

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No.2/2025

Date of Order : 27.02.2025

Registrar General,
High Court of Meghalaya

Vs.

State of Meghalaya

Coram:

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

Appearance:

For the Petitioner

: -

For the Respondents

: Mrs. N.G. Shylla, Sr.GA

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------|
| 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.

The learned Registrar General of this Court had placed a note dated 6th February, 2025, before the Chief Justice in his administrative capacity. In that note, he had drawn the attention of the Chief Justice to an order dated 11th December, 2024 made by the Supreme Court in *Writ Petition (C) No.304 of 2018 – Anand Arya v. Union of India* with connected matters together with an affidavit of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) filed in an earlier writ petition [*Writ Petition*

(Civil) No.230 of 2001 – M.K. Balakrishnan & ors v. Union of India & ors]. In the said order of the Supreme Court, the High Courts including this Court were requested “to treat the said affidavit as a suo motu public interest litigation where an amicus be appointed, if necessary, to assist the court so as to ensure that the Ramsar Convention sites within their jurisdiction are properly maintained”.

In other words the wetlands, if any, situated in the State had to be identified, maintained and preserved as they were considered to be of great heritage value of international importance.

By the administrative order of the Chief Justice dated 6th February, 2025, the Wetlands authority of this State was asked to furnish a report to him.

The learned Registrar General on 24th February, 2025 placed another note stating that the Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Wetland Authority by his letter dated 14th February, 2025 informed him that there was no notified Ramsar site in the State.

On receipt of this note from the learned Registrar General, the Chief Justice directed a public interest litigation to be started suo motu by the Registrar General to seek confirmation of the above assertion of the Wetlands authority and for other directions in compliance with the said order of the Supreme Court.

Therefore, let a PIL be registered on the basis of the said affidavit of the Central government in *Writ Petition (Civil) No.230 of 2001 – M.K. Balakrishnan & ors v. Union of India & ors*.

The Registrar General is directed to serve copies of the papers on the State, learned Advocate General, learned Deputy Solicitor General of

India, Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Wetland Authority and the Chief Conservator of Forests (Administration), Department of Forests and Environment, Government of Meghalaya by 7th March, 2025.

List this PIL once again on 12th March, 2025.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(I.P. Mukerji)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
27.02.2025
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