

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

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

Date of Order : 15.05.2025

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 I.P. Mukerji, Chief Justice
Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner	: 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 Mr. K. Gurung, Adv

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| i) | Whether approved for reporting in Law journals etc.: | Yes |
| ii) | Whether approved for publication in press: | Yes |

Note: For proper public information and transparency, any media reporting this judgment is directed to mention the composition of the bench by name of judges, while reporting this judgment/order.

We have heard Mr. K. Khan, learned Additional Advocate General, Dr. N. Mozika, learned Deputy Solicitor General and Mr. Yobin, learned Advocate and Amicus Curiae appointed by the court in this writ.

By our order dated 30th April, 2025 made in this public interest litigation (PIL) concerning development and expansion of the Shillong Airport, we had directed a report to be filed by the state government and the central agencies with regard to the action taken in terms of our previous orders.

Learned Additional Advocate General made submissions with great conviction and responsibility to explain why till this date acquisition by the state of the required land to facilitate this project had not been made. He submitted that the process of acquiring land has been initiated. Cabinet approval was awaited and was likely to be made soon.

What we had understood earlier from the submissions made was that land acquisition through the procedure under the Land Acquisition Act would take an inordinately long time and that for the purpose of speedy acquisition and handing over of the required land to the airport authorities, land would have to be purchased from individual owners by the state government through private treaty.

We only observe and direct that formalities to be observed are the concern of the state government. What the court mandates is that after observance of all formalities, the land should be handed over by the state to

the airport authorities not later than two months from date. If there is any impediment or difficulty in compliance with this direction, the state will bring it to the notice of this court by an application well within the period of two months. If required, we shall appoint a Special Officer or Commissioner to effect the purchase of land from the individual owners by the state, to be handed over to the airport authorities.

Learned Deputy Solicitor General submits that personnel from the office of the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) held meetings with the Shillong Airport authorities with regard to some technical matters. In that meeting, it transpired that there were some obstructions in the flight path to the airport which were required to be removed by the state. We direct the state government to hold consultation with the DGCA and do the needful also within the said period of two months.

In this period, the central government shall go ahead with the tender process for building or renovating the infrastructure of the airport to facilitate the above project so that immediately on completion of possession of the land, the work can commence.

We make this PIL returnable on 15th July, 2025 to receive separate action taken reports from the state government and central government.

We express the hope and desire that by 15th July, 2025, this project concerning the Shillong Airport will have made a substantial forward march.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(I.P. Mukerji)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
15.05.2025
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