

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL)..... Diary No(s).19206/2023

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 27-03-2023 in WP(C) No.229/2023 passed by the High Court of Manipur at Imphal]

DINGANGLUNG GANGMEI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

MUTUM CHURAMANI MEETEI & ORS.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 194232/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No.100067/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT, IA No. 96003/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT, IA No. 96000/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No. 147906/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION, IA No. 144564/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION, IA No. 155289/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No.100064/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 194233/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 155292/2023 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON, IA No. 96002/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, IA No. 147907/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION, IA No. 96001/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE PETITION (SLP/TP/WP/..)

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 540/2023 (PIL-W)

- IA No. 103548/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
- IA No. 130954/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
- IA No. 115711/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
- IA No. 155266/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
- IA No. 93882/2024 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
- IA No. 185454/2023 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
- IA No. 154999/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION
- IA No. 154824/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION
- IA No. 154823/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION
- IA No. 157612/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION
- IA No. 155582/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION
- IA No. 100121/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
- IA No. 195814/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
- IA No. 144163/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
- IA No. 142916/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
- IA No. 104041/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
- IA No. 155427/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
- IA No. 104107/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

W.P.(CrI.) No. 329/2023 (PIL-W)

- IA No. 23846/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
- IA No. 159270/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

IA No. 23845/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

Diary No(s). 19210/2023 (XV)

IA No. 96006/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT, IA No.96004/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No. 96007/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, IA No. 96005/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE PETITION (SLP/TP/WP/..)

W.P.(C) No. 572/2023 (PIL-W)

**IA No. 138502/2025 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 104680/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 154993/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 144180/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 142744/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 104681/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 104131/2023 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF
IA No. 154986/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 142741/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 196140/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES**

W.P.(C) No. 574/2023 (X)

**IA No. 104941/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 104939/2023 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF**

W.P.(C) No. 576/2023 (PIL-W)

**IA No. 134039/2023 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 113486/2023 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 167211/2023 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 105227/2023 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF**

W.P.(Crl.) No. 321/2023 (PIL-W)

IA No. 143696/2023 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON

W.P.(Crl.) No. 327/2023 (X)

IA No. 146436/2023 - APPLICATION FOR FILING THE PETITION WITHOUT DISCLOSING THE IDENTITY OF THE PETITIONER/RESPONDENT, IA No.146435/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

W.P.(C) No. 841/2023 (X)

W.P.(C) No. 823/2023 (X)

W.P.(C) No. 802/2023 (X)

IA No. 154036/2023 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF

W.P.(C) No. 875/2023 (X)

IA No. 165144/2023 - EX-PARTE AD-INTERIM RELIEF

CONMT.PET.(C) No. 1257/2023 (XV)

CONMT.PET.(C) No. 100/2024 (XV)

Date : 26-02-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Henry Ahanthem, Adv.
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Mr. Maitreya Mahaley, Adv.
Mr. Yimyanger Longkumer, Adv.
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Mr. Chipika Zhimo, Adv.
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Mr. Joshua Haokip, Adv.
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Mr. Ashish Kumar Singh, Adv.
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Ms. Vrinda Grover, Adv.
Ms. Akriti Chaubey, AOR
Ms. Devika Tulsiani, Adv.
Mr. Soutik Banerjee, Adv.
Mr. John Simte, Adv.

Mr. Javedur Rahman, AOR

Petitioner-in-person

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Mr. Kailash Pandey, Adv.

Mr. Ranjeet Singh, AOR

Applicant-in-person

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. The instant batch of cases has arisen after the unfortunate acts of violence and series of heinous offences that took place in the State of Manipur. Various orders have been passed by this Court from time to time, *inter alia*, for the purpose of:

(i) Entrusting the investigation of some of the cases to the CBI.

(ii) Constituting SIT in other cases, where the Manipur Police is the Investigating Agency;

(iii) Mr. Dattatray Padsalgikar, former Director General of Police, Maharashtra, was appointed on 07.08.2023 to oversee the investigation by the CBI, ensuring it is fair and completes within the set timeframe. He was also authorised to deploy external officers on deputation for forming SITs to visit relief camps and implement sexual offence safeguards, along with various other duties.

(iv) A committee led by a former Chief Justice of the High Court was also constituted, with the task of recommending measures to ensure medical and psychological care, dignity in relief camps, and compensation or restitution, including monitoring the disbursement of compensation through NALSA/SALSA.

(v) In line with the assigned task, Mr. Dattatray Padsalgikar has submitted the 12th status report dated 18.02.2026. According to this report, the Government of Manipur established 36 SITs across 8 districts to investigate serious offences and riot cases. Additionally, 31 cases of heinous crimes were handed over to the CBI for investigation. Of these 31 cases, charge-sheets have been

filed in 20, 5 Final Reports have been filed (i.e., cancelled), and investigation into the remaining six cases is still ongoing, with completion expected within 6 months.

2. We are informed that pursuant to this Court's order, trials were directed to be transferred out of the State of Manipur to Guwahati, Assam, and the proceedings are pending there. As is disclosed by Mr. Dattatray Padsalgikar, out of 31 cases entrusted to it, CBI has already filed charge-sheets in 20 cases. It seems to us that the victims/families of the victims are entitled to have copies of the charge-sheets filed in their respective cases in conformity with Section 193(3)(h)(ii) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. As it appears from the submissions made on their behalf before us, the victim or their families are not even aware of the filing of the charge-sheets, for the simple reason that while they are still staying in the State of Manipur, the judicial proceedings are ongoing in the Court at Guwahati, Assam. With a view to facilitate participation of the victims or their family members in the trial proceedings, where the charge-sheets have already been filed, we issue the following directions:

(i) The Manipur State Legal Services Authority/Assam State Legal Services Authority are directed to provide one legal aid counsel to each victim or their families. It is highly desirable that the legal aid counsel understands the local language/dialect of the victim or their families and is in a position to communicate with them.

(ii) The legal aid counsel, if appointed from the State of Manipur, shall be entitled to travelling and boarding expenses in addition

to the fee prescribed under the free legal aid rules. The travelling and boarding expenses shall, in the first instance, be borne by the Manipur State Legal Services Authority. In the event that adequate funds are not available with the said Authority, we request the National Legal Services Authority to allocate the requisite additional funds from the legal aid corpus.

(iii) Similarly, the victim and one of their family members shall also be entitled to travel and personally participate in the trial proceedings in Guwahati. The expenditure incurred towards travelling and boarding of the victim or one accompanying family member shall be treated as expenditure incurred for the purpose of legal aid.

(iv) The legal aid counsel, representing the victim or their families, shall be entitled to assist the Trial Court through the public prosecutor or independently, as per the prevailing situation.

(v) Since we have not perused the contents of the charge-sheets already filed, and in any case, we do not intend to express any opinion on the merits of the cases investigated so far by CBI, the victim or their families shall be at liberty to raise all the contentions before the Special Judge at Guwahati.

(vi) Mr. Dattatray Padsalgikar is requested to ensure that the SIT or CBI complete their investigation within the stipulated period. In the event of the filing of a charge-sheet in the remaining cases also, the same recourse as directed above shall be followed.

3. The learned Attorney General for India informs that the CBI has filed its progress report in a sealed cover.

4. The Registry is directed to produce that sealed cover to enable us to go through those reports.

5. It is recommended that the statements of the victim or their families may be recorded virtually instead of asking them to travel to Guwahati for the purpose of deposition.

6. At this stage, it is pointed out by the learned Attorney General for India that no remuneration/honorarium has been fixed for the three-Member Committee constituted by this Court vide order dated 07.08.2023. The three-member Committee comprises Justice Gita Mittal, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Shalini Phansalkar, former Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay and Justice Asha Menon, former Judge of the High Court of Delhi. We are equally disappointed to know that no reimbursement for their travelling and boarding expenses has been made so far. While requesting through Mr. Vibha Datta Makhija, learned Senior Counsel, as to how much expenditure has already been incurred on the travelling and boarding, we deem it appropriate to direct as an interim measure to release a sum of Rs.12 lakhs to Justice Gita Mittal and Rs.10 lakhs each to Justice Shalini Phansalkar and Justice Asha Menon towards estimated expenditure incurred so far or likely to be incurred in future towards boarding and lodging. As for the honorarium, we intend to fix the same separately, after due deliberation.

7. As of now, the aforesaid amount may be released by the Union of India. However, the same shall subsequently be apportioned proportionately between the Union and the State of Manipur. Similarly, a sum of Rs.10 lakhs be also released to Mr. Dattatray

Padsalgikar, former Director General of Police, Maharashtra.

8. Post this matter for further consideration on 24.03.2026.

W.P.(C) No.823/2023 (It.38.10)

9. Learned counsel for the petitioner(s) seeks and is permitted to withdraw this petition with liberty to approach the jurisdictional High Court.

10. The Writ Petition is, accordingly, dismissed as withdrawn with liberty as aforesaid.

CONMT.PET.(C) No.100/2024 (It.38.14)

11. Learned counsel for the petitioner(s) submits that this petition has become infructuous. The same is, accordingly, dismissed as having become infructuous.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR