

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No. 4 of 2021 with
MC(PIL) No. 2 of 2021

Date of order: 11.12.2025

Registrar General, High Court of Meghalaya vs State of Meghalaya & ors.

Managing Director, Indigo vs Registrar General, High Court of Meghalaya

Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen, Chief Justice
Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner : Ms B. Ramsiej, Adv. vice
Mr P. Yobin, Amicus Curiae

For the Respondents : Mr K. Khan, AAG with
Mr A.H. Kharwanlang, Addl Sr GA
Dr N. Mozika, DSGI with
Ms. K. Gurung, Adv.

i) Whether approved for reporting in Law journals etc.: Yes/No

ii) Whether approved for publication in press: Yes/No

The action taken report on behalf of the State Government and the affidavit filed by the General Manager, Air Traffic Management, Regional Headquarters, Airports Authority of India, Guwahati are taken on record.

2. In the action taken report filed by the State Government it has been stated that the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ri-Bhoi

District would initiate steps to render the required land unencumbered and would hand over the land by 20.01.2026. Subsequently, the Transport department will hand over possession of the land to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) by 31.01.2026. Considering the importance of the matter and delay in acquisition of the required land for the expansion of the Shillong Airport would cause further inconvenience, we direct the office of the Deputy Commissioner and the Transport department to complete the entire exercise of direct purchase of 11.75 acres from private land for expansion of the runway by 10.01.2026. The land should be handed over to the AAI on or before 10.01.2026.

3. In so far as acquisition of defence land to the extent of 10.30 acres is concerned, the Deputy Commissioner, Ri-Bhoi District in coordination with the Defence authorities has identified suitable land for exchange against 10.30 acres of Defence land. In the report it has been stated that on 26.11.2025, the Hon'ble Cabinet approved the direct purchase of 7.725 acres of land for this purpose. The Transport department is directed to transfer the requisite funds to the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ri-Bhoi District to facilitate the direct purchase within a fortnight from date. In so far as the removal of obstacles is

concerned, we direct the authorities concerned to complete the entire process as expeditiously as possible and preferably within a period of four months from date.

4. We have been informed that the AAI is in the process for obtaining the concept and design level approval from the DGCA for Shillong Airport expansion project. We direct the AAI to expedite the matter with the DGCA and it is expected that in the event any approval/permission is sought from DGCA, it shall immediately respond to any such approval/permission so that the Shillong Airport expansion project can be completed within a reasonable time.

5. In the affidavit filed by the AAI, it is stated that the tender for the work “expansion of Barapani (Shillong) Airport including runway extension, expansion of terminal building and apron and other allied works SH: Airside works (Phase-I) at an estimated cost of ₹11944.47 lakhs (excluding GST) with completion period of 18 months (including 3 months considered for rains) was called on 28.03.2025. After opening of the financial bids, it was observed that the L-1 bidder has submitted false documents. Accordingly, a fresh tender for the work of runway extension and allied works was issued on 09.09.2025. The technical bids were opened on 27.10.2025 and the technical evaluation of the

technical bids is under process. Dr. N. Mozika, learned DGSI on instruction has submitted that the technical evaluation shall be completed by 31.12.2015 and thereafter the financial bid shall be opened.

6. The public hearing for environmental clearance was conducted at Shillong (Umroi) Airport on 07.10.2025. It is submitted that the report has been forwarded by the Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board to the Member Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Shillong on 17.11.2025. However, the AAI has not been informed about the outcome of the permission sought for environmental clearance.

7. The concept and design level approval for expansion of Shillong Airport including the runway extension, Apron, Strengthening of existing Runway, Apron, Isolation Bay and other allied works have been applied to the DGCA with all the required documents. The observation of the DGCA was subsequently forwarded to the Commissioner and Secretary, Transport department, Government of Meghalaya for necessary action to be taken by the State government so that the same can be communicated to DGCA. A further request was made on 15.10.2025 to the Commissioner and Secretary, Transport

department, Government of Meghalaya to share the target dates for removal of each of the obstacles along with obstacle wise removal plan so that the same can be submitted to DGCA.

8. In the action taken report filed on behalf of the State the target for removal have already been indicated.

9. In view of the aforesaid, we direct the authorities concerned to expedite the matter and file a further report with regard to the steps taken for completion of all formalities and clearances before the work can be undertaken by the successful bidder. We hope that by the adjourned date, the AAI shall be in a position to identify the successful bidder.

10. Dr. N. Mozika during hearing has handed over a letter dated 22.08.2025 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Ri-Bhoi District, Nongpoh to the Defence Estate Officer, Guwahati Circle, Guwahati regarding the valuation of the land for the purpose of determination equal value land. We direct the Deputy Commissioner, Ri-Bhoi District, Nongpoh, the Joint Secretary, Transport Department and the Station Commander, Umroi to hold a joint meeting in order to resolve the issue of land valuation in the meantime, regard being had to the importance attached to the matter as the expansion of the Shillong Airport is

necessary. The outcome of the discussion shall be duly placed before this Court on the adjourned date. We hope all the differences in this regard shall be resolved in the meantime so that the expansion work of the Shillong Airport can commence without further delay.

11. The matter stands adjourned till 10.02.2026.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(Soumen Sen)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
11.12.2025
"Sylvana PS"