

GAHC010047222018



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

**Case No. : PIL(Suo Moto) No.2/2018**

X-X-X X-X-X

VERSUS

1: IN RE THE STATE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH AND 3 ORS  
REP. BY THE SECRETARY, DEPTT OF HOME, CIVIL SECRETARIAT,  
ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, PIN- 791111

2:THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE POLICE HQ CHANDRANAGAR  
ITANAGAR ARUNACHAL PRADESH PIN- 791111

3:THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE  
DIST- LOHIT TEZU ARUNACHAL PRADESH PIN- 792001

4:THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE TEZU POLICE STATION TEZU  
DIST- LOHIT ARUNACHAL PRADESH PIN- 792001

5:THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (INTERNAL  
SECURITY) NEW DELHI

For the Petitioner(s) : Mr. H.K. Das, Standing Counsel, Gauhati High Court.

For the Respondent(s) : Mr. D. Saikia, Advocate General, Assam, assisted by Ms. P. Barua,  
Advocate.

: Mr. B.D. Goswami, Additional Advocate General, Arunachal  
Pradesh, assisted by Mr. A. Chandran, Additional Senior  
Government Advocate, Arunachal Pradesh.

: Mr. D. Das, Advocate General, Mizoram, assisted by Ms. S.  
Sharma, Advocate.

**- B E F O R E -**  
**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE**  
**HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE SUSMITA PHUKAN KHAUND**

**30.08.2023**

Mr. D. Saikia, learned Advocate General, Assam submits that affidavit has already been filed on behalf of the State of Assam in terms of the observations made by this Court on 14.08.2023.

The affidavit elaborates the fact that installations of CCTV cameras at all Police Stations in the State of Assam had been completed and cameras are functional. It is also stated that the recording storage capacity of the Police Stations is 1(one) month and for the Central Server, it is 1(one) year. Regarding the comprehensive database based on fingerprints/biometrics of every accused, who comes in contact with the criminal justice system, it is stated that the process is being undertaken through the Central Project, i.e. National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (hereinafter referred to as "NAFIS"). The State Finger Print Bureau (SFPB), CID Organization, Assam is the State Nodal Agency for the Project conceptualized and initiated by the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs in the year 2019. 51 (fifty-one) NAFIS workstations are functional at Guwahati and 34 (thirty-four) are in other districts. About 50,017 fingerprints of arrested/convicted persons from Assam have been digitized and uploaded to the Central Server.

We appreciate the steps so taken by the State of Assam.

However, it may be noted that the affidavit is silent regarding the observation made by this Court that the biometrics so collected should be assimilated in the '*e-Prisons*' software as well.

Mr. D. Saikia, learned Advocate General, Assam assures that this process shall also be completed at the earliest.

Mr. B.D. Goswami, learned Additional Advocate General, Arunachal Pradesh has placed on record a factual report, as per which, the process is being undertaken in the State for preparation of the database of fingerprints/ biometrics. However, the software is yet to be developed and request has been made to the concerned Department(s) in this regard. CCTVs have already been installed in 110 functional Police Stations of Arunachal Pradesh. Regarding setting up of the Centrally located Control Room, a letter dated 22.08.2022 has been placed on record, which indicates that the said Project/Plan is awaiting allocation of funds.

We expect, hope and trust that the said process shall be expedited.

In view of the preceding facts, we deem it fit to implead the States of Nagaland and Mizoram in this *suo moto* PIL.

Copies of the proceedings undertaken so far, including the pleadings/affidavits and the orders passed, shall be provided to the learned Additional Advocate General Mrs. T. Khro, representing the State of Nagaland and the learned Advocate General Mr. D. Das, representing the State of Mizoram.

Re-notify on **18.10.2023**.

The names of Mrs. T. Khro and Mr. D. Das shall henceforth be reflected in the cause-list as "Additional Advocate General, Nagaland" and "Advocate General, Mizoram", respectively.

**JUDGE**

**CHIEF JUSTICE**

Comparing Assistant