VERDICTUM.IN

HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM : GANGTOK

CNR No. SKHC010002742026

Record of Proceedings

WP(C) No.85 of 2026

BEBIKA CHETTRI PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM RESPONDENT(S)

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Sri Ram Subramaniam, Senior Advocate (through VC), Mr. Abhinav Kant Jha and Ms. Ankita Giri, Advocates.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. N. Rai, Senior Advocate with Mr. Kazi Sangay Thupden and Mr. Sogyal Topden Norbu, Advocates.

Date : 18/11/2026

CORAM

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A. MUHAMED MUSTAQUE, CHIEF JUSTICE

FINAL ORDER

1. The Petitioner has been suspended while officiating as a District Judge, Soreng. She was under suspension from 13.06.2026 onwards. In an earlier order of this Court, it was directed that if enquiry is not completed within three months, she shall be reinstated, provided that she co-operates.

2. The High Court administration observed that she failed to co-operate, leading to the decision against reinstatement upon the expiry of the three-month period. Conversely, the Learned Senior Counsel for the Petitioner contends that no fault lies with her, explaining that the delay arose because her request to appoint a defense officer of her choice was turned down.

3. Learned instructing Senior Counsel for the Respondent submits at the BAR that the enquiry is nearly complete and currently scheduled for final arguments. Since all witnesses have been examined and the disciplinary proceedings have reached their concluding stage, the suspension need not be continued for the purpose of completing the enquiry, regardless of whether there was any lapse or lack of cooperation on her part. Accordingly, the Petitioner shall be reinstated forthwith, subject to the final outcome of the disciplinary proceedings. Nevertheless, given the nature of

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the allegations, the decision as to whether the Petitioner may be assigned judicial duties rests with the High Court Administration. The disciplinary proceedings are to be concluded within one month, and the Petitioner shall fully cooperate to ensure their completion within the specified timeframe.

4. With the above directions, this Writ Petition stands disposed of.

Chief Justice

avi/arc