

Serial No. 02
Regular List

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No. 4/2021 with
MC (PIL) No. 1/2021
MC (PIL) No. 2/2021
MC (PIL) No. 3/2021

Date of Order: 02.12.2021

Registrar General, High Court of Meghalaya	Vs.	State of Meghalaya & Ors.
Registrar General, High Court of Meghalaya	Vs.	State of Meghalaya & Ors.
Managing Director, Indigo	Vs.	Registrar General, High Court of Meghalaya & 20 Ors.
Airports Authority of India	Vs.	Registrar General, High Court of Meghalaya & 4 Ors.

Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjib Banerjee, Chief Justice
Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner/Appellant (s)	: Mr. P. Yobin, Amicus Curiae
For the Respondent (s)	: Mr. A. Kumar, AG with Ms. R. Colney, GA Dr. N. Mozika, ASG with Ms. L. Jana, Adv.

The matter pertains to the development and possible expansion of the facilities at the Umroi Airport which is about an hour's drive from Shillong, off the Guwahati-Shillong Highway.

The State, the Airports Authority of India and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation are represented. It is submitted on behalf of the AAI that the instrument landing system has been installed to enable flights to operate in instruments flight rules conditions when the visibility is poor.

It is also agreed all round that connectivity to Shillong, serviced by the Umroi Airport, has improved and there are now regular flights, inter alia, to Dimapur, Dibrugarh, Imphal and Kolkata. However, the respondent authorities submit that the cost-benefit analysis and feasibility studies conducted do not reveal any significant increase in footfall if the Umroi Airport is expanded. In any event, the cost of expansion may also not be justified.

The State submits that a new greenfield project to set up an airport was also under consideration, but the feasibility study undertaken shows that the requisite expansion may not be warranted on the basis of the projected estimates of use and footfall.

Within the constraints, the Umroi Airport should be developed and expanded, even if not to cater to larger aircraft, so that there may be more flights and the additional detour through Guwahati is avoided by passengers to and from this State.

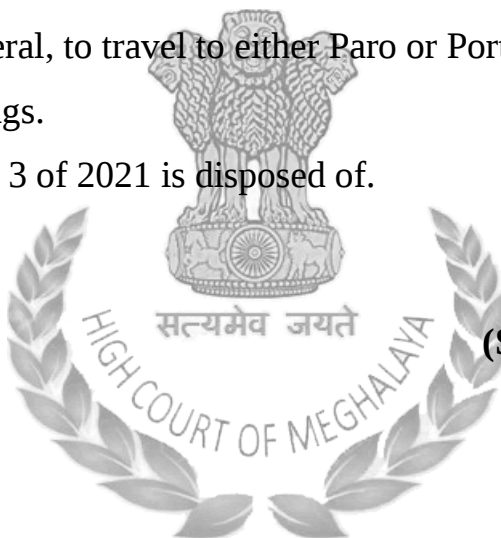
Let the matter appear ten weeks hence for the DGCA and the AAI to file independent reports as to the development or expansion plans, within the constraints, that may be undertaken within the next two or three years.

List the matter on February 14, 2022.

As far as MC (PIL) No. 3 of 2021 is concerned, it may no longer be necessary for Mr. P. Yobin, Amicus Curiae, and Dr. N. Mozika, learned Assistant Solicitor General, to travel to either Paro or Port Blair for the purpose of the present proceedings.

MC (PIL) No. 3 of 2021 is disposed of.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge



(Sanjib Banerjee)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
02.12.2021
"Santosh, P.S."