



HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No.16/2026

Date of order: 01.09.2026

Registrar General, High Court of Meghalaya	Vs.	State of Meghalaya
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Coram:

Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Revati Mohite Dere, Chief Justice
Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner : -

For the Respondents : Mr. A. Kumar, Advocate General with
Mr. A.S. Dey, GA
Mr. J.N. Rynjah, GA

i)	Whether approved for reporting in Law journals etc.:	Yes/No
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ii)	Whether approved for publication in press:	Yes/No
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Pursuant to the order dated 24th August, 2026, Mr. Kumar, learned Advocate General has tendered a status report on behalf of the respondent-State of Meghalaya. Case Diaries of two cases at serial Nos.7 and 8, i.e. incidents in which two vehicles of the Meghalaya High Court were damaged and a PSO and a driver therein, attacked, have also been produced for our perusal.

2. Learned Advocate General informs us that till date, 22 FIRs have been registered i.e., four cases with Shillong Sadar Police



Station; nine cases with Rynjah Police Station; seven cases with Mawlai Police Station, one case with Laitumkhrah Police Station and one case with Lumdiengjri Police Station. He states that initially three persons i.e. office bearers of KSU were arrested and thereafter, one more person, an office bearer of KSU has been arrested. He further submits that two vehicles involved in the incident have also been seized during the course of investigation and that Call Detail Records of eight suspected mobile numbers has been collected and is being analysed. He further submits that CCTV footages of 27 locations along the way have also been collected and the said footages are being analysed.

3. Having perused the report, we note, that we are not happy in the manner in which the investigation is progressing. First and foremost, we find that the procession ought not to have been allowed to proceed, as there were clear breaches of the conditions on which the permission was granted by the police i.e. the participants were wearing masks and their faces were covered despite the organisers assuring and undertaking that the participants would not wear any kind of mask or face cover during the rally and (ii) they were in breach of clause No.8, that



the participants would not be carrying sticks/lathis or any dangerous weapons. We are also informed that there was another breach of rule inasmuch as, the vehicle numbers were also covered by the participants of the rally.

4. We find that, if at the outset before the rally proceeded, if the same was stopped by the police for breach of these conditions on which the permission was granted, the incident would not have snowballed into what took place thereafter i.e., destruction of vehicles/property and assault on people.

5. As far as video recording of the procession from where it started and even thereafter is concerned, learned Advocate General seeks time to take instructions whether any videography of the same was done. Learned Advocate General to also throw light as to whether the directions given by the Apex Court in ***Tehseen S. Poonawalla v. Union of India*** reported in **(2018) 9 SCC 501** were followed. Learned Advocate General to also inform this Court, whether any police officer intervened or even attempted to stop the rally/assaults on persons/destruction/damage to property, at any point of time.



6. We also find it strange that when there were hundreds of miscreants involved in the procession, the police have been able to identify only four out of the hundreds who participated in the rally. We expect the police to identify the miscreants at the earliest and take the investigation to its logical end, so that the miscreants who assaulted/caused damage to property are not spared.

7. We are also informed that an SIT has been constituted under the leadership of the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Marak. We expect the learned Advocate General to bring this order to the notice of the Chief of the SIT, so as to enable the SIT to take prompt and appropriate steps in identifying the miscreants, who paralysed the city; vandalised statues and damaged property; and assaulted the public. We also expect the police to comply with the directions given by the Apex Court in *Tehseen S. Poonawalla's* case (supra).

8. In this view of the matter, we request, the Inspector General of Police Mr. Marak, to remain present on the next date. We also request the Superintendent of Police, East Khasi Hills



District, Shillong and the concerned Officers-in-Charge of Sadar Police Station and Lumdiengjri Police Station to remain present on the next date.

9. A fresh status report with respect to the investigation carried out to be submitted on the next date.

10. Stand over to **7th September, 2026.**

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(Revati Mohite Dere)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
01.09.2026
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