REPORTABLE

Supplementary-2, Sl. Nos. 1 & 2

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL

WA No. 32 of 2026

Ref :- MC(WP(C)) No. 607 of 2026
(in WP(C) No. 1021 of 2022)

Smt. M.L. Gaipui, aged about 38 years old, W/o Donthao Golmei, a resident of Thangmeiband Tharon, Lamphelpat, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur – 795004.

*... **Appellant***

- Versus –

1. The State of Manipur represented by the Commissioner/Secretary, (MAHUD), Govt. of Manipur, New Secretariat, Babupara, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur – 795001.

2. The Imphal Municipal Corporation, represented by the Municipal Commissioner, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur – 795001.

3. The Mayor, Imphal Municipal Corporation, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur – 795001.

4. The Planning and Development Authority, represented by its Secretary, having its office at North AOC near 2nd MR. Gate, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal East District, Manipur – 795001.

... Respondents

With

WA No. 33 of 2026

Ref :- MC(WP(C)) No. 608 of 2026
(in WP(C) No. 670 of 2022)

1. Shri. Chongtham Joykumar Singh, aged about 50 years old, S/o Ch. Momon Singh, a resident of Singjamei Chingmakhong Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Singjamei, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795008 at present functioning as President of Self-Employment Youth Association (SEYA in short), Lamphel - 795004.

2. Smt. Cherom Netreshwari Devi, aged about 57 years old, a resident of Uripok Achom Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795004 at present functioning as Secretary of Self-Employment Youth Association (SEYA in short), Lamphel 795004.

3. Khaidem Ratan Singh, aged about 43 years old, S/o Khaidem Debendra Singh, a resident of Thangmeiband Hijam Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795004.

4. Thounaojam Ratan Singh, aged about 50 years old, S/o Th. Jugin Singh, a resident of Thangmeiband Hijam Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795004.

5. Smt. Thoudam Romila Devi, aged about 43 years old, D/o Thoudam Budhichandra, a resident of Malom Tulihal Awang Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Nambol, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795140.

6. Thokchom Bimol Singh, aged about 54 years old, S/o Thokchom Khomdom Singh, a resident of Lamphel Super Market, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795004.

7. Kangjam Joykumar Singh, aged about 51 years old, S/o Kangjam Angou Singh, a resident of Kangjam Angou, Lamboi Khongnangkhong, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795004.

8. Thounaojam Angaoubi, aged about 33 years old, W/o Thounaojam Ratan Singh, a resident of Thangmeiband Polem

Leikal, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur-795004.

9. M.L. Gaipui, aged about 34 years old, W/o Donthao Golmei, a resident of Thangmeiband Tharon, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur 795004.

10. Chongtham Shanti Devi, aged about 42 years old, W/o. Chongtham Joykumar Singh, a resident of Singjamei Chongtham Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795001.

11. Khaidem Babita aged about 41 years old, W/o. Khaidem Ratan Singh, a resident of Singjamei Thangmeiband Hijam Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795140.

12. Thoudam Nalini Devi, aged about 36 years old, D/o. Thoudam Budhachandra Singh, a resident of Malom Tulihal Mayai Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Nambol, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795140.

13. Shri. Paokhomai Khoni, aged about 40 years old, W/o. Kasemngam Kamei, a resident of Tarung Thangmeiband, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795004.

14. Smt. Jenjen Gangmei, aged about 35 years old, W/o. Damchuilung Goimei, Tarung Thangmeiband, a resident of Tarung Thangmeiband, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795004.

15. Chonthing Jajo, aged about 36 years old, S/O. Jacob Jajo, a resident of Chongdan Village, Ukhrul, P.O. & P.S. Lamlong, Ukhrul District, Manipur 795010.

16. Chirom Nickson Singh, aged about 37 years old, C/o. Chirom Ibotombi Singh, a resident of Uripok Achom Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795004.

17. Lalinpui Inbuon, aged about 54 years old, W/o. Sanglien L. Inbuon, a resident of Supermarket Lamphelpat, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795004.

18. Kangjam Hemchandra Singh, aged about 56 years old, a resident of Uripok Achom Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795004.

19. Anao Kamei aged about 34 years old, D/o. Adim Kamei, a resident of Tarung Thangmeiband, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur 795004.

20. Chirom Yaikhomba Singh, aged about 36 years old, a resident of Uripok Achom Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795004.

21. Thokchom Ongbi Daina, aged about 46 years old, W/o. Thokchom Bimol Singh, a resident of Lamphel Super Market, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur – 795001.

22. Taoreipar Yunglamma, aged about 35 years old, W/o. Jondary Pao, a resident of Tarung Village, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur – 795004.

…. ***Appellants***

- Versus –

1. The State of Manipur represented by the Commissioner/Secretary, (MAHUD), Govt. of Manipur, New Secretariat, Babupara, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur – 795001.

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... Respondents

B E F O R E

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

For the appellants : Mr. Anjan Prasad Sahu, Advocate in both Writ Appeals.

For the respondents : Mr. Phungyo Zingkhai, State Counsel for respondent No.1;
Mr. L. Raju, Standing Counsel for respondent Nos. 2 and 3 led by senior advocate Mr. Y. Nirmolchand;
Ms. S. Gangarani, Advocate for respondent No. 4 in both Writ Appeals.

Date of hearing & order : **27.10.2026**

O R D E R

[M. Sundar, CJ]

[1] This common order will dispose of the captioned 2 (two) Writ Appeals (WAs).

[2] There are 22 (twenty-two) appellants in captioned WA No. 33 of 2026, appellant No. 9 (Smt. M.L. Gaipui) is the lone appellant in the other captioned WA i.e., WA No. 32 of 2026.

[3] Captioned intra-court appeals i.e., WAs are directed against interim orders made in Miscellaneous Cases (MCs) pending main Writ Petitions (WPs).

[4] Mr. Anjan Prasad Sahu, learned counsel on record for the writ appellants is before this Court.

[5] Short facts are that the subject matter Writ Petitions (WPs) before Hon'ble Single Bench is allotment of shops in New Lamphel Supermarket near Shankar Talkies Cinema Hall under what according to writ appellants is 'Self Employed Youth Association' (SEYA); that pending main WPs which broadly stated, have been taken out with prayers for allotment of shops, the writ petitioners who are appellants before this Division Bench pressed into service an order dated 13.03.2026 bearing reference No. 4/2/2019-20/IMC (LSM) said to have been made by one Mr. K. Chandrakumar Singh who was Municipal Commissioner of Imphal Municipal Corporation (IMC); that in and vide this 13.03.2026 order, the then Municipal Commissioner is said to have observed/ordered that 22(twenty two) shops shall be allotted to 22 WA appellants (SEYA) upon receipt of final judgement/order in the WPs; that this order was filed before Single Bench by WA appellants as an additional document (X/3) vide an additional affidavit dated 29.04.2026; that IMC entered upon contestation/disputation *qua* this X/3 *inter-alia* by pressing into service a letter dated 02.05.2026 from the then Commissioner IMC wherein he has made it clear that he has not made the X/3 order and it appears to be fake; that on such circumstances, the writ appellants before us took out MCs being MC(WP(C))No. 607 of 2026 and MC(WP(C))No.608 of 2026 with prayers to direct the then Commissioner of IMC, Mr. K. Chandrakumar to furnish specimen signatures, send the specimen signatures/disputed

signatures *qua* X/3 to the Directorate of Forensic Science (DFS)-Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) for examination as to whether the signatures in X/3 are genuine; that Hon'ble Single Bench, in and *vide* 'orders dated 07.09.2026' ('impugned orders' for the sake of convenience and clarity) dismissed the MCs primarily on the ground that the document itself i.e., X/3 is denied; that the aggrieved writ petitioners are in appeal vide captioned intra-court appeals i.e., WAs before this Court.

[6] Issue notice.

[7] Mr. Phungyo Zingkhai, learned State counsel accepts notice for respondent No.1 (R1). Mr. L. Raju, learned Standing Counsel for IMC accepts notice for respondent Nos. 2 & 3 (R2 & R3) and Mr. Y. Nirmolchand, learned senior counsel, appears on his behalf. Ms. Gangarani, learned counsel accepts for respondent No.4 (R4).

[8] Considering the limited legal perimeter within which captioned intra-court appeals have to perambulate, with the consent of all the afore-referred learned counsel on both sides, main WAs were taken up and heard out.

[9] As regards learned State counsel for R1 and learned counsel for R4, they made it clear that this is a matter between IMC and appellants in as far as contentious X/3 is concerned and therefore they don't have any say in captioned WAs and that they will raise their contentions in the main WPs before Hon'ble Single Bench.

[10] Mr. Y. Nirmochand, learned senior counsel, adverting to the afore-referred 29.04.2026 affidavit *vide* which X/3 was brought on record submitted that the writ appellants have averred that a copy of X/3 is being filed and it is being verified by the deponent (one of the appellants) that X/3 is a true copy of the original and it is imperative that the original is produced.

[11] Responding to the above, Mr. Anjan Prasad Sahu, learned counsel for writ appellants submitted that all the 22 (twenty-two) appellants have not received copies of X/3, only some of them have received and they have also received only photocopies. Be that as it may, it was specifically and categorically contended by learned counsel for appellants that those of the writ appellants who received X/3 received it by way of speed post but this court notices that the envelopes have not been placed before the Hon'ble Single Judge.

[12] This Court is of the view that even on a demurer, even if the contention that only photocopies of X/3 were received by only some of the WA appellants is accepted, the envelopes in original have to be produced and the photocopies of X/3 as received have to be produced and the addressees have to swear vide a suitable affidavit affirming *inter-alia* the date on which it was received by speed post with exactitude and specificity but this has not been done either before Single Bench or before this Court in captioned WAs. Therefore, this Court is of the considered view that the writ appellants have not made out a case *qua* the prayers they have sought vide afore-referred MCs i.e., prayers pertaining to specimen signatures and

sending the same to DFS-CFSL. Therefore, under normal circumstances, this is a case for outright dismissal. However, we make a mild departure and we propose to preserve the rights of the writ appellants owing to how they are circumstanced i.e., individuals who are more in the nature of hawkers (though not hawkers *stricto sensu*) who eke out a livelihood on a daily basis and this mild departure is being made with a clear caveat that this order will not serve as a precedent in all and every case of this nature as it will lead to a scenario where proceedings before Hon'ble Single Benches become endlessness legal drills in perpetuity.

[13] Be that as it may, this Court deems it appropriate to record that this Court is informed that Mr. K. Chandrakumar, former Commissioner of IMC demitted office on attaining superannuation on 31.03.2026.

[14] In the case at hand, we preserve the rights of the writ appellants to file another/other suitable MC/MCs with appropriate prayer/s *inter-alia* enclosing the original envelopes *qua* speed post *via* which some of the appellants are said to have received X/3, X/3 as contained in the envelopes under a suitable affidavit from each of the addresses averring/affirming that the envelopes with the content thereat have been received giving the date of receipt with exactitude. If such MC/MCs is/are taken out by writ appellants, we request the Hon'ble Single Bench to consider the same as a one oft case and make orders on its own merits and in accordance with law untrammeled by both i.e., impugned orders dated 07.09.2026 and instant order.

[15] Captioned WAs are disposed of as closed albeit with aforementioned preservation of rights and observations. There shall be no order as to costs.

JUDGE **CHIEF JUSTICE**

FR/NFR

Sushil/John Kom

P.S. I : Upload forthwith

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SHAMURAILATPAM SUSHIL SHARMA

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