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Sl. No.1
14.10.2021
Ct. 8
Saswata/ab

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
CONSTITUTIONAL WRIT JURISDICTION
APPELLATE SIDE
(Via Video Conference)

WPA 17367 of 2021

Santanu Singha @ Santanu Sinha
Vs.
State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Debraj Sahu,
Mr. Snehasis Sen
.... For the petitioner.

Mr. S.N. Mookerjee, Ld. AG,
Mr. Anirban Roy
... For the respondent nos.1, 2, 4 & 5.

Mr. Tapan Kumar Mukherjee,
Mr. Pranab Halder,
Ms. Debjani Dasgupta
... For the respondent no. 3

Mr. Shataroop Purkayastha,
Mr. Bivas Chatterjee,
Mr. Praloy Kumar Roy
... For the respondent nos. 6-9

The grievance of the petitioner relates to an alleged display of shoes at a Puja pandal by one Dum Dum Park Bharat Chakra Club, respondent no. 6, for the ongoing Durga Puja festival.

The petitioner submits that by displaying shoes in the Puja pandal, utter disrespect has been shown to the Goddess Durga and it has hurt the religious sentiment of the people of West Bengal.

Mr. S.N. Mookerjee, learned Advocate General appears for the respondent nos. 1, 2, 4 and 5 and submits

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that the shoes have been displayed only in the thematic part of the relevant pandal, which has been decorated with shoes as a symbol of protest by the farmers, and in the sanctum sanctorum, there has been no display of any shoes. It has been, further, submitted that a distance of about 11 feet has been maintained between the said thematic part of the pandal and the part where the Goddess is being worshipped. He submits that a case has already been registered on the basis of a complaint under Sections 153A/506/34 of the Indian Penal Code by Lake Town Police Station for alleged display of shoes by the said club. The petition suggests that the petitioner came to know about such display of shoes from the social media. He did not visit the pandal physically.

At this ad-interim stage, I am not inclined to pass any order on this application for removal of the shoes since such order may amount to grant of the final relief.

The Lake Town Police Station will file a report on the next date of hearing with regard to the progress of investigation of the aforesaid case.

Let this matter be listed on 25th October, 2021 for further hearing.

(Kausik Chanda, J.)