.O.- BAHARI HAT

P.S.- TARABARI

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DIST- BARPETA ASSAM 781302

## BEFORE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR MEDHI

## JUDGMENT & ORDER

Advocate for the petitioners	:	Shri S. Borthakur, Advocate
Advocates for the respondents	:	Shri R. Borpujari, SC, Revenue Department
		Shri J. Handique, Govt. Advocate.
Date of hearing	: 08.	04.2024
Date of judgment	: 08.	04.2024

**1.** Considering the subject matter involved, the grounds of challenge, the various orders passed in the subject including orders passed by this Court and as agreed to by the learned counsel for the parties, this writ petition is taken up for hearing and disposal at the motion stage itself.

**2.** An order dated 18.07.2005 passed by the learned Assam Board of Revenue (hereinafter ABR) is the subject matter of challenge in this petition filed under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India.

3. The subject matter of the case before the learned ABR was in connection



with a plot of land measuring 17 Bighas 2 Katha 6 Lechas. The aforesaid appeal was instituted by one Dipendranath Goswami which was in the form of an appeal against an order dated 09.01.2004 passed by the Sub-Divisional Officer (Sadar), Barpeta in T.R. Case No. 80/2003-04. Certain persons who were arrayed as respondent nos. 5 to 10 in the said appeal had applied for ownership right over the aforesaid plot of land covered by Dag No. 318 of Nisf Khiraj & Patta No. 1 of village *Ganakpara* of Mouza *Chenga* in the district of Barpeta. The appellant therein had contended that such application was filed by suppressing the actual facts and by misrepresentation. However, the application which was registered as T.R. Case No. 80/2003-04 was allowed. Amongst various grounds taken in the appeal, it was contended that notices were not issued and without such notice, orders under the Assam (Temporarily Settled Areas) Tenancy Act, 1971 was passed.

**4.** The learned ABR, after hearing the parties had come to the conclusion that the appeal was having merits and accordingly the same was allowed and the impugned order dated 09.01.2004 passed by the SDO (Sadar), Barpeta in T.R. Case No. 80/2004 was set aside. For ready reference, the relevant part of the order is extracted herein below.

"After perusal of all the relevant records and hearing the learned advocates, it is seen that the TR Case No. 80/2003-04 was instituted against persons who were dead and their legal heirs were not impleaded in that case. Order cannot be passed against a dead person without impleading his or her legal heir. So far as the question of S.D.O. (Sadar) to dispose of such cases are concerned, it



is clear from Govt. of Assam's Notifications No. RRT. 37/77/Pt./6 and No. RRT. 37/77/Pt/6-A dtd. 9.9.1980, it is seen that the Addl. Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Officers including the Sub-Divisional Officer (Sadar) have the powers of Revenue Officers for the purpose of the Assam (Temporarily Settled Areas) Tenancy Act, 1971 and these officers will also have all the powers of Deputy Commissioner until further order. Therefore it is not correct to say that the S.D.O. (Sadar) does not have the power to dispose of cases against which this appeal has been filed.

From the chitha of the suit land available in the case record, it is seen that the patta of the land is Nisf Khiraj patta. Nisf Khiraj Khiraj patta or half revenue estates originate from the land given by the Ahom Kings which letter came to be known as Dharmottar, Debottar, and Brahmottar land. Therefore, it cannot be disputed now that the land is not Satra land. The proviso to Section 15 A of the Assam State Acquisition of land belonging to Religious or Charitable Institutions of Public Nature Act, 1959, as amended, states that notwithstanding anything contained in the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation 1886, the right of transfer of land belonging to the above mentioned institutions for a ryot shall only to a person belonging to same religion in which the ownership of land was vested. Here it is seen that the so called tenant who are given ownership right by the S.D.O. (Sadar) Barpeta belong to the another religion. Therefore, granting of ownership right of Satra land to person belonging to a religion other than that of the person to whom the Satra belongs is not permissible. Therefore, the impugned order passed by the



S.D.O. (Sadar), Barpeta is not valid and the same is liable to be set aside also for the ground that the order was passed after instituting the case against dead persons, without impleading their legal heirs. Therefore, the impugned order dated 09.01.2004 b the Sub-Divisional Office (Sadar), Barpeta in T.R. Case No. 80/2004 is set aside."

**5.** It is the legality and validity of this order which has been sought to be challenged by the petitioners in the instant writ petition.

**6.** I have heard Sri S. Borthakur learned counsel for the petitioners. I have also heard Sri R. Borpujari, learned Standing Counsel, Revenue Department.

**7.** Sri Borthakur, the learned counsel at the outset has submitted that the petitioners were not parties in the proceedings before the learned ABR. He has also drawn the attention of this Court that pertaining to the said judgment dated 18.07.2005 of the learned ABR, an order was passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Barpeta dated 11.04.2022 directing the Circle Officer, *Chenga* Revenue Circle to correct the land records in favour of the *Pirala Satra* in village *Ganakpara*, Mouza-*Chenga*, N.K. Patta No. 1 measuring 101 Bighas, 0 Katha, 9 Lechas. The aforesaid order dated 11.04.2022 was the subject matter of challenge in the earlier writ petition WP(C)/3003/2022 by one Hiranya Kumar Goswami. The aforesaid petition was however dismissed by this Court vide judgment and order at 17.01.2023.

8. It is submitted that against the aforesaid judgment, two writ appeals have



been filed which are pending. One of the writ appeals has been preferred by the present petitioners after taking leave from the Court. It is contended that on 21.09.2023, eviction notice have been served upon the petitioners. Challenging the same, the petitioners have filed another writ petition WP(C)/5946/2023 which is also pending.

**9.** Shri Borthakur, the learned counsel has contended that there are primarily two grounds of challenge against the order dated 18.07.2005 of the learned ABR. The first ground is that the order has been passed without making the petitioners as parties. The second ground urged is that the *Assam State Acquisition of Lands belonging to Religious Charitable Institution of Public Nature Act of 1959* is not applicable as there was no acquisition as such of the land in question. It is also informed that six persons had filed a review petition in the learned ABR and only in the year 2022, the judgment of the ABR came to the knowledge of the petitioners. The petitioners claim to be Riyots of one Rajani Kanta Goswami.

**10.** The learned counsel for the petitioners accordingly submits that the writ petition may be allowed and the impugned order dated 18.07.2005 be set aside.

**11.** *Per contra*, Shri Borpujari, learned Standing Counsel, Revenue Department has submitted that the instant challenge is clearly an afterthought. He submits that the attempt is only to frustrate the order of the Court which had taken care of the necessity of preserving lands of *Satras* and in this case, the land in question is of the *Pirala Satra*. He has submitted that this Court while disposing of WP(C)/3003/2022 vide the judgment dated 17.01.2023 have taken into



consideration all the objections regarding the ownership of the land. This Court had also taken note of the interim and final reports of the Assam State Commission for review and assessment of problems of Satra lands in Assam. In both the Reports, the existence of *Pirala Satra* has been clearly reflected. It is submitted by Shri Borpujari that though the petitioners herein contend to be the rivot of one Rajani Goswami, the petitioner in the earlier writ petition WP(C)/3003/2022 is a descendant of Rajani Goswami as would be reflected from the judgment itself. The aforesaid writ petition was dismissed by this Court by holding that while the order dated 11.04.2022 for correction of land records was challenged, the basis of the said order, namely, the order of the learned ABR was not the subject matter of challenge. Shri Borpujari has also submitted that the review petition against the judgment dated 18.07.2005 has been filed by a group of persons on 30.05.2023 and on the same date, an appeal has also been preferred in the learned ABR against the order dated 11.04.2022 of correction of land records. It is submitted that both the review and the appeal have been filed by the same parties on the same date and it is submitted that the present petitioners are hand in gloves with the said parties who not only belong to the same area but are aggrieved by the same cause of action.

**12.** On the grounds that the petitioners did not have knowledge about the said judgment, Shri Borpujari, the learning Standing Counsel, by referring to the array of parties has submitted that most of the present petitioners are descendants of the parties in the proceeding before the ABR. A specific example has been given in case of the petitioner no. 58 (Idris Dewan) herein who is the son of one Atowar Dewan who was a party respondent no.5 in the proceeding before the ABR.



**13.** The rival contentions of the parties have been duly considered and the materials placed before this Court have been carefully examined.

**14.** To appreciate the rival contentions, it would be necessary to examine the impugned order dated 18.07.2005 of the learned ABR passed in an appeal. The aforesaid appeal was preferred in the year 2004 against an order dated 09.01.2004 passed by the SDO (Sadar), Barpeta in T.R. Case No. 80/2003-04 by one Dwipendra Nath Goswami and the respondents included 6 nos. of private respondents. The facts narrated in the said judgment would make it clear that the said 6 nos. of private respondents who were arrayed as respondent nos. 5 to 10 had applied for ownership right over a plot of land which was a part of the erstwhile *Pindara Satra* which is presently known as *Pirala Satra*. It was contended by the appellant therein that though the original pattadar who was the *Satradhikar* of the *Satra* had died, the legal heirs were not made parties in the T.R. Case No. 80/2003- 04 and they had accordingly filed an application that the case could not have proceeded as it was instituted against a dead person.

**15.** The appellant therein had taken, amongst others, the following principal grounds while challenging the order dated 09.01.2004.

i. that the SDO (Sadar) did not have jurisdiction to pass the impugned order.

ii. that the proceedings were instituted against dead persons which was not permissible in law.



iii. the legal heirs of the original pattadars were not been made a party.

iv. the land in question is *Satra* land and therefore the same could not have been settled / allotted in violation of the section 15(a) of the Act of 1951. Admittedly, the order of the learned SDO(Sadar) was in favour of persons belonging to a different religion who claimed to be riyots.

**16.** The learned ABR, while holding that the SDO (Sadar) had the jurisdiction to decide the application, the other grounds of challenge were however upheld. It was held that the proceeding before the learned SDO (Sadar) was bad in law as it was instituted against a dead person and the legal heirs were not impleaded. The learned ABR had also come to a categorical finding that the land in question was a part of the Satra land belonging to the Pirala Satra and as per the proviso to Section 15 (a) of the Act of 1951, no riyots belonging to some other religion were to be allotted any right.

**17.** As indicated above, consequent to the said judgment of the learned ABR, an order was passed on 11.04.2022 by the Deputy Commissioner, Barpeta directing the Circle Officer, Chenga Revenue Circle to correct the land records in favour of the Pirala Satra. It is however interesting to note that one Hiranya Kumar Goswami, who is a legal heir of Rajani Kanta Goswami, (one of the Pattadars), had filed a writ petition in this Court being WP(C)/3003/2022 challenging the order dated 11.04.2022. The primary contention was that there was no Satra in the name of Pirala Satra and therefore the order of correction in the land



records was to be interfered with. This Court, after noting the submissions of the rival parties, had however come to a finding that the factual assertion made in the writ petition by the petitioner in that case, Shri Hiranya Kumar Goswami, was not correct as the existence of the Pirala Satra was substantiated by contemporaneous records. This Court had also taken note of the interim and final reports of the Assam State Commission for Review and Assessment of Problems of Satra Land wherein the existence of Pirala Satra was clearly reflected.

**18.** This Court had also noticed that while the consequential order dated 11.04.2022 was put to challenge, there was no challenge to the order of the learned ABR dated 18.07.2005. This Court had also doubted the *bona fide* on the part of the petitioner in that case.

**19.** It also becomes clear that while one of the legal heirs of the original Pattadars, namely Shri Dwipendra Nath Goswami, who was the son of late Dharanidhar Goswami had filed the appeal before the learned ABR against the order of the SDO (Sadar) dated 09.01.2004 for corrections of name in favour of the private respondents therein, the said judgment was challenged by none other but another legal heir, namely Shri Hiranya Kumar Goswami, son of Rajani Kanta Goswami. This Court while dismissing WP(C)/3003/2022 vide order dated 17.01.2023 had made observations questioning the *bona fide* of

the petitioner. This Court had also recorded that the writ petitioner in that case was a teacher and was not personally cultivating the land in question and therefore he did not have any indefensible right relating to Article 31A of the Constitution of India. It therefore becomes apparent that the approach of the



petitioner in that the same was instituted on behest of certain other persons.

**20.** Be that as it may, as pointed out by Shri Borpujari, the learned Standing Counsel, in the instant case, the petitioner no. 58 is the son of Atowar Dewan who was the respondent No. 5 in the proceeding before the learned ABR. Therefore, the assertion that the petitioners were not aware of the judgment passed in the year 2005 is not acceptable at all. In any case, the petitioners are admittedly of the same area wherein litigations were going on starting from the order dated 09.01.2004 passed by the SDO (Sadar) in favour of certain persons in occupation of a part of the Satra land which was the subject matter of appeal before the learned ABR and the writ petition which was instituted in the year 2022 being WP(C)/3003/2022 challenging the consequential order for correction of land record dated 11.04.2022.

**21.** This Court has noticed that in the judgment dated 17.01.2023 dismissing the WP(C)/3003/2022 (Annexure-11), a specific finding was given by the Court that the original order of the ABR dated 18.07.2005 not being the subject matter of challenge, the subsequent order dated 11.04.2022 could not have been challenged. It is almost a year after passing of the aforesaid judgment that the present writ petition has been instituted. The institution of the present writ petition clearly appears to cover up the lapses which were noted by this Court in the judgment dated 17.01.2023 and is being filed by a different set of petitioners.

**22.** This Court has already held the submission of the petitioners of being unaware of the order of the learned ABR in the year 2005 to be untenable. As a



corollary, the aspect of inordinate and unexplained delay / laches of more than two decades would definitely come in. This Court being a Court of equity, though the Limitation Act, *per se* may not be held to be applicable, the issue of laches would definitely come in. In the instant case, the negligence / laches on the part of the petitioners is palpable, which indicates lack of *bona fide*. The aforesaid aspect has been elaborately explained and laid down by a Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of *State of Madhya Pradesh vs Bhailal Bhai &Ors* reported in *1964 AIR 1006*.

**23.** There is another aspect of the matter regarding the land which is admittedly Satra land. It may be mentioned that Satra is an institutional centre associated with the Ekasarana tradition of Vaishnavism in the State of Assam. The materials placed on record including the reference to the interim report and final report of the Assam State Commission for Review and Assessment of Problems of Satra Land has already been made by this Court in the judgment dated 17.01.2023 and there is no dispute that the land in guestion is of the Pirala Satra. Though this Court has been informed that the aforesaid judgment is the subject matter of challenge in two nos. of writ appeals, no submissions have been made that there is any interim order. The requirement of preserving Satra land is of paramount importance. Therefore, though a submission was made by the learned counsel for the petitioners questioning the application of the Act of 1959, the prior acquisition of the land would not be relevant for the requirement of such preservation which is also covered by the proviso to section 15 (a). As recorded by the learned ABR, under the said proviso, Satra land cannot be allotted to any person belonging to different religion and there is no dispute that all the petitioners herein are of a different religion and are attempting to get



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their names recorded for lands belonging to the *Satra*.

**24.** Therefore, this Court is of the considered opinion that the aforesaid factors would go against the petitioners in all respects, namely the inordinate delay / laches, any right being accrued to the petitioners, the aspect of *bona fide* to institute this writ petition and finally any sustainable grounds which would require any further consideration.

**25.** In view of the aforesaid discussion, this Court is of the opinion that no case for interference is made out and accordingly, the writ petition stands dismissed.

**26.** No order as to cost.

JUDGE

**Comparing Assistant**