Serial No. 04
Daily List

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No. 4 of 2024

Date of order: 30.08.2025

Kaustav Paul vs The 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 : Ms K. Decruse, Adv.
Mr S. Khyriem, Adv
Mr B. Snaitang, Adv.

For the Respondents : Mr A. Kumar, AG with
Ms R. Colney, GA
Mr E.R. Chyne, 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.

In this public interest litigation, learned Advocate General has brought to our notice a judgment and order of the Supreme Court in ***City Hounded by Strays, Kids Pay Price*** reported in ***2025 SCC Online SC 1792***. He has particularly drawn our attention to paragraph 36 which is set out below:

> "**36.** We are also informed that numerous writ petitions/*suo moto* petitions are pending in various High courts, more or less

> dealing with common issues. Hence, the Registry shall seek information about such pending writ petitions from the Registrar Generals of all the High Courts, and thereafter, these writ petitions shall stand transferred to this Court for analogous consideration along with the main matter."

Although many issues may be common between petitions concerning stray dogs in other High Courts and in the Supreme Court, we feel that it is our duty to point out that in this State there is peculiarly distinctiveness in the menace posed by stray dogs.

We have been specifically told that quite a number of stray street dogs are biter dogs and very vicious in nature. In roads, streets and other public places they attack persons suddenly and at times causing grave injury.

Having heard those submissions in this public interest litigation, we had, inter alia, directed those dogs to be taken hold of by the public authorities, inoculated, vaccinated medically attended to and then kept in shelters for observation before setting them free. With dogs of this nature, freeing them without satisfaction that they have ceased to be biter dogs, and allowing them to frequent public places would pose grave danger to the public.

In those circumstances, we direct the Registrar General of this Court to make a formal application before the Supreme Court on the

basis of this order and seek appropriate directions with regard to retention of this public interest litigation in this Court. We strongly recommend that a public interest litigation of this character and nature be retained in this Court because of its peculiar and distinctive feature.

List this public interest litigation on 15th October, 2025 to receive a report from the Registrar General.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(I.P. Mukerji)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
30.08.2025
"Sylvana PS"