Abujam Surjit Singh
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Item No. 8-9

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL

WP(C) No.847 of 2026
With
MC(WP(C)) No.857 of 2026

Hidangmayum Ranbir, aged about 22 years, S/o; Hidangmayum Bigyanta, resident of Sagolband Tera, P.O. Imphal West, P.S. Imphal West, District, Imphal. Manipur-795004 and 179 Ors.

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Petitioner/s

Vs.

1. Manipur Public Service Commission, represented by the Chairman/Secretary, MPSC, North AOC, Imphal East. PIN-795001
2. The State of Manipur, represented by the Chief Secretary, Secretariat South Block, Babupara, Imphal West, Manipur PIN-795001.

Respondent/s

BEFORE
HON'BLE Mr. JUSTICE A. GUNESHWAR SHARMA

Counsel for Petitioner	Mr. Keisham Kishan, Advocate
Counsel for respondent	Dr. R.K Deepak, Sr. Advocate assisted by Mrs. I. Bimola, Advocates and Mr. S. Niranjan, Government Advocate.
Date of final hearing.	**06.11.2026.**
Date of Judgment.	**06.11.2026.**

O R D E R (Oral)

06.11.2026

[1] Heard Mr. K. Kishan, learned counsel for the petitioners. The petitioners, numbering 180, are the candidates for appearing in advertisement No.1/2026 dated 03.02.2026 issued by Manipur Public Service Commission (MPSC) for recruitment of 130 posts of Assistant Engineer (108 posts for civil and 22 Posts for Electrical) under various departments of Manipur Government. The examination which was earlier scheduled to be held on 6th and 7th Nov.2026. However, as the examination for selection of Junior Engineer by Staff Selection Commission was also to be held on the same day i.e., on 6th and 7th Nov.2026, on the representation of the some of the candidates, the examination is re-scheduled to be held on 12th and 13th Nov.2026. For the said examination, MPSC had identified key centres at MPSC Main Building, Senapati D.C Complex and Churachandpur D.C Complex as the examination centres for the said examination.

[2] By the present writ petition, the substantive prayer is for cancelling or re-locating the proposed examination centre at Churachandpur to a suitable neutral secured location.

The prayers of the petitioners is reproduced as follows:

i. Issue an appropriate writ, order or direction, particularly in the nature of Mandamus, directing the Respondent authorities, particularly the Manipur Public Service Commission, in respect of the MPSC Assistant Engineer (Civil/Electrical) Recruitment Examination, 2026, pursuant to Advertisement No. 1/2026 dated 03.02.2026, to cancel or relocate the proposed examination centre at Churachandpur, scheduled for 12th and 13th November, 2026, to another suitable, neutral and secure location, in the event adequate infrastructural facilities, security arrangements and effective monitoring mechanisms cannot be ensured at the existing examination centre, so as to safeguard the fairness, transparency and integrity of the examination process.

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE

ii. Direct the Respondent authorities to ensure foolproof security arrangements and strict adherence to examination protocols at all examination centres, particularly at Churachandpur, including adequate strong-room facilities, CCTV surveillance, secure transportation and safe custody of question papers and answer booklets, strict prohibition of unauthorised electronic devices, and effective monitoring and supervision by senior MPSC officials, including the Controller of Examinations, Secretary, Members and/or Chairman, through their personal presence and inspection/visits to the Churachandpur examination centre;

iii. Direct the Respondent authorities to temporary suspension or restriction of mobile internet services during the examination hours to prevent unauthorised electronic communication, use of electronic devices and other examination-related malpractices, thereby ensuring the fair, transparent and secure conduct of the examination

iv. Pass such other or further order(s) or direction(s) as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case and in the interest of justice.

[3] Mr. K. Kishan, learned counsel appearing for the petitioners, has submitted that, as had allegedly occurred in the past, instances of malpractice had taken place in the conduct of competitive examinations at Churachandpur. He further submitted that the petitioners have a strong apprehension that the examination, if conducted at the said centre, may not be conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner. It is further pointed out that, in the recent examination conducted by the Staff Selection Commission for recruitment to the post of Sub-Inspector in the Central Police Organisation (CPO), 65 candidates from Churachandpur district were selected. Learned counsel submits that the said selection gives rise to serious apprehensions regarding alleged malpractices in the conduct of the examination.

[4] Dr. R.K Deepak, learned senior counsel assisted by Mrs. I. Bimola, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the MPSC submitted that petitioner and some candidates submitted a representation having two prayers; (i) for postponing of the examination from 6th and 7th Nov.2026 to another date in view of the examination conducted by Staff Selectin Commission on that day; and (ii) for cancelling or re-locating of the centre from Churachandpur, Mr. R.K. Deepak, learned senior counsel for the MPSC has pointed out that first prayer in the representation of the aspirants to defer

the examination to another date, has already been taken cared by the MPSC by re-scheduling examination which was fixed on 6th and 7th Nov.2026 to 12th and 13th November, 2026. However, with regards to the second prayer for re-locating or cancelling the examination centre at Churachanpur district, the learned senior counsel has strongly opposed the prayer, as there is no material produced by the petitioners in the writ petition that the examination conducted in the recent past in Churachandpur has been compromised. The learned senior counsel further stated that *annexure-A-11* which is congratulatory letter issued by a Student Organization on the selection of the 65 persons belonging to their community to the Central Police Organization in the recruitment conducted by Staff Selection Commission and the same cannot be construed as malpractices committed in the examination centre in Churchandpur. Nothing is also stated that all 65 candidates appeared through Churachandpur.

[5] In circumstances, the present writ petition is devoid of merits and it may be dismissed.

[6] It is submitted that sufficient care has been taken by the MPSC to ensure conduct of the examination free from all malpractices in all the three centres.

[7] Mr. S. Niranjan, learned Government Advocate, has also adopted the submissions advanced by the learned senior counsel appearing for the MPSC and submitted that this Court ought not to interfere with the

recruitment process unless patent illegality is established on the basis of the facts and materials placed on record. In the present writ petition, nothing has been pleaded or brought on record except the mere apprehensions expressed by the aspirants, without any specific or substantiated material to establish the alleged irregularities.

[8] This Court has perused the materials on record and submission made at the Bar. The representation submitted by the aspirants are two folds: (i) to postpone the proposed examination on 6th and 7th Nov.2026 to another date; and (ii) To re-locate or cancel the examination centre at Churachandpur to another place or in the alternative to make the examination full proof. The first prayer for re-scheduling the examination on 6th and 7th Nov.2026 has been complied and the examination is now rescheduled on 12th and 13th Nov.2026. However, with regards to the second prayer of the re-locating or cancelling the examination centre at Churachandpur, in absence of any material to substantiate the apprehension of the petitioner and other aspirant, this Court does not find any merit in the writ petition. Regarding the alternative prayer of conducting the examination free from all malpractices, this Court has taken judicial note of the submission of Dr. R.K Deepak, learned senior counsel for the MPSC that due care and protection has been taken up and same will be implemented in letter and spirit.

[9] With above observations, the present writ petition is disposed of and M.C is also disposed of.

JUDGE

Ab. Surjit