

18.06.2026
05 Court No. 05
(DL) (Suwendu Mukherjee)

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

CONSTITUTIONAL WRIT JURISDICTION

(APPELLATE SIDE)

WPA 13483 of 2026

**All India Lawyers Union,
Calcutta High Court Committee & Anr
-Versus -**

State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Malay Bhattacharyya
Mr. Siddhartha Sankar Mondal
Mr. Shamim Ahammed
Mr. Rajitlal Maitra
Mr. Arka Maiti
Ms. Saloni Bhattacharjee
Ms. Ambiya Khatun
Ms. Gulsanwara Parvin
Ms. Reshma Khatun
Mr. Subhrajit Saha

....for the petitioners

Mr. Billwadal Bhattacharyya, Ld. AAG
Mr. Suryaneel Das, Ld. AGP
Ms. Sabita Roy
Mr. Argha Chatterjee

...for the State respondents

1) Matter is heard in view of urgency as it is canvassed on behalf of the lawyers' organization namely All India Lawyers Union and its President being the petitioner nos. 1 and 2 that members of the organization are finding it difficult to reach High Court for performing their professional work in view of closure of Red Road for the period from 14th June,

2026 at 22.00 hours to 21st June, 2026 to observe International Day of Yoga, 2026.

2) Mr. Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya, learned Senior Advocate representing the petitioners has drawn attention of this Court to notification dated 14th June, 2026 being no. TP/28 issued by the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata thereby imposing blanket restriction to commute vehicles through Red Road from 14th June, 2026 at 22.00 hours to 21st June, 2026 by referring certain provisions of the Calcutta Police Act and the Calcutta Suburban Police Act read with Regulations of Traffic in Kolkata and the West Bengal Traffic Regulations Act, 1965. It is contended on behalf of the petitioners that Commissioner of Police, Kolkata is not empowered to impose such blanket restriction to use a main thoroughfare of the city i.e. Red Road for a prolonged period i.e. from 14th June, 2026 to 21st June, 2026. Prayer is made in this writ petition to set aside this notification dated 14th June, 2026 thereby permitting the members of the lawyers' organization to use Red Road to reach High Court and to return back to their residence at the end of their work. As an interim measure, it is also proposed on behalf of the petitioners to keep a portion of Red Road open for public use which would facilitate the members of the organization to reach their place of work i.e. High Court.

3) Mr. Billwadal Bhattacharyya, learned Additional Advocate General representing the State respondents

has opposed this writ petition primarily on the ground of maintainability of this writ petition in its present form. It is contended that petitioners ought to have approached the Court by filing Public Interest Litigation for greater interest of city dwellers since this writ petition is preferred seeking direction which would permit the city dwellers to use aforesaid main thoroughfare by lifting restriction as imposed vide impugned memo dated 14th June, 2026. It is also submitted on behalf of the State respondents that alternative route is prescribed for the city dwellers for their use and pedestrian movement on Red Road is not restricted.

4) Another limb of submission made on behalf of the State respondents is Red Road belongs to Defence and for any tweaking of traffic movement requires nod from Defence. According to the State respondents, Defence ought to have been made party to this writ petition.

5) In view of submissions made on behalf of the respective parties, Court finds that as validity and propriety of the notification dated 14th June, 2026 issued by the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata is questioned, issue needs to be delved into after calling for affidavits.

6) Let affidavit-in-opposition to this writ petition be filed by three weeks from date. Reply, if any, be filed by one week thereafter.

7) Parties shall be at liberty to mention the matter before the appropriate Bench for hearing after the time fixed hereinabove for exchanging affidavits.

8) Police Administration is directed to make alternative arrangements which would facilitate not only the members of the petitioner organization but city dwellers at large to use such alternative roads/ thoroughfares to reach their place of work during rest of the period when Red Road will remain closed. After the event is organized on 21st June, 2026 Police Authorities are directed to take immediate steps thereafter for freeing the Red Road for public use.

9) Learned advocate for the petitioners is granted leave to amend the cause-title of the writ petition and add concerned authority of the Eastern Command, Ministry of Defence as additional respondent in course of this day. After such amendment is carried out, learned advocate for the petitioners is directed to serve copy of the amended writ petition and the order passed today upon the additional respondent by seven days from date.

(Saugata Bhattacharyya, J.)