

SL. No.	Date	Office Notes, reports, orders or proceedings or directions and Registrar's order with Signatures	COURT'S OR JUDGE'S ORDERS
	24.03.2026		<p>SPLA No.28 of 2026 With GA No.20 of 2026 <u>Hon'ble Ravindra Maithani, J.</u> <u>Hon'ble Siddhartha Sah, J.</u></p> <p>Mr. Siddhartha Bisht, learned AGA for the State/appellant.</p> <p>2. On 23rd March, 2026, when the present appeal was taken up, which has been preferred by the State against the acquittal of the respondent, Sheeba @ Seema, recorded in Sessions Trial No. 68 of 2023, State vs. Arshad and others, by the Court of the 1st Additional Sessions Judge, Dehradun, the Court noted that, in fact, by the same impugned judgment, more than one convict has been sentenced to death.</p> <p>3. The Court enquired as to where the death reference is pending. Yesterday, a report was submitted to this Court stating that no criminal reference has been registered in this matter. In fact, the Section Officer of the Criminal Appeal Section has given the following report:–</p> <p>“With due respect it is to inform that only Criminal Appeals No.503 of 2025, 564 of 2025, 565 of 2026, 566 of 2025, 575 of 2025 & Government Appeal No.20 of 2026 have been filed with the FIR No.216 of 2022, Police Station Cantt. Dehradun (Sessions trial 68 of 2023) in this Hon'ble High Court and no criminal Reference has registered in this matter.”</p> <p>4. After receipt of the report of the Section Officer, this Court required the Registrar (Judicial) of this Court to submit a report, directing that if the reference had not been received, an enquiry be conducted as to why the record has not been received from the trial court. This Court so directed</p>

because the impugned judgment records that the entire record be submitted to this Court for confirmation of the death sentence.

5. Now, a report has been received from the Registrar (Judicial), dated 24th March, 2026, recording that, in fact, the death reference had already been preferred by the concerned court on 30th August, 2025, and had been received in this Court. However, since it was received along with the trial court record, which had been called for in another criminal appeal, the death reference could not be attended to.

6. This is a serious lapse. Responsibility has to be fixed as to who failed to act upon the death reference dated 30th August, 2025, received from the trial court.

7. Therefore, we direct the Registrar General of this Court to conduct an inquiry in this matter, so as to fix responsibility as to who is the person responsible for not registering the death reference as forwarded by the trial court on 30th August, 2025.

8. Let the death reference be also registered and placed before this Court on 1st April, 2026, along with the instant appeal.

(Siddhartha Sah, J.)

(Ravindra Maithani, J.)

24.03.2026

BS