



Serial No.06
Regular List

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

MC[WP(C)]. 147 of 2026 in
WP(C). No. 183 of 2025

Date of Order: 21.05.2026

Shri. Kyrshon Marbaniang & Anr. Vs. State of Meghalaya & Ors.

Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.S.Thangkhiew, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner/Applicant(s) : Mr. N.Syngkon, Adv.
Ms. L.Phanjom, Adv.

For the Respondent(s) : Mr. N.D.Chullai, AAG with
Ms. Z.E.Nongkynrih, GA for R 1, 5-7.
Ms. P.S.Nongbri, Adv. for R 2.
Mr. L.Khyriem, Adv with
Mr. W.Jyrwa, Adv. for R 3.
Mr. K.Paul, Sr. Adv. with
Mr. R.K.Synrem, Adv. for R 4.
Mr. R.J.Kharjanrin, Adv. for R 8.

1. This instant matter concerning the religious rituals of Ka leh niam Raid Myllem has again received the attention of this Court by way of the instant misc. case, wherein a prayer has been made for suspension of the rituals which was scheduled to be held on 19-05-2026 on the reason that all the Myntri of 5 Kur 11 Kur of Hima Myllem who are to facilitate and conduct the rituals belong to the Christian faith, and therefore by their faith



have become incapacitated to perform these rituals which are of and belong to the indigenous Niam Khasi faith.

2. This Court, by order dated 18-05-2026, considering the sensitivity of the matter was then pleased to stay the performance of the said ceremony on 19-05-2026 while calling for notices to be issued to the parties concerned. As such, the matter is before this Court today. Before advertng to the submissions made by the learned counsel for the parties, it is to be noted that every year in Raid Myllem, the ceremony known as “Leh Niam Riad Myllem” is conducted, and which has been contended by the applicants that only persons/representatives belonging to the Niam Khasi faith from the 5 Kur 11 Kur can take part. It is also to be noted that as per prevailing custom, in the conduct of the rituals or ceremonies of the leh niam Raid Myllem, the responsibility vests with the 5 Kur 11 Kur to prepare and to conduct these rituals. The only question that arises now is the apprehension and sentiments of the indigenous followers of the Niam Khasi faith that in the participation of converts in conducting the rituals, the same will diminish or remove the religious significance and sanctity attached to such rituals. It is also noted that last year in 2025, a similar situation had arisen, whereby on the intervention of this Court and on an understanding between the parties, the rituals were performed and the 5 Kur 11 Kur on that occasion had nominated members from their Kur who were not converts to perform the rituals.



3. Today also, the same situation has arisen wherein a prayer has been made that, to ensure the sanctity of the rituals, the 5 Kur 11 Kur perhaps nominate only members who have not converted to Christianity or other faiths and who still profess Niam Khasi faith to perform the rituals. They have no objection to the presence of Myntris who also have made all the arrangements for conduct of the ceremonies.

4. The learned counsels have also advanced their arguments, especially Mr. K.Paul, learned Sr. counsel with Mr. R.K.Synrem, learned counsel on behalf of the respondent No. 4, who have outlined the importance of the 5 Kur 11 Kur in these proceedings. Submissions have also been made on behalf of the respondent No. 3 Hima Myllem, as well as inputs from the learned AAG for the State respondents on the situation.

5. On hearing the parties and in order to ensure that the rituals are carried out in a peaceful manner and not to offend the sensitivities of any group while keeping in mind the necessity of adherence to the traditions, rituals and customs, on the observation and suggestions from this Court, the learned counsels have agreed to work to its objective.

6. Accordingly, Mr. R.K.Synrem, learned counsel is therefore directed to apprise the respondent No. 4, 5 Kur 11 Kur for nomination of the members of the said Kur who are not converts to perform the rituals in consultation with the Lyngdoh Raid Myllem. It is also made clear that these directions are being passed considering the fact that the rituals and ceremonies as



informed, have to be conducted within this month itself, and to prevent any untoward incident from arising.

7. List this matter tomorrow i.e. 22-05-2026 for instructions.

Judge

Meghalaya
21.05.2026
"Samantha PS"