

**ORDER passed in Original Application No. 537/2024**

**From :** Consultant Judicial-NGT(P.B.) <judicial-ngt@gov.in> Sat, Jun 01, 2024 03:38 PM  
**Subject :** ORDER passed in Original Application No. 537/2024 2 attachments  
**To :** Sh. RAJA CHATTERJEE Registrar <registrarngt-kolkata@gov.in>, Judicial Section <ngtjudicial-kolkata@gov.in>  
**Cc :** MS, CPCB <mccb.cpcb@nic.in>, membersecretary@pcbassam.org, Pulak Mahanta <dc-jorhat@nic.in>  
**Reply To :** Consultant Judicial-NGT(P.B.) <judicial-ngt@gov.in>

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am directed to forward a copy of the **Order dated 16/05/2024 passed in Original Application No. 537/2024 News item titled "Illegal sand excavation threatens River Bhogdoi in Jorhat" appearing in The Assam Tribune dated 29.03.2024** . for your kind perusal & necessary action.

**REGARDS**  
**CONSULTANT (Judicial)**  
⌘ (N.G.T.)(P.B.) ⌘ New Delhi ⌘



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- OA NO 537 of 2024 Suo motu river Bhogdoi in Jorhat.pdf  
1 MB
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168 KB
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## Illegal sand excavation threatens River Bhogdoi in Jorhat

By The Assam Tribune - 29 Mar 2024 6:30 PM

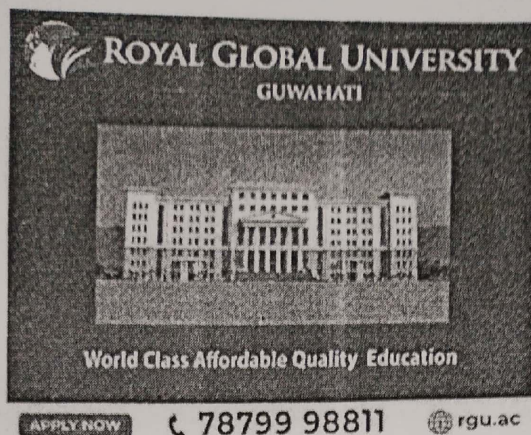


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Jorhat, March 29: The River Bhogdoi, which flows through Jorhat city, is dying a slow death due to illegal excavation of sand.

The unchecked exploitation of sand resources has not only resulted in severe environmental degradation but has also altered the course of the river, exacerbating concerns among local residents.

Allegations of complicity have been levelled against certain individuals and entities, accusing them of profiting from illicit sand mining activities while disregarding the detrimental impact on the environment. According to sources, there have been serious allegations that the Jorhat forest department has been cooperating in this work.

Amidst growing concerns over the deteriorating state of the Bhogdoi River, various stakeholders, including the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and local residents, have voiced their apprehensions and demanded immediate intervention to address the escalating crisis.



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**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 537/2024

News item titled "Illegal sand excavation threatens River Bhogdoi in Jorghat" appearing in The Assam Tribune dated 29.03.2024

Date of hearing: 16.05.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

**ORDER**

1. This Original Application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Illegal sand excavation threatens River Bhogdoi in Jorghat" appearing in The Assam Tribune dated 29.03.2024.
2. The matter relates to the deteriorating condition of the Bhogdoi River, that flows through Jorhat city in Assam due to illegal sand excavation. As per the article, the unchecked exploitation of sand resources has not only resulted in severe environment degradation but has also altered the course of the river. The article alleges the complicity of various individuals and entities, accusing them of profiting from illegal sand mining activities while disregarding the detrimental impact on the environment.
3. The above news item indicates violation of the Sand Mining Guidelines, 2016 and the provisions of Environment Protection Act, 1986.
4. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

5. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

6. Hence, we implead following as respondents in this matter:

- (i) Assam State Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary, Railway Colony, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati, Assam - 780 021
- (ii) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), through its Member Secretary, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032
- (iii) District Commissioner/District Magistrate, Jorhat, DC Office, Jorhat, Assam - 785 001

7. Let notice be issued to the above Respondents for filing their response before the appropriate bench of the Tribunal.

8. Since the matter relates to the Eastern Zonal Bench, Kolkata, therefore, OA is transferred to the Eastern Zonal Bench for appropriate further action. Office is directed to transfer the original record of the OA to Eastern Zonal Bench, Kolkata.

9. List before Eastern Zonal Bench at Kolkata on 30.07.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

May 16, 2024  
Original Application No. 537/2024  
AS.

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

