

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

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

Date of Order :15.07.2025

Registrar General,
High Court of Meghalaya

Vs.

State of Meghalaya & ors

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, Add.Sr.GA
Mrs. S. Laloo, GA
Dr. N. Mozika, DSGI with
Ms. M. Myrchiang, Adv

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

This public interest litigation concerns development and expansion of the Shillong Airport.

By our last order dated 15th May, 2025, we had noted the efforts taken by both the State and Central governments to facilitate this project.

We made the application returnable today to receive action taken reports.

Mr. Khan, learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the State hands up to this Court today a note prepared by the State government in this matter. We direct that this note be made an annexure to an affidavit to be sworn by a competent officer of the State and filed in Court by 18th July, 2025.

On scrutiny of this note, the following are apparent.

For this project, 22 acres of land are required. According to a draft master plan, runway 4 (RWY 4) would be extended by 571 metres taking its total length to 2400 metres. On completion of this extension of RWY 4, landing operation of aircrafts would be from the runway 22 (RWY 22) and their take off from RWY 4.

Out of 22 acres of land which are required for this purpose, 10.30 acres are proposed to be acquired from the Defence authorities.

Acting on our observations and requests made in our last order, the Cabinet of the State Ministry on 4th June, 2025 approved purchase of 11.75 acres of land for ₹72,17,56,237/- by entering into sale agreements with individual land owners. The land is expected to be acquired by July, 2025.

The Ministry of Defence on 17th April, 2025 has accorded sanction to the State government to work on 10.30 acres of military land at Umroi

Military Station, Shillong on an agreement between itself and the State for transfer of land of equal value by the State to the Ministry.

Learned Deputy Solicitor General of India Dr. Mozika appearing for the Airports Authority of India on instructions from the Director Shillong Airport submits that the tender for carrying out construction, renovation and alteration of the infrastructure of the airport would be granted by the Airports Authority of India to a contractor immediately upon receipt of land from the State and Defence authorities and on obtaining the necessary environmental clearance. Dr. Mozika also submitted that his client, the Airports Authority of India would also have to remove some impediments to aircraft operation caused by the presence of mounds, trees etc. along the flight path to the airport.

On examination of this report, we find that now only the essential preliminary ground work which was required to be made for expansion and development of the Shillong Airport has been done. From now, a substantial amount of work is required to be done at appreciable pace to make the project operational in the near future. Hence, expeditious steps should be taken by all authorities concerned which include the Ministry of Defence, the State government, the Airports Authority of India and the

Director General of Civil Aviation so as to apply the necessary thrust for the project to become operational.

We make this application returnable once again on 12th August, 2025 to review the progress of the work. Short action taken reports may be filed by all authorities who are represented in Court today.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(I.P. Mukerji)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
15.07.2025
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