



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL**

PIL No. 13 of 2026

- 1. The Development for Hills**, a society/regd. Organization bearing Regd. No. 100/UD/SR/1992, having its registered office at Mayophung Village, Ukhrul District, Manipur-795145, through its President namely Shri L. Diamond, aged about 70 years old, S/o Lungshi, a resident of Lambui Village, Grihang, Ukhrul Litan, P.O. & P.S. Litan, Ukhrul District, Manipur-795145.
- 2. Socio-Economic and Cultural Development Organisation (SEACDO)** bearing Regd. No. 5350 of 1984, having its registered Head Office at Kanankhu Village, Chandel District, Manipur -795127, through its President namely Shri Tongsin Beton, aged about 69 years old, s/o Ts Bethung Anal, a resident of Kanankhu Village, Chandel Sub-Division, P.O & P.S. Chandel, Chandel District, Manipur -795127.
- 3. Mapithel Arts and Culture** being Regd. No. 06/KMJ/SR/2020, having its registered Head Office at Chadong Village, P.O. & P.S. Litan, Kamjong District, Manipur -795145, through its President namely Shri Mothel Saka, aged about 58 years old, S/o Khongin Saka, a resident of Thawai Village, Thawai(T), P.O & P.S. Litan, Kamjong District, Manipur -795145.

...Petitioner/s

Vrs.

1. The Union of India represented by the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, Kartavya Bhawan-01, Kartavya Path, Rajpath Area, Central Secretariat, New Delhi-110001.
2. The State of Manipur represented by its Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, Secretariat Complex, Mantripukhri, P.O. Mantripukhri & P.S. Heingang, Imphal East District, Manipur-795002.
3. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Commissioner, Tribal Affairs & Hills Department, Government of Manipur, Imphal, Secretariat Complex, Mantripukhri, P.O. Mantripukhri & P.S. Heingang, Imphal East District, Manipur-795002.

4. The Director, Tribal Affairs & Hills, Government of Manipur, Imphal having its office at Babupara, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur-795001.

...Respondent/s

MC(PIL) No. 15 of 2026

1. **The Development for Hills**, a society/regd. Organization bearing Regd. No. 100/UD/SR/1992, having its registered office at Mayophung Village, Ukhrul District, Manipur-795145, through its President namely Shri L. Diamond, aged about 70 years old, S/o Lungshi, a resident of Lambui Village, Grihang, Ukhrul Litan, P.O. & P.S. Litan, Ukhrul District, Manipur-795145.
2. **Socio-Economic and Cultural Development Organisation (SEACDO)** bearing Regd. No. 5350 of 1984, having its registered Head Office at Kanankhu Village, Chandel District, Manipur - 795127, through its President namely Shri Tongsin Beton, aged about 69 years old, s/o Ts Bethung Anal, a resident of Kanankhu Village, Chandel Sub-Division, P.O & P.S. Chandel, Chandel District, Manipur -795127.
3. **Mapithel Arts and Culture** being Regd. No. 06/KMJ/SR/2020, having its registered Head Office at Chadong Village, P.O. & P.S. Litan, Kamjong District, Manipur -795145, through its President namely Shri Mothel Saka, aged about 58 years old, S/o Khongin Saka, a resident of Thawai Village, Thawai(T), P.O & P.S. Litan, Kamjong District, Manipur -795145.

...Applicant/s

Vrs.

1. The Union of India represented by the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, Kartavya Bhawan-01, Kartavya Path, Rajpath Area, Central Secretariat, New Delhi-110001.
2. The State of Manipur represented by its Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, Secretariat Complex, Mantripukhri, P.O. Mantripukhri & P.S. Heingang, Imphal East District, Manipur-795002.
3. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Commissioner, Tribal Affairs & Hills Department, Government of Manipur, Imphal, Secretariat Complex, Mantripukhri, P.O. Mantripukhri & P.S. Heingang, Imphal East District, Manipur-795002.
4. The Director, Tribal Affairs & Hills, Government of Manipur, Imphal having its office at Babupara, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur-795001.

...Respondent/s

B E F O R E

**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. M. SUNDAR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHANTHEM BIMOL SINGH**

For the petitioner	::	Mr. N. Jotendro, Senior Advocate instructed by Md. Abdul Bagee Khan, Advocate
For the respondents	::	Mr. S. Chittaranjan, Addl.AG along with Mr. Y. Max, Advocate
Date of Judgment & Order	::	05-08-2026

JUDGMENT & ORDER
(ORAL)

(Order of the Court was made by the Hon'ble Chief Justice)

[1] The following abbreviations/short forms have been used in this order (for sake of brevity, convenience and clarity):

Sl. No.	Abbreviation/Short Form/other short references	Full Form/Expansion
1.	R-1	First Respondent
2.	R-2	Second Respondent
3.	R-3	Third Respondent
4.	R-4	Fourth Respondent
5.	PIL	Public Interest Litigation
6.	MC	Miscellaneous Case
7.	CGSC	Central Government Standing Counsel
8.	Addl.AG	Additional Advocate General for the State of Manipur (Mr. S. Chittaranjan)
9.	RTI	Right to Information
10.	RTI Act.	The Right to Information Act, 2005 (22 of 2005)

[2] Mr. N. Jotendro, learned senior advocate instructed by Md. Abdul Bagee Khan, learned counsel on record for PIL petitioners who are also MC applicants is before this Court (Physical Court).

[3] Subject matter of captioned PIL is grants from the Union to the State of Manipur which shall be charged on Consolidated Fund of India as grants-in-aid vide Article 275(1) of Constitution of India for the financial years 2025-2026 onwards.

[4] Case of the PIL petitioners is that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India has issued Revised Guidelines dated 30-12-2025 for allocation of funds and implementation of programs/activities vide Article 275 of the Constitution of India and the Proviso thereat. PIL petitioners, after taking the RTI route and getting details *inter alia* pertaining to construction of ten multipurpose-cum-community halls and the beneficiary selection list under livelihood scheme have come to this Court complaining *inter alia* of lack of parity in allocation/implementation by State Government.

[5] Five representations dated 02-05-2026; 26-05-2026; 03-06-2026; 03-06-2026, received by Addl. Chief Secretary/Chief Secretary on the same dates itself and one undated representation which was received by Addl. Chief Secretary on 26-05-2026, (collectively referred to as 'said representations' for the sake of convenience and clarity) have been sent on the afore-referred subject but there is no response and this has necessitated the filing of captioned PIL together with captioned MC thereat is learned counsel's say.

[6] Issue notice.

[7] Mr. S. Chittaranjan, learned Addl. A.G. for State of Manipur along with Mr. Y. Max, learned State counsel who are present in this Court accept notice for R-2 to R-4. Mr. S. Kaminikumar, learned Central Government Standing Counsel (CGSC) accepts notice for R-1.

[8] To be noted, at this juncture this Court deems it appropriate to write that it is to be noted that as regards the captioned matter, R-1 is more in the nature of a formal party being grantor *qua* grants *vide* Article 275(1).

[9] As regards R-2 to R-4, learned Addl. A.G. for the State of Manipur submits that said representations shall be examined and R-3 (The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Commissioner, Tribal Affairs & Hills Department, Government of Manipur) will make proceedings/orders on the same.

[10] In the light of the afore-referred fair stand taken by the learned Addl. A.G., learned senior counsel for PIL petitioners, on instructions, descopes the prayers in captioned PIL (for the present) and submits that the proceedings/orders *qua* said representations to be made by R-3 may please be directed to be made within a time frame with a further direction to serve the same on the counsel on record for PIL petitioners.

[11] In the light of the narrative thus far, with the consent of the learned senior counsel and counsel on both sides, main PIL is taken up in the admission Board itself dispensing with the need to file an affidavit-in-opposition and also give a closure to the main PIL *vide* directions which shall be set out *infra*.

[12] Before doing so, this Court deems it appropriate to set out the scanned reproduction of said representations (5 representations) and the same are as follows:



36-18 OFFICE OF THE
DEVELOPMENT FOR HILLS (Hills)

Govt. Registered No. 100/UD/SR/1992

Registered Office Address: Mawphlang Village, Imphal District, Manipur - 795143

Annexure A/2

02/05/26

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary,
Government of Manipur,
Imphal

Subject: Request for immediate action to cancel and re-examine for inequitable distribution of funds under articles 275 (1) grants for developmental works and livelihood schemes/ projects, Tribal Affairs and Hills, Govt. of Manipur.

Respected Sir,

We, the undersigned, Development for Hills, writes to express our deep concern regarding the bias attitude and inequitable distribution of funds under Article 275(1) by the current concern Minister, Tribal Affairs & Hills.

That, while hoping for equal share / development and upliftment of poor tribals in the state the bias attitude of the current minister, Tribal Affairs and Hills, Manipur is very unfortunate. During this, such a fragile situation, distribution of developmental funds and schemes are not equal by allotting all developmental funds and livelihood schemes/ projects under article 275 (1) only for Kangpokpi and Churachandpur district. Therefore, it is like pouring fuel to the flames, instead of healing division.

Mention may be made below:

1. 10 Nos. of Multipurpose - Cum - Community Hall, all have been allotted to Kangpokpi district alone.
2. Livelihood scheme: (1) Churachandpur 222 household, (2) Kangpokpi 380 household, (3) Senapati 118 household, (4) Ukhrul 80 household, (5) Tamenglong household 80, (6) Kamjong household 40, (7) Chandel household 40, (8) Tengnoupal household 40, (9) Noney household 40, (10) Pherzawl household 20.

This clearly shows the bias attitude of the concern minister which is not acceptable and unconstitutional also, which is totally contradictory to the central policies for the good governance of the nation. Therefore, it needs immediate action and re-examine for equal share under article 275 (1) tribal affairs and hills, government of Manipur, so that, equal share and development in the hills can be achieved. Failing which we may approach to high court for justice.

Therefore sir, your kind consideration and immediate intervention in this regards would definitely bring equitable growth and governance in the state.
I shall ever remain thankful.

Enclosed copy of prioritized proposal approved by PAC for Manipur.

TRUE COPY

Advocate

Copy to:

1. PS to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Manipur
2. Director, Tribal Affairs & Hills

Yours faithfully,

L. Diamond
(L. DIAMOND)

President

Development for Hills

#8974686200

Office of the

Addl. Chief Secy (Tribal Affairs)

R.R. 825

Date 02-05-2026

Sun. M. Baby Devi
Suth Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regt. No. 803/2028

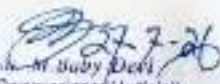
- 37-19 -

Prioritized Proposals Approved by PAC: Manipur

Annexure V

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Total Cost 2025-26 & 2026-2027	Amount Sought for 2025-2026 & 2026-2027	Proposed Target.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
A:	CAPITAL			
1.	Construction of Multipurpose cum Community Hall in the hill areas of Manipur.	450.00	450.00	10 nos.
2.	Construction of Pedestrian Suspension Bridge in the hill areas of Manipur.	220.00	220.00	5 nos.
3.	Construction of Inter village road in the hill area of Manipur.	45.00	45.00	1 nos.
4.	Livelihood	1070.00	1070.00	99 nos.
	GRAND TOTAL:-	1785.00	1785.00	

TRUE COPY
for
Advocate


Anil M. Dubey
Oath Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regd. No. 609/2026



78 OFFICE OF THE
DEVELOPMENT FOR HILLS

Chief Secretary's Office, Imphal, Manipur

Imphal, Manipur

RECEIVED
R.R. No. 61774
Date 24/12/2026

To,

The Chief Secretary/Vigilance Commissioner,
Government of Manipur,
Imphal

→ P 26526 421
26526

Subject: Request to enquire for inequitable distribution of funds under articles 275 (1) grants for developmental works and livelihood schemes/ projects, Tribal Affairs and Hills, Govt. of Manipur.

Respected Sir,

We, the undersigned, Development for Hills, writes to express our deep concern regarding the bias attitude and inequitable distribution of funds under Article 275(1) by the current concern Minister, Tribal Affairs & Hills.

That, while hoping for equal share / development and upliftment of poor tribals in the state, the bias attitude of the current minister, Tribal Affairs and Hills, Manipur is very unfortunate. During this, such a fragile situation, distribution of developmental funds and schemes are not equal by allotting all developmental funds and livelihood schemes/ projects under article 275 (1) only for Kangpokpi and Churachandpur district. Therefore, it is like pouring fuel to the flames, instead of healing division.

Mention may be made below:

1. 10 Nos. of Multipurpose - Cum - Community Hall, all have been allotted to Kangpokpi district alone.
2. Livelihood scheme: (1) Churachandpur 222 household, (2) Kangpokpi 380 household, (3) Senapati 118 household, (4) Ukhrul 80 household, (5) Tamenglong household 80, (6) Kamjong household 40, (7) Chandel household 40, (8) Tengnoupal household 40, (9) Noney household 40, (10) Phozawl household 20.

This clearly shows the bias attitude of the concern minister which is not acceptable and unconstitutional also, which is totally contradictory to the central policies for the good governance of the nation. Therefore, it needs immediate enquiry and initiate appropriate action for the welfare of the tribals in the state.

Therefore sir, your kind consideration and immediate intervention in this regards would definitely bring equitable growth and governance in the state.
I shall ever remain thankful.

Copy to:

1. PS to Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Manipur
2. Director, Tribal Affairs & Hills

Office of the
Chief Secretary
R.R.
Date

Yours faithfully,

(L. DIAMOND)

President

Development for Hills
#8974686200

27.7.26
J. B. B. B. B. B.
Joint Commissioner (Judiciary)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regd. No. 609/2026

TRUE COPY
Address



OFFICE OF THE
MAPITHEL ARTS AND CULTURE

Registration No. 06/KMJ/SR/2020
under Manipur Societies Registration Act, 1989
Chadong Village, P.O. & P.S. Litan, Kamjong District, Manipur - 795145

Ref. No.

RECEIVED
R.R. No. 25/5/2026
Date 25/5/2026

Date 26/05/26

Chief Secretary's Office
R.R. No. 422
Date 26.5.26

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Tribal Affairs & Hills, Government of Manipur, Imphal.

Subject: Request to enquire for inequitable distribution of funds under articles 275 (1) grants for developmental works and livelihood schemes/ projects, Tribal Affairs and Hills, Govt. of Manipur.

Respected Sir,

We, the undersigned, Mapithel Arts and Culture (MAC), writes to express our deep concern regarding the bias attitude and inequitable distribution of funds under Article 275(1) by the current concern Minister, Tribal Affairs & Hills.

That, while hoping for equal share / development and upliftment of poor tribals in the state, the bias attitude of the current minister, Tribal Affairs and Hills, Manipur is very unfortunate. During this, such a fragile situation, distribution of developmental funds and schemes are not equal by allotting all developmental funds and livelihood schemes/ projects under article 275 (1) only for Kangpokpi and Churachandpur district. Therefore, it is like pouring fuel to the flames, instead of healing division.

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Sd/- M. Uday Devi
Oath Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regd. No. 809/2028

TRUE COPY
Advocate

Condt.....2/-



OFFICE OF THE
MAPITHEL ARTS AND CULTURE

Registration No. 06/KMJ/SR/2020
under Manipur Societies Registration Act, 1989

Chadong Village, P.O. & P.S. Litan, Kamjong District, Manipur - 795145

Ref No.

Date 26/05/26

(2)

This clearly shows the bias attitude of the concern minister which is not acceptable and unconstitutional also, which is totally contradictory to the central policies for the good governance of the nation. Therefore, it needs immediate enquiry and initiate appropriate action for the welfare of the tribals in the state.

Therefore sir, your kind consideration and immediate intervention in this regards would definitely bring equitable growth and governance in the state.

We shall ever remain thankful.

Yours faithfully,

M. Saka
(MOTHEL SAKA)

President
Mapithel Arts and Culture

Copy to:

✓ The Director, Tribal Affairs & Hills, Manipur.

TRUE COPY
[Signature]
Advocate

37-7-26
Smt. M. Ruby Devi
Joint Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regd. No. 609/2025

- 41 -

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION
(SEACDO)**

"Towards Changes & development"

Head Office : Kanankhu Village, Chandel District Manipur - 795127 GSTIN : 148KPG5040N322
email: socioeconomicculturaldevelopment@gmail.com
SEACDO/1984/Application: 12/2026, Date: 05/06/2026

To,
The Chief Secretary/ Vigilance Commissioner,
Government of Manipur,
Imphal

Chief Secretary's Office
R.R. No. 591
Date 12.6.26

Subject: Request to enquire for inequitable distribution of funds under articles 275 (1) grants for developmental works and livelihood schemes/ projects, Tribal Affairs and Hills, Govt. of Manipur.

Respected Sir,

I, **Shri. Tongsin Beton**, President SEACDO & a resident of Kanankhu village Chandel District Manipur, writes to express our deep concern regarding the bias attitude and inequitable distribution of funds under Article 275(1) by the current concern Minister, Tribal Affairs & Hills.

That, while hoping for equal share / development and upliftment of poor tribals in the state, the bias attitude of the current minister, Tribal Affairs and Hills, Manipur is very unfortunate. During this, such a fragile situation, distribution of developmental funds and schemes are not equal by allotting all developmental funds and livelihood schemes/ projects under article 275 (1) only for **Kangpokpi and Churachandpur** district. Therefore, it is like pouring fuel to the flames, instead of healing division.

Mention may be made below:

1. 10 Nos. of Multipurpose - Cum - Community Hall, all have been allotted to Kangpokpi district alone.
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This clearly shows the bias attitude of the concern minister which is not acceptable and unconstitutional also, which is totally contradictory to the central policies for the good governance of the nation. Therefore, it needs immediate enquiry and initiate appropriate action for the welfare of the tribals in the state.

Therefore sir, your kind consideration and immediate intervention in this regards would definitely bring equitable growth and governance in the state.

Ignoring the humble petition, I would have no other option but the approach the Court for justice.

Copy to:

1. PS to Additional Chief Secretary (TA & H)
Govt. of Manipur
2. Director, Tribal Affairs & Hills
Govt. of Manipur

TRUE COPY
[Signature]
Advocate

[Signature]
27.7.26
Joint Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regd. No: 605/2026

Yours faithfully,
Tongsin Beton
(TONGSIN BETON)
Kanankhu Village,
Chandel. # 8413045191

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION
(SEACDO)

"Towards Change & development"

- 42 -

Regd. No. 5350 of 1984

GST IN. 54BR/PGSC48R322

Office : Kanankhu Village, Chandel District Manipur - 795127

Email: socioeconomicculturaldevelopment@gmail.com

SEACDO/1984/Application: 32/2026; Date: 03/06/2026

TO

The Additional Chief Secretary (Tribal Affairs & Hills)
Government of Manipur, Imphal.

Chief Secretary's Office

R.R. No. 532

Date 03.06.26

Subject: Request for immediate re-examine of the Manipur prioritized Approved PAC proposal to obtain equal distribution of fund under Article 275 (1) grants for developmental works and livelihood schemes projects.

Sir,

I, Shri Tongsin Beton, President SEACDO & a resident of Kanankhu Village Chandel District Manipur would like to request your kind authority for necessary action to have equal share of fund in development and up-liftment without any partiality under article 275 (1).

That, it was very painful and sad to witness the Bias and Impartial PAC Approval of Prioritized development Proposal by The Department of Tribal Affairs & Hills, Government, ignoring the principle of Equal Development of All.

The bias and un-equal distribution of development fund in the Existing prioritized proposal approved by PAC Manipur may be mentioned as;

1. 16 Nos. of Multi purpose Hall cum Community Hall to Kangpokpi District (Ignoring other Districts)
2. Livelihood Schemes:
 - i. 222 Household for Churachandpur
 - ii. 386 Household for Kangpokpi
 - iii. 118 Household for Senapati
 - iv. 80 Household each for Ukhrul & Tamenglong
 - v. 40 Household each for Kamjong, Chandel, Tangmoupp & Noney
 - vi. 20 Household for Pherzawl.

-----Enclosed Copy of Approved Proposal by PAC Manipur.

Therefore, to achieved equal share and development in the Hill District of Manipur and bring peace, it needs immediate necessary action and re-examine of Proposal approved by PAC Manipur for equal share of fund allocation under Article 275 (1) Tribal Affairs and Hills, Government of Manipur.

Ignoring the humble petition, I would have no other option but the approach the Court for Justice.

Copy to

1. PS to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Manipur
2. Director, Tribal Affairs & Hills.

Yours faithfully,

TRUE COPY

Advocate

Office of the
Addl. Chief Secy (TA & H)

P.R. 568

Date 03/6/26

Tongsin Beton
Kanankhu Village, Chandel.
8413045191

Joint Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regd. No. 609/2026

[13] In the light of narrative and trajectory the captioned matter has taken in the admission Board, the following order is made:

- i. R-3 shall take up said representations (5 representations - scanned and reproduced supra in instant order), consider the same on its own merits in accordance with law, particularly in accordance with Article 275 and more particularly clause (1) of Article 275 of the Constitution and dispose of the same by making speaking proceedings/order;
- ii. Afore-referred exercise of making speaking proceedings/order disposing of said representations (5 representations) shall be completed by R-3 as expeditiously as the official business of R-3 would permit but in any event within 6(six) weeks from today i.e. on or before **16-09-2026**;
- iii. The speaking proceedings/order made in the aforesaid manner by R-3 shall be served under due acknowledgment on Mr. Md. Abdul Baqee Khan, learned counsel on record for PIL petitioners and MC applicants within three working days from the date on which the proceedings/order are made and such service shall be construed as the service made on the PIL petitioners. To be noted, learned counsel on record for the PIL petitioners consents to this and submits that he has necessary instructions from PIL petitioners in this regard;
- iv. If the PIL petitioners/MC applicants or any other person concerned for the matter is either not satisfied with or aggrieved by speaking proceedings/order made in the aforesaid manner, it is open to the PIL petitioners and or any

other person concerned for the matter to come to this Court or approach any other Fora, for this purpose all rights and contentions made by PIL petitioners in captioned PIL and captioned MC are preserved and if such a scenario unfurls, though obvious, it is made clear that such a petition will be considered on its own merit and in accordance with law by this Court or any other Forum/Fora which is approached;

- v. This Court deems it appropriate to write (though obvious) that the afore-referred speaking proceedings/order shall give relevant data as necessary with clarity and specificity.

[14] Afore-referred main PIL is disposed of as closed in the aforesaid manner albeit with afore-referred directions, observations and preservation of rights and contentions. Consequently, afore-referred MC therein above is also given a closure and the same is also disposed of as closed. There shall be no order as to costs.

JUDGE

CHIEF JUSTICE

✓
FR/NFR

Dhakeshori

LAISHRAM
DHAKESH
ORI DEVI

Digitally signed
by LAISHRAM
DHAKESHORI
DEVI
Date: 2026.08.07
13:33:38 +05'30'