

Souvenir

10
Years

Anniversary of the Establishment of
HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR



FOREWORD FROM EDITORIAL BOARD

Ten years ago, on the 25th day of March, 2013, the High Court of Manipur was formally inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri Justice Altamas Kabir, the then Chief Justice of India. The High Court is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its establishment and on this occasion, it is only natural to make effort towards satisfying the curiosity of the legal fraternity and public at large as to what have been accomplished during the last ten years. This Souvenir is intended to commemorate the 10th Foundation Day Celebration of this High Court and, in the process, highlight some of the notable activities in the last decade, however modest they may be. In a way, it also serves as annual report of the year 2022.

We thank the Hon'ble Justices of the High Court who guided us in conception and design of this Souvenir. We thank the members of the Bar and Bench who contributed articles on legal topics. We are grateful to each and every member of the Registry who rendered assistance in bringing out the Souvenir.

Registrar General
Registrar Judicial
Joint Registrar (Judicial)

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Justice M.V. Muralidaran
Acting Chief Justice



Imphal
State of Manipur

MESSAGE

It is heartening to note that the Manipur High Court, which started functioning on 23.3.2013, is completing a decade this year and a newsletter is being published to clou the exoteric activities that the High Court and various courts in the State were involved in during the past year.

The quiddity of democracy lies in the judicial process. The Courts are the bulwark of democracy. Being at the crossroads of the old traditions and new challenges, the judiciary must focus on the core constitutional values for upholding the rights of the hoi polloi.

The Manipur High Court, with its glorious traditions, occupies a prominent place in the judicial administration. We, as members of this institution which was created for public good, will serve only for a short period, but the institution will remain long after we have gone.

Those behind the creation of the Manipur High Court had a vision and they apperceived a court that would oversee the fair, just and uniform application of laws across the length and breadth of the State. I can confidently say that since its inauguration, the High Court has passed from the stage of evolution to distinction, carving out a niche for itself. Rest assured, the Court will remain true to its mission of delivering justice and helping parties to resolve their disputes throughout the State, in a way which respects the rule

Justice M.V. Muralidaran
Acting Chief Justice




Imphal
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of law and which is independent, impartial, equitable, accessible and efficient.

A vigilant Bar is a great asset of the Judiciary. The Bar in Manipur is second to none. I am sure that the Bar would continue to extend its fullest cooperation and would rise to the occasion and keep itself au courant to meet all situations in the coming years and cooperate with the Bench to reach the goals which the Constitution has assigned.

I thank the Registry of this High Court and the District Judiciary for their foursquare support.

Thank you and Jai Hind.


18.03.2023

Justice M.V. Muralidaran
(Acting Chief Justice)

Justice A. Bimol Singh
Judge



Email:- bimolahanthem65@gmail.com
Fax:- 0385-2423362
Phone:- 9436021149

Imphal
20th March, 2023

MESSAGE


It is a moment of joy, and perhaps also for reflection, to think that the High Court of Manipur has completed 10 years of existence, with an identity of its own, after its separation from the Gauhati High Court.

The decade has seen the entry of new generation of lawyers into the legal profession, whose outlook and aspiration are shaped by the rapid changes and modernisation witnessing in the Country. In case of the District Judiciary, Judicial Officers, who entered the service after the establishment of this High Court, vastly outnumber those who precede them. Another easily noticeable trend is the increase number of women entering the legal profession.

A good beginning has been made towards the realisation of a judicial system which can satisfy the test of responsiveness and objectivity. The foundation has been laid for transforming the Courts through the use of ICT and also for giving greater space and prominence to Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) system. The expanding activities of the MASLSA for providing free legal aid and availing access to justice may also be reflective of the greater service towards society, the judiciary demands from itself.

It is heartening to think that both the Bar and the Bench are aware of the opportunity present before us for lifting ourselves to a greater height. There is no dearth of talents among lawyers and judicial officers and I believe that there will be, among them, individuals whose visions and hard work will ensure that the relentless march towards the ideal of justice will continue.

Let us celebrate the occasion.


(JUSTICE A. BIMOL SINGH)
JUDGE, HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR



MESSAGE

It is a moment of pride and pleasure to learn that the High court of Manipur is celebrating the 10th year of its establishment on 23rd March, 2023 by organizing a three days programme. Indeed, I am fortunate enough to avail an opportunity of writing this short message in the Souvenir to be published on this occasion.

Even though, High Court of Manipur is one of three youngest High Courts established on 23.03.2013 by quadrifurcation of the then common Gauhati High Court (having jurisdiction over seven States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura) as- (i) Gauhati High Court (having jurisdiction over seven States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram & Nagaland) (ii) High Court of Manipur, (iii) High Court of Meghalaya and (iv) High Court of Tripura.

Although High Court of Manipur is only 10 years old, Manipur has a long-cherished legacy of judicial system since the time of monarchy. The King was presiding over the top court of civil and criminal while the Queen was in charge of cases relating to women. By the Manipur State Constitution Act, 1947, there was a distinct separation of independent judiciary from the executive and the same pattern continued even after merger of Manipur with India in the year 1949.

With the establishment of a separate High Court of Manipur in the year 2013, there has been a quantum jump in number of courts. Earlier, there were only two Sessions Divisions for the whole of Manipur. However, post-2013, separate District & Sessions Courts have been established in the remaining of the old districts and as on today, there are 8 Sessions Divisions. Many courts such as Family Courts, Special Courts, 10 posts of Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-JMFC, 4 posts of Principal Magistrate, JJB, etc. have also been created. Recently, a new post of Secretary (Judicial) is created.

Manipur State Legal Services Authority has also benefitted a lot by creation of posts of Additional Member Secretary, Deputy Member Secretary, 5 post of District Secretary and several support staff. A mega ADR Building was constructed in Lamphel Court Complex and the same is used as its office building. A separate head of account has been created for easy management in place of grant-in-aid head of account.

After coming of the separate High Court of Manipur, the Manipur Judicial Academy has been established and now is running from the High Court complex. A huge complex is allotted, and construction of new building has been planned.

Justice A. Guneshwar Sharma
Judge, High Court of Manipur



HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
Mantripukhri, Imphal-795002.
Phone No. 0385-2423329 (O)

Infrastructural development is apparent in many district court complexes with the assistance from the Central and State Governments. Many new court buildings are in the advance stage of completion.

There has been significant improvement in the computerization, digitization of the court records under the e-court project. With the technical support from e-court branch, both the High Court and District Courts were functioning efficiently virtually during the covid pandemic for almost two years.

Having a Chief Justice stationed at Imphal makes a lot of difference in all round development.

Even if High Court of Manipur is very small as compared to others, yet it has contributed a lot in the development of new jurisprudence in preventive detention, defection law, service matter; to mention a few.

Hope that in the coming days, there will be all-round development in the judiciary under the guidance of the Chief Justice.

Jai Hind.

A. Guneshwar Sharma 20/03/2023

Justice A. Guneshwar Sharma
Judge, High Court of Manipur

&

Chairman, High Court Legal Services Committee

SITTING AND FORMER CHIEF JUSTICES AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR

Sitting Judges of the High Court of Manipur



Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.V. Muralidaran
Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Manipur



Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Guneshwar Sharma,
Judge, High Court of Manipur



Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Bimol Singh
Judge, High Court of Manipur

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICES OF THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre
Chief Justice from 23.03.2013 - 19.10.2013



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Laxmi Kanta Mohapatra
Chief Justice from 10.07.2014 – 09.06.2016



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad
Chief Justice from 22.09.2016 - 30.06.2017



Hon'ble Smt. Abhilasha Kumari
Chief Justice from 09.02.2018 - 23.02.2018



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar
Chief Justice from 18.05.2018 - 13.02.2021



Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar
Chief Justice from 14.02.2021 - 06.02.2023

FORMER JUSTICES OF THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR



Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh
(23.03.2013 - 11.10.2018)

*Was Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Manipur
from 01.07.2017 - 08.02.2018 &
23.02.2018 - 17.05.2018
Currently serving as The Chief Justice, Jammu &
Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.*



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Lanusungkum Jamir
(12.11.2018 – 09.06.2022)

Currently Judge of Gauhati High Court.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kh. Nobin Singh
(from 26.11.2014 - 31.12.2021)

Now serving as Director, Manipur Judicial Academy.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Songkhupchung Serto
(14.03.2016 - 29.09.2016)

*Transferred to Gauhati High Court on 29.09.2016
Now serving as Chairperson of Nagaland State
Human Rights Commission*

OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRY OF HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR

Smt. Golmei Gaiphulshillu	Registrar General
Shri Yumkham Rother	Registrar (Judicial)
Ms. Athokpam Shanta Devi	Registrar (Vigilance)
Shri Alek Muivah	Joint Registrar (Judl.) [till 07.02.2022]
Shri Shubham Vashist	Joint Registrar (Judl.) [from 08.02.2022]
Shri Ph. Japan Singh	Joint Registrar (Admn./PM&P)
Shri Robert Lhungdim	Deputy Registrar (Judl.)
Shri Dr. M. Basantakumar Sharma	Deputy Registrar (Accts./Planning) [till 28.02.2023]
Shri S. Joychand Singh	Deputy Registrar (Protocol)
Shri L. Surchandra Singh	Deputy Registrar (Admn.)
Smt. M.C. Nandini	Deputy Registrar (Accts./Planning)[from 01.03.2023]
Smt. Reeta Laishram	Language Officer (Special Officer)
Shri Kh. Opendro Singh	Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice
Shri S. Upendro Singh	Assistant Registrar-II
Shri Kh. Johnnev	Assistant Registrar-III
Shri R.S. Samuel	Assistant Registrar-IV
Shri S. Devendra Meitei	Assistant Registrar-V
Smt. M. Binarani Devi	Assistant Registrar-VI
Shri D.S. Haokip	Assistant Registrar-VII
Shri Roshan Oinam	Court Manager
Shri Thoudam Nirpan	Court Manager
Shri Luckyson Maring	Court Manager
Shri Th. Shantikumar Singh	System Analyst

BAR COUNCIL OF MANIPUR AND THE BAR

BAR COUNCIL OF MANIPUR

1. Shri S. Brajabihari Singh, Chairman
2. Shri H. Chandrajit Sharma, Vice-Chairman
3. Shri L. Shashibushan, Representative of BCM to BCI
4. F.A. Khalid, Member, Member, Executive Committee
5. Smt. N. Binodini Devi, Member, Executive Committee
6. Shri K. Modhusudon Singh, Member, Executive Committee
7. Shri L. Jayanta Roy, Member, Executive Committee
8. Shri S. Rupachandra Singh, Member, Executive Committee

HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION OF MANIPUR

1. Shri Yumnam Nirmolchand Singh, President
2. Shri Haobam Tarunkumar Singh, Vice-President
3. Shri Lamabam Anand Singh, Secretary
4. Shri Irom Denning, Jt. Secretary
5. Ms. Geetarani Waikhom, Jt. Secretary
6. Syed Murtaza Ahmed, Jt. Secretary
7. Shri Huiem Ishwarlal Singh, MC (Sr. Member)
8. Shri Maibam Hemchandra Singh, MC (Sr. Member)
9. Dr. R.K. Deepak Singh, Executive Member
10. Shri Sapam Biswajit Meitei, Executive Member
11. Smt. Momota Devi Oinam, Executive Member

12. Smt. Pushpa Gurumayum, Executive Member
13. Shri. Naorem Umakanta Singh, Executive Member

ALL MANIPUR BAR ASSOCIATION (AMBA)

1. Shri Puyam Tomcha Meetei, President
2. Shri Nambam Manikanta Singh, Vice-President
3. Ms. Brahmacharimayum Supriya Devi, Vice-President
4. Shri Maisnam Johnny Meitei, General Secretary
5. Shri Lourembam Nongthang, Joint Secretary
6. Shri Meinam Shantikumar Singh, Joint Secretary
7. Ms. Moirangthem Chumba Devi, Joint Secretary
8. Shri Loukham Nutankumar Meetei, Executive Member
9. Ms. Sapam Bidyarani Devi, Executive Member
10. Shri Laishram Sanamani Singh, Executive Member
11. Shri Leihaorongbam Sanjoy Singh, Executive Member
12. Ms. Priyashimlala Sanjenbam, Executive Member
13. Ms. Huidrom Bidyarani Devi, Executive Member
14. Shri Waikhom Chingkhenganba, Executive Member
15. Shri Ashokumar Singh, Executive Member
16. Shri Thingbaijam Mahira Singh, Ex-Officio Member

INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL & PENDENCY OF CASES IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR & DISTRICT COURTS

HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR

Year	Type	Pendency at beginning of year	Institution in the year	Disposal in the year	Pendency at end of year
2013	Civil	4341	2033	2613	3761
	Criminal	59	97	64	92
	BOTH	4400	2130	2677	3853
2014	Civil	3761	2328	1855	4234
	Criminal	92	119	71	140
	BOTH	3853	2447	1926	4374
Remark	From 2015 onwards, miscellaneous cases were excluded from statement of pendency and only main cases were taken into consideration.				
2015	Civil	2903	1843	1567	3179
	Criminal	120	60	44	136
	BOTH	3023	1903	1611	3315
2016	Civil	3179	1643	1653	3169
	Criminal	136	54	73	117
	BOTH	3315	1697	1726	3286
2017	Civil	3169	1558	1251	3476
	Criminal	117	151	74	194
	BOTH	3286	1709	1325	3670
2018	Civil	3476	1826	2410	2892
	Criminal	194	93	117	170
	BOTH	3670	1919	2527	3062
2019	Civil	2892	1549	2153	2288
	Criminal	170	122	112	180
	BOTH	3062	1671	2265	2468
2020	Civil	2288	1023	684	2627
	Criminal	180	75	33	222
	BOTH	2468	1098	717	2849
2021	Civil	2627	1374	1083	2918
	Criminal	222	146	68	300
	BOTH	2849	1520	1151	3218
2022	Civil	2918	1687	1709	2896
	Criminal	300	162	128	334
	BOTH	3218	1849	1837	3230

DISTRICT COURTS OF MANIPUR

Year	Type	Pendency at beginning of year	Institution in the year	Disposal in the year	Pendency at end of year
2013	Civil	5364	4168	4258	5274
	Criminal	8214	11350	11931	7633
	BOTH	13578	15518	16189	12907
2014	Civil	5274	6241	4101	7414
	Criminal	7633	10256	10156	7733
	BOTH	12907	16497	14257	15147
Remark	From 2015 onwards, miscellaneous cases were excluded from statement of pendency and only main cases were taken into consideration.				
2015	Civil	4494	2627	3589	3532
	Criminal	4368	2791	3806	3353
	BOTH	8862	5418	7395	6885
2016	Civil	3532	2972	2867	3637
	Criminal	3353	3709	3721	3341
	BOTH	6885	6681	6588	6978
2017	Civil	3637	1903	2035	3505
	Criminal	3341	3174	3221	3294
	BOTH	6978	5077	5256	6799
2018	Civil	3505	2106	2194	3417
	Criminal	3294	1690	2185	2799
	BOTH	6799	3796	4379	6216
2019	Civil	3417	2467	1952	3932
	Criminal	2799	1550	1765	2584
	BOTH	6216	4017	3717	6516
2020	Civil	3932	1138	761	4309
	Criminal	2584	1050	986	2648
	BOTH	6516	2188	1747	6957
2021	Civil	4309	1663	715	5257
	Criminal	2648	974	696	2926
	BOTH	6957	2637	1411	8183
2022	Civil	5257	2281	2643	4895
	Criminal	2926	1184	1415	2695
	BOTH	8183	3465	4058	7590

HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR:

CASE CLEARANCE RATE IN THE YEAR 2022

Institution in 2022			Disposal during 2022			Case Clearance Rate (%)		
Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1687	162	1849	1709	128	1837	101.304	79	99.35

DISTRICT COURTS OF MANIPUR: CASE CLEARANCE RATE IN THE YEAR 2022

Institution in 2022			Disposal during 2022			Case Clearance Rate (%)		
Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
2281	1184	3465	2643	1415	4058	115.87	119.51	117.11

[NB: C = A + B, F = D + E, G = D/A × 100, H = E/B × 100 & I = F/C × 100]

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR & THE DISTRICT COURTS IN 2022

1. Rules framed and notified by High Court in 2022:

- Guidelines for Recording of Evidence of Vulnerable Witnesses, 2022
- The High Court of Manipur (Designation of Senior Advocate) Rules, 2022.
- The Manipur State District Courts Service(Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2022
- High Court of Manipur Rules for Electronic Filing(e-Filing) 2022
- The High Court of Manipur Rules for Live Streaming and Recording of Court Proceedings, 2022

2. Recruitment conducted and completed by High Court during the year 2022

Sl. No.	Post	Number
1	Manipur Judicial Service Grade-III Officers	10

2	Driver for District Courts	13
3	Cook	1
4	Technical Assistant	5
5	Masalchis	3
6	e-Sewa Kendra Office Assistant (Contract)	16

3. Promotion process completed during the year 2022 for High Court and District Courts.

Sl.	Name of Post
1	Sr. Judicial Assistant from Judicial Assistant of High Court
2	Judicial Assistant from Computer Assistant of High Court
3	Librarian of High Court
4	Assistant librarian of High Court
5	Judicial Assistant from class D & Ors of High Court
6	Superintendents of High Court
7	Sr. Sheristadar of District Courts
8	Sheristadar and equivalent of District Courts

4. Infrastructure projects taken up/ completed in 2022:

a. Construction of District Court Complexes started in following location:

- i. Kakching
- ii. Noney
- iii. Senapati

b. Construction of Wall and Gate for Manipur Judicial Academy at Pangei started.

c. Land allotted for Judiciary :

- i. At the Ukhrul for construction of Quarters for the District Judiciary at Ukhrul.
- ii. Land donated for Construction of Courts at Mao, Senapati District.

d. Projects approved by the High Court:

- i. Cost estimate amounting to ₹. 42,32,700.00/- for the work "Renovation of Court Building at Kangpokpi.
- ii. Cost estimate amounting to ₹. 72,55,000.00/- for Construction of twin type Chowkidar Quarter at Lamphel Court Complex, Imphal West.
- iii. Construction of additional work of canteen at the Bishnupur Court Complex amounting to Rs. 29,18,716/-.
- iv. Cost estimate amounting to Rs.6,67,107/- for renovation of building to accommodate JMFC/CJJD at Mao till permanent infrastructure is made ready.
- v. Cost estimate amounting to Rs. 5,49,084/- (Rupees five lakh forty nine thousand eighty four) only for work of repairing and renovation of the Court and residential quarter of the Judicial Magistrate First Class at Moreh, Tengnoupal District , Manipur.
- vi. Cost estimate amounting to Rs. 5,81,638/- (Rupees five lakh eighty one thousand six

hundred thirty eight) only for the repair of the transit quarter, inside Lamphel Court Complex.

- vii. Cost estimate of Rs. 45,92,454.00 / for improvement of IEI and installation of street lamp at Lamphel.

- viii. Cost Estimate of ₹. 7,95,663/- (rupees seven lakh ninety five thousand six hundred and sixty three) only for construction of RCC culvert and the approach road crossing the gate at Cheirap Court Complex.

e. Projects completed

- i. e-Sewa Kendra at the High Court premises was inaugurated in the month of March, 2022.
- ii. Construction of Bishnupur Annexe Court building.
- iii. Construction of Canteen at the Thoubal Court Complex.
- iv. Renovation of Jiribam Court Complex.
- v. Renovation of CJM and DJ Court building at the Tamenglong.
- vi. Construction of Main Gate, RCC culvert and the approach road crossing the gate at the Cheirap Court Complex.

f. Others

- i. The Court of CJM, Tamenglong shifted to Tamenglong from Lamphel Court Complex.
- ii. The Court of District & Sessions Judge, Tamenglong inaugurated on 16.07.2022.
- iii. 29 nos. of new vehicles procured and distributed to the Judicial Officers.
- iv. State Government received fund of Rs.12,85,25,000/- (central share i.e. 90 %) under CSS scheme for development of infrastructure of District Judiciary.
- v. Separate head of account "Wages" created to draw Judicial Officers Home

Orderly Allowance in the budget heads of District Judiciary.

5. E-Court / IT Achievements 2022

- a. The High Court of Manipur implemented e-filing version. The filing of new cases on behalf of the State Government and Central Government in the High Court (in which the Government is the Petitioner/Appellant) made mandatory.
- b. The High Court of Manipur set up e-Sewa Kendra in the High Court and different districts of the State under the eCourt Project. It enables litigants to obtain information with respect to case status and obtain copies of judgments and orders.
- c. The Administrative and Financial approval given for the implementation of the E-office in the High Court and District Court
- d. The High Court of Manipur developed its own in-house website [ecourtprojectsmanipur. in] dedicated to the E-Courts Project. It has features for (a) submission of monthly statements by the district courts, (b) registration of complaints regarding the district courts.
- e. The IT team developed a website for High Court Legal Services Committee. The website has feature that enables one to submit online legal aid applications from any part of the State. It also has feature of applying for tele-consultation and WhatsApp Chat.
- f. The scanning and digitization of old court records reached approximately 68, 21,277 pages.
- g. The GeM accounts created for all the District Courts so that procurement can be made as per extant financial rules. Necessary training to concerned staff given for operating GeM.
- h. New laptops and Canon printers distributed to all the Judicial Officers.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MANIPUR STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (MASLSA)

Duration: 1st January, 2022 to 31st December, 2022

Overall Legal Aid and Services Beneficiaries:

A total of 1269 legal aid seekers were provided with panel lawyers, 5447 legal aid seekers were provided advice/counselling. 19,668 persons were provided with other services such as procurement for Govt. welfare schemes viz; farmer cards, E-shram cards for unorganized workers, UDID for differently-abled persons etc., as well as facilitation for Aadhar application, pan application etc.

Overall Legal Awareness Programs:

A total of 714 programs were conducted

through physical as well as virtual mode where around 2,47,371 persons participated and more than 8.5 lakhs persons on an average were reached out through various legal awareness programs through TV, Community Radio, Social media Platforms, You-tube and others.

Legal Services Camps:

1269 Micro legal services camps conducted directly benefitting 5447 vulnerable and marginalised persons such as Women, Senior Citizens, Children, differently abled persons etc.

Lok ADALAT:

MASLSA organized 5 Lok Adalats in the Year 2022 in which a total of 1372 cases (both pre litigation and pending) were settled with a total settlement amount of Rs 15,06,31,587/- (Fifteen crores six lakhs thirty-one thousand five hundred and eighty seven) only. Various cases such as bank recovery cases, MACT cases, pending court cases etc. were put up at the National Lok Adalat. For pre – litigation cases, mostly the cases were of bank recovery matters.

Capacity Building Programs:

13 programs conducted for building capacities of 380 persons that includes Investigating Officer, PLVs, Panel Lawyers etc.

Mediation: In 2022, 397 pending cases were referred from the Courts to ADR Centres, out of which 98 cases were settled through Mediation. A total of 318 pre litigation cases were also referred, out of which 60 cases were settled.

NALSA's Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage:

A total of 151 arrestees were provided legal assistance at the police station before producing them before the courts and 302 arrestees were provided legal assistance at remand stage. A total of 24 bail applications were filed at remand stage and out of which 18 cases were granted bail.

A Standard Operating Procedure on the implementation of the said scheme was also ready for implementation, which was developed by MASLSA in collaboration with CHRI with information from the Police Department, Manipur.

Execution of NALSA's Pan India Campaign:

During the Year 2022, two NALSA campaigns were successfully undertaken from 31st Oct. 2022 to 13th Nov. 2022 namely –

- **Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach:** A Pan India Campaign for bridging the gap between the institutions and the underprivileged by spreading legal awareness and ensuring delivery of legal entitlements to eligible beneficiaries. Altogether, 10,750 beneficiaries were directly attended through Door-to-Door Awareness, Legal Services camps etc. and around 10 lakhs people were able to reach out through TV, Community Radio, YouTube etc.
- **Haq_humara_bhi_to_hai@75:** A Campaign for providing basic legal assistance to persons confined in prisons and child care institutions. During the campaign, a total of 862 inmates (both Central jails of Manipur) and 41 Children in Conflict with Law (CCLs) were interacted, out of which 218 legal aid seekers (from Central Jail, Sajiwa and Imphal) were initiated for providing free legal counsel.

UNIQUE INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN:

- **Legal Services to Prisoners/ Campaign for Enhancing Effective Legal Aid and Services to Prisoners:** As an initiative of this campaign, online functioning of Jail Legal Aid Clinics due to the prevalent COVID Pandemic has been started from August 2021. Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar, Chief Justice of High Court of Manipur and Patron in Chief, Manipur SLISA inaugurated the functioning of Jail Legal Aid Clinics on online mode through a virtual ceremony. Further, as a part of the campaign, Manipur SLISA has envisaged and initiated implementing the following activities:
- Interaction with the prisoners by the PLVs in order to make them aware as well as facilitating them in accessing legal aid and services (both UTPs & Convicts).

- Facilitating/ enhancing women prisoners' in accessing vocational and livelihood skills; identification of women inmates suffering from mental illness, depression and other health complications and to provide necessary medical facilities
 - Development of IEC materials on rights of prisoners and other relevant themes on video as well as poster format for dissemination of information to the inmates; organising online legal awareness/ interactive on rights of prisoners on relevant themes. TV programmes on rights of prisoner were also organised.
 - Prompt update of data in Prisoners Database Management Portal
- b) Legal services to Foreign National Prisoners: Various interaction meetings were organised by MASLSA in collaboration with Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) for providing effective legal aid & services to Foreign National Prisoners (FNP) housed in Manipur Central Jail, Imphal; Manipur Central Jail, Sajiwa and Temporary Prison, Churachandpur. A total of 23 Bangladeshi, Chinese and Myanmarese FNP housed in Manipur Central jail, Sajiwa have been provided services of Panel Lawyers. Further, a total of 40 Myanmarese FNP housed in Temporary Prisons Churachandpur that included mostly women and children have been provided services of Panel Lawyers
- **Project: Break the Silence:** To empower women in the state to get their due rights and entitlements and to highlight and address their underlying issues. The project supported vulnerable and needy women in accessing free legal aid/ services as well as in accessing various government welfare schemes entitled for them in collaboration with various government

and non-government stakeholders by organizing women centric camps. On the occasion of International Women's Day 2022, Manipur SLSA collaborated with an NGO, ETA-Northeast Women's Network for honouring 18 women achievers from different walks of life in Manipur and two women led organizations at a special event that held at GM hall, Imphal. So far under this project, 48 women leaders of Manipur were honoured for their contribution for empowerment of women in the state; 2000 women were provided awareness on free and competent legal aid for women and around 127 vulnerable and marginalised women were directly benefitted in procurement for PMJAY and CMHT health cards.

Further, MASLSA, in collaboration with ETA-Northeast Women Network Group, also organised a series of interactive cum awareness programmes for women under "Know Your Basic Rights Campaign" at various locations of the state. The said campaign is undertaken as a part of the Project: Break the Silence, initiated by MASLSA and is organised in association with PLVs of various legal aid clinics. The objective of the campaign is to create awareness on basic rights among women such as nature of case filed in the court, getting acknowledgement of complaints lodged at the police station or other authorities, getting a bill/receipt for what you purchased as well as availability for free legal aid for women and how to avail the benefit for the same etc. as most of women are unaware or unsure of these matters in their daily lives and the availability of free legal aid for women. Further, the women folks were also taught on the importance of economic empowerment and entrepreneurship. Pamphlets on Section 12 and helpline nos. of women in distress were also distributed during the said campaign. A total of 423 women were reached out through the campaign.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS:

LEGAL AID/ SERVICES

Case 1: Supreme Court Directions – Issuance of voter cards and distribution of dry ration, sanitizer etc.to female sex workers:

In compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement titled as Budhadev Karmaskar Vs State of West Bengal & Ors [Criminal Appeal NO. (S) 135/2010] relating to issuance of ration cards/voter ID cards to female sex workers, the Chief Electoral Office, Manipur requested MASLSA to share the list of sex workers as maintained by the District Community based organizations through the District Legal Services Authority. Further, MASLSA compiled the list of female sex worker, as shared by the District Legal Services Authorities, and shared with the CEO, Manipur. Consequently, a total

of 18 Female sex workers were provided the Voter ID Cards.

Case 2. Identifying Children of Myanmar Origin, lodged in various observation and children homes of Manipur and providing them with effective legal aid and assistance: 13 children (5 girls and 8 boys) have been identified. A special legal aid counsel has been appointed to assist and to provide all such assistance as required for them to enable them to be reunited with their families or for proper assessment of them to consider their eligibility of for refugee status on the ground of persecuted innocent civilians from their country of origin. Till date, 4 of them have been declared as Children in Need of Care and Protection by the concerned JJJB, and have directed the Home and the Social Welfare Department to take such steps for re-uniting them with their families.

PHOTOS



Launching & flagging Off Ceremony for the campaign "Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach through Mobile Vans" at the premises of the High Court of Manipur, Imphal by Hon'ble Mr. Justice PV Sanjay Kumar, Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur and Patron-in-Chief, Manipur SLSA along with his companion Judges

Date: 03rd November, 2022



Legal Services Day cum Commendation Ceremony 2022 at ADR Centre, Lamphelpat, Imphal West on 09th Nov. 2022.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice PV Sanjay Kumar, Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur and Patron-in-Chief, Manipur SLSA along with his companion Judges Mr. Justice M.V. Muralidaran, Executive Chairman, Manipur SLSA & Mr. Justice A. Bimol Singh, Chairperson, HCLSC visiting the stall of Manipur SLSA during Sangai Festival (21st to 30th Nov. 2022)



PLVs, Law students and representatives from E-Sewa Kendra at Manipur SLSA stall during Sangai Festival (21st to 30th Nov. 2022)



Hon'ble Mr. Justice PV Sanjay Kumar, Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur and Patron-in-Chief, Manipur SLSA handing over a prize to a quiz winner at Stall of DLSA Bishnupur during Sangai Festival (21st to 30th Nov. 2022)



Panel Lawyers at stall of DLSA Churachandpur during Sangai Festival (21st to 30th Nov. 2022)



Flagging Off of The Door-To-Door Campaign for the Campaign: Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness for DLSA Imphal West on 04th Nov. 2022 at ADR Centre, Lamphelpat



Distribution of Pamphlets for Section-12 by Law Students during the Campaign: Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness at Ima Keithel, Imphal West on 06th Nov. 2022



District Legal Service Authority, Ukhrul organised Painting Competition cum Legal awareness programme at Destitute Children Home, Alungtang, Hunphun Village of Ukhrul Sub-Division, Ukhrul District, Manipur on 13th November 2022



Mega Legal Services Camp organized by DLSA, Thoubal in collaboration with Legal Aid Clinic, Heirok at the Heirok Part-I Community Hall, Heirok on 06th Nov. 2022



Walkathon organized by DLSA Thoubal, to mark the closure of the campaign: Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness on 13th November, 2022.



District Legal Services Authority Churachandpur in collaboration with Pearsonmun Legal Aid Clinic organized Legal Awareness cum UDID Registration Camp at Singnat village, Singnat Sub Division, Churachandpur, on 11th November 2022



Mega Legal Camp organized by DLSA Churachandpur during the campaign: Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness on 10th Nov. 2022



Awareness cum Interactive Meeting organized by MASLSA in collaboration with Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) for Foreign National Prisoners on 17th Feb. 2022 at Central Jail, Sajiwa.

SOME SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS

YEAR	EVENTS
2013	29th June - Manipur Judicial Academy established
	19th July – District & Sessions Court, Thoubal inaugurated
	14th September- District & Sessions Court, Bishnupur inaugurated
	JMFC Moreh established by re-designating JMFC Transport.
2014	11th January - District & Sessions Court, Senapati inaugurated
	29th October - District & Sessions Court, Churachandpur inaugurated
2015	District & Sessions Court, Manipur East re-designated as District & Sessions Court, Imphal East.
	District & Sessions Court, Manipur West re-designated as District & Sessions Court, Imphal West.
2016	14th January – Post of Addl. Member Secretary and Deputy Member Secretary of MASLSA created.
	16th January – District & Sessions Court, Ukhruil inaugurated
	Phase-II of eCourt Project started.
2017	May - Family Courts, Imphal East, Thoubal and Bishnupur inaugurated
	27th June- Additional Sessions Court (FTC) for Crime Against Women, Manipur inaugurated
	CIS NC 2.0 implemented in the District Courts.
	19th May- CIS Nation Core Version 1.0 implemented in the High Court

2018	March - CIS NC 3.0 implemented in District Courts.
	31st March – ADR Centre at Lamphel inaugurated
	9th April- Special Court(ND&PS) (FTC), Manipur inaugurated
	Post of DLSA Secretaries of Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Senapati created
2019	March, 2019: Scanning & Digitization of case records started in the High Court
	October- High Court of Manipur Rules, 2019 notified.
2020	Post of Principal Magistrates - JJBs Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal and Bishnupur created
	5th August: Two Fast Track Special Courts, Manipur for trying POCSO and rape cases exclusively established.
	December- five ADR Centres inaugurated at Thoubal, Bishnupur, Churachandpur, Senapati & Ukhruil
2021	Posts of JMFC at Noney, Mao, Kakching, Pherzawl and Kamjong sanctioned.
	Government allocated lands at Kakching, Mao and Noney for the construction of Court Complexes.
2022	Construction of Bishnupur Annexe Court building completed
	March- First e-sewa Kendra inaugurated at the High Court premises
	16th July - District & Sessions Court, Tamenglong inaugurated
	CJM Tamenglong, earlier functioning from Imphal, shifted to Tamenglong District

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ICT INITIATIVE OF THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR

INTRODUCTION:

The traditional definition of a court proceeding was a face-to-face presentation of the case to dispose of the case. As a result of technological advancements, court proceedings can now be conducted through video conferencing. During the pandemic, the courts had adopted ICT technology enabling them to respond to urgent matters in spite of constraints faced by all. The progress made so far in the application of ICT in the administration of justice is summed up in this article.

PHASE 1 (2011-2015)

This phase of the project mainly focused on purchasing and installing hardware and network connectivity, and operating the national eCourts portal with limited online services, such as details of the registration of cases, the cause list, the status of the cases, daily orders, and final judgments. In this phase, the focus of technology was primarily to address the needs of the judiciary and registry. Most services for citizens remained offline.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF PHASE – I

In Phase I, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) was the implementing agency. A total of 30 courts received the hardware under Phase I. Each court received one Thin Client, one Slim Client, one Dot Matrix Printer, one Laser Printer, one 600 VA UPS, one UPS 1 KVA/2 KVA for Server, one Scanner, and Local Area Network (LAN). The Case Information System was implemented in the High Court and District Courts. During this Phase, 4(four) technical staff were hired from NIC on contract basis.

Phase II (2016-Till date)

Introduction

Implementation of Phase II was decentralised and the responsibility was given to the High Courts. The High Court was given more flexibility in procurement in a bid to curb delays.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF ECOURTS PROJECT PHASE-II

The following hardware were provided to 37 (Thirty-Seven) courts as part of Phase II of the project

No of i3 Desktops	126
No of i5 Desktops	42
No of UPS 600 VA	136
No of Duplex Printer	37
No of MFD Printers	37
No of Display & Monitor with Basis shared computing client	37
No of Smart phone/Mobile	27
No of Kiosk	18
No of UPS 2 KVA	17
No of UPS 600 VA for network switches	15
No of DG Sets	15
No of Projector	15
No of External Hard Disk	16
No of 2P Rack Servers	6
Number of 1P Servers	10

SOLAR PANEL INSTALLED IN DISTRICT COURT

The Solar Power Plants were installed in 34 courts. 31 courts were funded by the renewable schemes of state and centre, and the remaining three courts were funded under the e-court project.

LAPTOPS AND PRINTERS FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS

The High Court provided new 46 laptops and 44 Canon printers to the Judicial Officers of the State.

DIGITAL SIGNATURE

Digital Signatures were provided to all the Judicial Officers of the State to enable uploading of orders/Judgments in CIS Software.

CIS (Case Information System)

CIS upgraded from 2.0 to 3.2 version for District Courts.

DG Set

The DG sets were installed in 14 court Complex.

NETWORK CONNECTIVITY

In addition to this, Multi Protocol Level Switching (MPLS), which is a network exclusively for Judiciary, was successfully installed in 15 Court Complexes in 8(eight) of the existing 9(nine) Judicial Districts.

The state wide area network (SWAN) and the BSNL wide area network (WAN) have been given to 15 court complexes.

NSTEP

NTEP is an android App developed for service and delivery of Court Processes such as summons/notice electronically. A total of 27 mobile phones were distributed to the district court process servers and bailiffs. Three training sessions were conducted by the High Court of Manipur & Manipur Judicial Academy for bailiffs and process servers regarding the NSTEP application.

Hardware Provided to DLSAs under Phase II

The following hardware were provided to the DLSA in phase II:

Sl.	Items	No. of Quantity
1	Computer	i3 (18 nos) i5 (9 nos)
2	MFD printer	10
3	UPS 1kva	9
4	LAN	9

Hardware Provided to Manipur Judicial Academy under Phase II

The following hardware were provided to the MJA in phase II:

Sl.	Items	No. of Quantity
1	Computer	i5 (20 nos.)
2	MFD Printer	1
3	Duplex Printer	1
4	UPS 10 kVA	1
5	DG set	1
6	Flatbed Scanner	1
7	Projector	1

THE LIST OF PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE IT TEAM AND THE NIC IN 2022-2023 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

E-FILING

E-filing version 3 was launched on 21st November 2022. Earlier, e-filing was made mandatory for filing fresh cases on behalf of the central government and the state government. But now, the e-filing has been made compulsory for filing fresh cases w.e.f 01/03/2023. The facilities for scanning and filing of the cases are available in E-sewa Kendra and the Help desk counter for E-filing.

DEVELOPMENT OF ECOURTSPROJECT MANIPUR IN WEBSITE

The IT team has developed its own in-house website [ecourtsprojectmanipur.in] dedicated to the E-Courts Project. The website was launched by Hon'ble Mr Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Judge, Supreme Court of India. It has features for (a) submission of monthly statements by the district and subordinate courts, and (b) registration of complaints regarding the District Court's hardware, thereby enabling the tracking of the progress of the complaints. Additionally, the website provides the details of hardware given under Phase-I and Phase-II and also about the upcoming ICT projects to be taken up by the Computer Committee.

DEVELOPMENT OF HCLSC WEBSITE

The Official website of the High Court Legal Services Committee has been developed by the IT team of the High Court of Manipur. It has a feature that enables one to submit an online legal aid application from any part of the State. Also, the applicant can track the application status online so that he/she can see how his/her application is progressing. Additionally, the website has the feature of applying for teleconsultation.

INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The NIC Manipur has developed an Inventory Management System for the High Court, which can maintain the purchase and distribution of items under the E-court project and High Court Office Expense .

E-SEVA KENDRAS

The E-Seva kendras are located in the High Court and fifteen other locations throughout the state. The E-sewa kendra is located at the court's entrance, where litigants can obtain all possible assistance related to e-court services. 16 (sixteen) Office Assistants for manning e-Sewa Kendras were recruited after a written examination. They were given one-week induction training at the Manipur Judicial Academy. They have now been posted in different districts. The staff are provided with laptops and scanners for providing assistance

with e-court services. Furthermore, the e-Sewa Kendra staff participate in various legal awareness programs to raise awareness about the e-court's services.

SCANNING AND DIGITIZATION OF COURT RECORD

As on 09.03.2023, 61,50,649 lakh pages of disposed of cases from the High Court and the District Courts have been scanned and digitised. Scanning of disposed of cases is proceeding at a faster pace and it is anticipated that the scanning of such cases will be completed within 5 to 6 months. The scanning of disposed of cases of Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Churachandpur, Chandel, and Moreh has been completed. Currently, the scanning of disposed of cases of District and Sessions Court, Senapati, is going on. Meanwhile, the High Court has begun scanning and digitizing pending cases.

E-OFFICE

The then Chief Justice P.V Sanjay Kumar, on the recommendation of the Computer Committee, was pleased to give the financial and administrative approval of Rs. 36 lakh from the office expense of the High Court for implementing E-office in the High Court and the District Courts. Two trainings for the Registry regarding use of E-office software were conducted to prepare for its implementation in future.

LIST OF SERVING MANIPUR JUDICIAL SERVICE OFFICERS

Sl. No.	Name of MJS Officer(s)	Present Place of Posting
1	Smt. Golmei Gaiphulshillu	Registrar General, High Court of Manipur
2	Shri N. Rajnikanta Singh	District & Sessions Judge, Tamenglong
3	Shri Yumkham Rother	Registrar (Judl.)
4	Smt. Binny Ngangom	District & Sessions Judge, Ukhrul
5	Shri Samom Ibjen	District & Sessions Judge, Thoubal, i/c Family Court, Thoubal
6	Shri N. Keetichand Singh	District & Sessions Judge, Senapati
7	Shri Lamkhanpao Tonsing	Judge, Family Court, Manipur
8	Shri Ojesh Mutum	Member Secretary, MASLSA
9	Shri Letkho Kipgen	District & Sessions Judge, Bishnupur, i/c Family Court, Bishnupur
10	Shri Kh. Ajit Singh	District & Sessions Judge, Churachandpur
11	Ms. Reena Serto	Addl. Sessions Judge (FTC), Crime Against Women, Manipur
12	Smt. Ningthoujam Lanleima	Presiding Officer, Revenue Tribunal, i/c Co-operative Tribunal, Imphal and MACT, Imphal
13	Smt. Monalisa Maibam	Special Judge (ND & PS) Manipur
14	Ms. Athokpam Shanta Devi	Registrar (Vigilance), High Court of Manipur
15	Shri Alek Muivah	Special Judge (ND & PS), FTC, Manipur
16	Shri Sonykumar Nepram	Addl. District & Sessions Judge (FTC), Manipur East
17	Shri Lamkholal Kipgen	Addl. District & Sessions Judge (FTC), Manipur West
18	Shri Janggoulen Haokip	CJM, Imphal West with i/c Secretary, DLSA, Imphal West and i/c Principal Magistrate, JJB, Imphal West
19	Smt. Ashem Tarunakumari Devi	CJM, Imphal East
20	Shri K. Nirojit Singh	CJM-cum-Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Imphal East
21	Smt. Masana Evangeline Panmei	CJM-cum-Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Thoubal, i/c Secretary, DLSA, Thoubal, i/c Principal Magistrate JJB, Thoubal
22	Shri Sorokhaibam Sadananda Singh	CJM-cum-Civil Judge, Sr. Divn., Churachandpur
23	Smt. Heeralata Moirangthem	CJM-cum-Civil Judge, Sr. Divn., Ukhrul
24	Km. Bineshwori Maibam	Addl. Member Secretary, MASLSA
25	Shri Shubham Vashist	Jt. Registrar (Judl.) /CPC, High Court of Manipur
26	Ms. Sharda Yengkhom	Secretary, DLSA, Bishnupur i/c Principal Magistrate, JJB, Bishnupur
27	Shri Laishram Rina Devi	CJM-cum-Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Tamenglong
28	Md. Arshad Saeed Shah	Secretary, DLSA, Imphal East, i/c Principal Magistrate JJB, Imphal East,
29	Ms. Margaret Niangsiamkim	Secretary, DLSA Imphal East i/c CJM-cum-Civil Judge, Sr. Divn., Senapati
30	Ms. Kimneigah Kipgen	CJM-cum-Civil Judge, Sr. Divn., Chandel
31	Ms. S. Mangaleibi Devi	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Moreh
32	Ms. N. Sofiarani Devi	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Kangpokpi
33	Ksh. Maheta Devi	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Mao
34	Shri Leonid Ahanthem	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Noney
35	Shri Bonny Laishram	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Jiribam
36	Shri Nemkholam Lungdim	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Kamjong
37	Shri Robert Lungdim	Deputy Registrar (Judl.), High Court of Manipur
38	Shri Phungreishung PA	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Ukhrul
39	Neera Sinam	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Imphal West-I

40	Potsangbam Praveen Kumar	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Imphal West-II
41	Fakhrul Islam Choudhury	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Imphal East
42	Jenit Kongbrailatpam	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Thoubal
43	Mangvung Tongminthang Haokip	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Bishnupur
44	Rajshree Yambem	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Churachandpur
45	Shiekh Aasif Shah	Deputy Member Secretary, MASLSA
46	Khangembam Rojita Devi	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Pherzawl
47	J. Hillson Angam	JMFC-cum-Civil Judge, Jr. Divn., Kakching
48	Ozhu Robviina	Administrative Officer, Imphal East

List of Re-employed/Re-engaged MJS Officers:

Sl. No.	Name of MJS Officer(s)	Present Place of Posting
1	Shri K. Brajakumar Sharma	Joint Director, MJA
2	Smt. Ngaineikim Kipgen	Judge, Family Court, Imphal East with Addl. Sessions Judge, FTC, CAW, Manipur
3	Shri M. Manojkumar Singh	Family Court, Manipur (till 28.02.2023)
4	Shri Chandam Brajachand Singh	Judge, FTSC (No.2), Manipur
5	Shri Salam Imocha Singh	Judge, FTSC (No. 1), Manipur
6	Smt. Rajkumari Memcha Devi	District & Sessions Judge, Imphal West
7	Shri Waikhom Tonen Meitei	District & Sessions Judge, Imphal East

Grade of MJS	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
MJS-I Officers	19	19	0
MJS-II Officers	18	15	3
MJS-III Officers	22	18*	4
Total	59	42	7

* including 10 MJS-III Officers appointed in January, 2023 who are currently undergoing training at MJA.

EVOLUTION OF INSTITUTIONS OF JUSTICE DISPENSATION IN MANIPUR

Administration of justice in ancient times (around 33-154 AD) was said to be through the Courts of Kuchu and Pacha. Kuchu was highest court of the land exercising complete jurisdiction of both civil and criminal matters, and the King and his nobles tried the matters. Pacha, on the other hand, was an all exclusive court dealing only with matters relating to females, and was presided by the Queen.

Manipur became a princely state under British rule in 1891, the last of the independent states to be incorporated into British India. It was divided into three divisions, namely Valley Area, Hill Area and British Reserved Area. The Maharajah of Manipur was responsible for the administration of Manipur. However, Hill Area was administered by the President of the Manipur State Darbar, assisted by one or more officers, on behalf of the Maharajah.

Chierap Court

The Judicature was reorganised in November 1891. The Chierap Court, one of the most important courts in existence, was however retained but with reduced number of members. The Cheirap Court had both civil and criminal jurisdiction having both original and appellate jurisdiction. The territorial jurisdiction was the whole of Manipur Valley barring the British Reserve.

In criminal cases, they jointly had the powers of a first class magistrate. The honorary title of 'angamba' which means a noble, was conferred on every member of the Chierap Court. This Court was the highest Court manned by the Manipuris.

Sadar Panchayat Court

The Court, next in hierarchy to the Cheirap Court, was the Sadar Panchayat Court. Its

territorial jurisdiction was the capital town of Imphal, bar the British Reserve. There were five members in this Court including the President. They jointly exercised the powers of a second class magistrate. Its pecuniary jurisdiction was Rs.50. Appeals against its decree or sentence lay in the Cheirap Court. Initially it had both original and appellate jurisdiction and heard appeals against the decisions of Rural Panchayats. Later on, this provision was amended and such appeals lay in the Cheirap Court.

A member of the Sardar Panchayat was paid a salary of Rs.25/- per month. In addition, he was entitled to enjoy 62.5 acres of revenue-free rice field so long as he was a member.

Rural Panchayats

For the countryside, a number of courts called the Rural Panchayats at big villages were introduced. They were constituted on the lines of the Sadar Panchayat, only they exercised much less powers. Educated Manipuris called them Saalis Panchayat meaning Arbitration Panchayats. In Arabic, saalis means arbitration. The cases coming before the Rural Panchayats were minor civil and criminal cases. Members of these Courts helped the parties to reach a compromise.

Muhamedan Panchayat

The Muhamedan Panchayat was introduced for the Muslims. The Rural Panchayats and the Muhamedan Panchayat existed from the time of Major Maxwell, the Political Agent right up to integration with Dominion of India.

The practice of waakheiba

Throughout the period of British Paramountcy, there was a practice called waakheiba in Sadar Panchayat Court and Cheirap Court. When

these courts delivered the judgment in civil cases, the winning party paid a small sum of money to the court. This money was called waakheisel. The Manipuri expression wakheiba means 'putting the cause to an end'. The expression wakheisel means money paid to signify that the cause is ended. The practice had been in existence in Manipur since time immemorial.

The Manipur State Darbar

The Manipur State Darbar was establishment in or about 1907 consisting of one member of the Indian Civil Service selected by the Governor of Assam as the President and at least three Manipuri members called as ordinary members. Three additional members might also be appointed.

The Darbar was the highest original and appellant Criminal and Civil Court in the State. It would try all cases beyond the jurisdiction of the Cheirap Court except those in which a member of hill tribes was concerned and those that arose within the British Reserve.

Criminal Justice

The President of the Manipur State Darbar had the powers equivalent to those of a District magistrate and his assistants had powers equivalent to those of Magistrates of the First Class under Indian Criminal Procedure Code, 1898.

The hill tribes were administered by the President of the Darbar on behalf of His Highness. The President tried all criminal cases in which a member of the hill tribes or a native of the Lushai, Chin or Naga Hills or a member of the Hill tribes of the Cachar District was concerned either as complainant or accused, except those which arose within the British Reserve.

If the President or an assistant was of the opinion that the accused was guilty, and he ought to receive a punishment more severe

than a Magistrate of the First class could inflict, he should forward the records with any explanatory remarks he might wish to make to the Political Agent, who should duly consider the evidence recorded and examine or re-examine any witnesses he might see fit to call, and hear any statement the accused might wish to make, after which he should pass sentence. Assistants acting under this provision should forward the record to the Political Agent through the President. Sentences of death and transportation or imprisonment exceeding seven years required the confirmation of the Government of Assam.

Civil Justice

The President and his assistants would dispose of all suits to which a member of the hill tribes dependent on the Manipur State or a native of the Naga, Lushai, or Chin Hills, or a member of the Hill tribes of the Cachar District was a party. They were guided, as far as possible, by the tribal customs, and if both parties agreed, cases might be settled by oath or in any other manner recognised by the tribe concerned. The Political Agent might call for the records of any civil case decided by the President and reserve or modify the decision, or remand the case for further enquiry.

FROM 1947-1954

On 11 August 1947, with the signing of an Instrument of Accession under the Government of India Act, 1935, Manipur joined the Dominion of India. After ceding External Affairs, Defence and Communication by the Instrument, Manipur retained the residuary subjects, including administration of justice.

The Manipur State Constitution Act of 1947 established a democratic form of government, with the Maharaja continuing as the head of State. The Act extended to the whole of Manipur except that it should not apply in any manner where a specific reservation of

powers was made to any authority in the Hills under the provisions of the Manipur State Hill (Administration) Regulation, 1947. Under the Constitution Act, there would be a complete separation of the Judiciary from the executive.

Under the Manipur State Courts Act, 1947, the Chief Court was established which exercised all civil, criminal, testamentary, intestate and matrimonial jurisdiction, original and appellate. The Criminal Courts were the Chief Court, Court of Sessions, Court of Magistrate First Class, Court of Magistrate Second Class, Court of Magistrate Third Class and Court of Village Panchayat. The Civil Courts were the Chief Court, the Court of District Judge, the Court of Sub-Judge, the Court of Munsiff and the Court of Village Panchayat.

The Manipur State Hill (Administration) Regulation, 1947 provided Civil and Criminal Courts in the Hill areas. Criminal Courts were the Court of Village Authority, the Court of Circle Authority, the Hill Bench at Imphal and the Chief Court of Manipur State. Civil Courts were the Chief Court, the Hill Bench, the Circle Bench and the Village Authorities.

Judicial Commissioner

The State of Manipur was merged into the Dominion of India under an agreement signed on 21st September, 1949. Manipur became a Part C State under the Constitution of India. The Chief Court was abolished and it was succeeded by the Court of Judicial Commissioner under Manipur Courts (Amendment) Order, 1950. Under the Judicial Commissioner's Court (Declaration as High Court) Act, 1950, the Judicial Commissioner's Court was declared as the High Court for certain purposes of the Constitution.

FROM 1955-1970

Manipur was made a Union Territory in 1956. Under the Manipur Courts Act, 1955 enacted by the Parliament, the Court of the Judicial

Commissioner was established. The Manipur State Courts Act, 1947 was repealed. The Court of Judicial Commissioner was declared as a High Court for certain purposes. Under the Act, the subordinate Civil Courts were the District Court, the Court of Subordinate Judge and the Court of Munsiff. Appeal from a decree or order of a Munsiff or Subordinate Judge in a suit the value of which did not exceed five thousand rupees, lay to the Court of the District Judge and in all other cases to the Judicial Commissioner. A second appeal lay to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner from the appellate decree or order of a District Judge.

FROM 1971 TILL DATE

Manipur became a full-fledged State in 1972. On re-organization of the North-Eastern region by the North Eastern Area (Re-organization) Act, 1971, the Gauhati High Court was established for the five North-Eastern States namely; Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura and the two Union Territories namely Union Territory of Mizoram and the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh. The Imphal Bench of the Gauhati High Court came into existence on Friday, the 21st day of January 1972.

The Permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court at Imphal was established vide Gauhati High Court (Establishment of Permanent Bench at Imphal) order dated 21st January, 1992. Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. H. Kania inaugurated the Permanent Bench at Imphal on Saturday, the 14th day of March, 1992. The Imphal Permanent Bench at the new Complex at Mantripukhri was inaugurated on Saturday, the 7th day of April, 2012, by Hon'ble Shri Justice Altamas Kabir.

In the year 1991, the erstwhile District & Sessions Court, Manipur was bifurcated into District & Sessions Court, Manipur East and Manipur West.

The High Court of Manipur

The High Court of Manipur came into existence on Saturday, the 23rd day of March, 2013. Hon'ble Shri Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre was administered oath of office as the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur. Later on the same day, Hon'ble Shri Justice N. Kotiswar Singh was also administered oath of office of Hon'ble Puisne Judge of the High Court of Manipur by Hon'ble the Chief Justice. On 25th March, 2013, the High Court of Manipur at Imphal was formally inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri Justice Altamas Kabir, the Chief Justice of India.

THE BAR

The practice of representation by lawyers in the administration of justice started in and around the year 1947. The Chief Court introduced the system of issuing Pleader's Licences to educated persons and it was not necessary for a prospective pleader to be a law graduate in

order to obtain the licence. A licence could be applied with a fee of Rs.60 and renewed every year on payment of renewal fee of Rs.25.

Some pleaders, who obtained their licences during the period 1947-1950 came together to form the Manipur Bar Association on 15th September, 1951. It originally had 11(eleven) pleaders as members with Shri Sougajam Samarendro Singh as its first President. It took another two decades for women to get admitted into the Bar Association, which happened in the year 1970 with the enrolment of Ms. H. Ibeyaima Devi and Ms. L. Madhabi Devi. By 1990, the number of women who enrolled themselves as member of the Bar Association rose to around 50.

The High Court Bar Association of Manipur was registered in 1990. In April, 1993, the Manipur Bar Association was renamed as the All Manipur Bar Association (AMBA). It got registered in the year 2003.

Based on articles/information published in:

(i) Reminiscence of Khangjeng, a souvenir published in connection with the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Gauhati High Court, Imphal Bench, (ii) Souvenir published in connection with the Diamond Jubilee Celebration in 2011 by AMBA (iii) High Court of Manipur Souvenir, 2014, (iv) Wikipedia.

EXEMPLARY CONDUCT OF AN ADVOCATE IN AND OUTSIDE COURT IS HONOUR OF THE PROFESSION

By: A. Romen Kumar Singh, IPS (Retd.)
Senior Advocate

"Although the entry to the profession can be had by acquiring merely qualification prescribed by different Universities, the honour as a professional has to be maintained by its members by their exemplary conduct both in and outside Court"

Justice J.M.Panchal
(2010)14 SCC 114 – Para 40.

The Seventeenth Century has been called the Age of Enlightenment; the Eighteenth, the Age of Reason; the Nineteenth, the Age of Progress; the Twentieth, the Age of Anxiety; and the 21st Century has been the Age of Pyrrhic victory for the High Court Bar Association of Manipur in fulfilling the long cherished desire of having SEPARATE HIGH COURT OF THE STATE on 23.03.2013 which was inaugurated on 25.03.2013 with pristine glory adorned and secured by the doyens of the members of legal fraternity. Such establishment of separate High Court which is the sentinell of justice has cast a bounden duty upon the members of the Bar to

perform the sacrosanct duties assigned to the Advocates to uphold the interest of the clients fearlessly by all fair and honourable means by conducting themselves as model for others.

A lawyer is a responsible officer of the Court. It is his duty as the officer of the Court to assist the Court in a properly prepared manner. That is the solemn duty assigned to a lawyer. It is to be remembered that the legal profession is different from other profession in that what the lawyers do, affects not only an individual but the administration of justice which is the foundation of the Civilised Society. Both as a leading member of the intelligentsia of the Society and as an intelligent citizen, the lawyer

has to conduct himself as a model for others both in the professional and in his private and public life. The legal profession is a solemn and serious occupation where there is no provision for retirement as the lawyers only drop dead. It is a noble profession and all those who belong to it are its honourable members.

Landmark Judgements of the Apex Court concerning Bar and Bench which may pave the way for enhancing the legal information of the members of the Bar as the advocate has to act according to the principles of UBER RIMA FIDES, that is, the utmost good, faith integrity, fairness and loyalty are enclosed as below for easy reference.

PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

Advocate carrying photocopying centre, P.C.O. and other Business in Court Premises after enrollment is misconduct

Bhupendra Kumar Sharma
V. Bar Association, Pathankot.
A.I.R. 2002 S.C.47

Advocates Act (25 of 1961), S.35 – Professional misconduct – Proof and punishment – Advocate alleged to be carrying photocopying centre in Court premises, PCO and other business even after enrolment – Plea by Advocate that after his enrolment business was carried on by his brother and father – Evidence of Telephone Department and SDO showing that P.C.O. and lease of photo-copying centre are continuing in name of Advocate even after his enrolment – Finding that Advocate is guilty of misconduct – cannot be said to be based on no evidence – or on evidence not of standard required in quasi-criminal case – However, considering nature of misconduct and taking note of the handicaps of the Advocate debaring him for practising for all time, held, was too harsh.

Advocate withdrew amount of compensation in a land acquisition case but did not pay to client advocate committed breach of trust and misconduct – debarred from practising in any courts.

Harish Chandra Tiwari V. Baiju,
A.I.R. 2002 S.C. 548

Wrong professional conduct – Delinquent Advocate engaged as counsel in Land Acquisition case – Advocate withdrew amount of compensation from court and has not paid it to client – complainant for last more than 11 years – Not a single circumstance shows to accept his defence that he has paid amount to his client – Advocate held guilty of wrong professional conduct, has maligned reputation of noble profession and has committed breach of trust – Misconduct aggravated when Advocate produced forged affidavit of his client to derive the Disciplinary Committee to believe that he and his client had settled the dispute by making a late payment to his client – Retaining such an Advocate on roll is unsafe to legal profession

– Punishment of suspension from practice for period of three years imposed by the Disciplinary Committee – Enhanced to removal of his name from roll of Advocate – Advocate stands debarred from practising in any Court.

Advocate withdrew identifying the person in opening bank accounts for settling compensation amount in land acquisition is professional misconduct.

Rajendra V.Pai V. Alex Fernandes,
(2002)4 SCC 212

Professional Misconduct – Appellant Advocate solicited professional work from villagers, settled contingent fee depending upon compensation amount in land acquisition case and wrongly identified the person in opening bank accounts – only 3 out of 150 persons filed complaint against appellant – on facts and circumstances, appellant is suspended for 7 years.

Advocate has no locus standi to file writ petition in his own name and as substitute of his client.

Vinoy Kumar V. State of U.P.,
A.I.R. 2001 S.C. 1739

Advocate has no locus standi to file writ petition in his own name and substitute himself for his client – Particularly, when petition was not filed in public interest – And nothing prevented affected persons from filing writ petition.

A notary attesting blank stamp papers, affixing signature along with rubber stamp impression is a misconduct – suspension of practice for one year & three months.

Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh
V. B. Narayan Swamy.
2014(1)SCALE 105

Professional Misconduct – Abuse of position as a Notary by attesting blank Stamp papers and by affixing signature along with the rubber

stamp impression – Respondent 1, An Advocate appointed as Notary, had attested blank stamp papers of Rs. 10/- and Rs. 20/- of three different dates by affixing seal of Notary and as an Advocate – Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh held that his conduct was in violation of provisions of Notaries Act and particular section 35 of the Advocates Act – However, Bar Council of India set aside the order of punishment imposed on respondent while holding that violation of provisions of the Stamp Act and Notaries Act will have no impact on conduct of respondent 1 vis-à-vis his status as an Advocate – After the initial order of punishment debarring the first respondent once and for all from practicing as an Advocate was passed by appellant Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh, Bar Council of India issued an order of stay of the order dated 5.12.2009 only on 9.1.2011 – His certificate of Notary was also cancelled – Respondent I had to necessarily suspend his practice from 5.12.2009 till 9.1.2011 – Whether considering misconduct of respondent, order of punishment could be modified – Held – Yes – suspension of practice for a period of one year and three months – Whether there is any scope for reviving his functions as a Notary – Held-No – Whether order passed by the Bar Council of India was sustainable – No – Punishment modified as mentioned above.

No presumption that only because two lawyers from the same chamber engaged by respective parties, they would breach their confidentiality amounting to misconduct.

Sneh Gupta V. Devi Sarup
(2009)6 SCC 194

Para 46. – V and the appellant were sisters. The submission that V (who was party to the two compromise petitions relating to succession to their father's property involved herein) and the appellant were in the same boat as would appear from the fact that they had engaged lawyers from the same chamber and, in fact, the lawyer of

the appellant had no independent practice itself would to show that the appellant knew about the compromise petitions, cannot be accepted. A counsel appearing for a party is expected to be independent. There is no presumption that only because two lawyers are practising from the same chamber, they would breach their confidentiality or commit some act which would amount to professional misconduct. Thus, only because two compromise petitions were filed on the same day or V was a party to both of them, would not by itself lead to any inference that the appellant also knew about the second compromise through her counsel.

No lawyers have right to go on strike or boycott of courts except token strike as protest only in rarest of rare cases where dignity, integrity and independence of bar and bench are at stake.

Ex-Capt. Harish Uppal V. Union of India
(2003)2 SCC 45 [C.B.]

The constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that Lawyers have no right to go on strike or boycott of courts. Lawyers holding Vakalatnama of client if abstain from attending court due to strike – shall be personally, liable to pay cost in addition to damages for loss suffered by client. Only in rarest of rare cases where dignity, integrity and independence of Bar and/or Bench are at stake. Lawyers may go on token strike of one day as protest.

Bar councils are expected to rise to the occasion as they are responsible to uphold the dignity of courts and majesty of law.

Common Cause, A Registered Society
V. Union of India,
(2006)9 SCC 295

Para 4: The Bar councils are expected to rise to the occasion as they are responsible to uphold the dignity of courts and majesty of law and to prevent interference in administration of

justice. It is the duty of the Bar Councils to ensure that there is no unprofessional and/or unbecoming conduct. This being the duty no Bar Council can even consider giving a call for strike or a call for boycott. It follows that in Bar Councils and even Bar Association can never consider or take seriously any requisition calling a meeting to consider a call for a strike or a call for boycott. Such requisition should be consigned to the place where they belong viz. the waste-paper basket. In case any Association calls for a strike or a call for boycott, the State Bar Council concerned, and on its failure the Bar Council of India, must immediately take disciplinary action against advocates who give a call for strike and if the committee members permit calling of a meeting for such purpose, against the committee members. Further, it is the duty of every advocate to boldly ignore a call for strike or boycott.

Court must now mulct advocates who hold vakalats with costs

Courts are not powerless or helpless. Section 38 of the Advocates Act provides that even in disciplinary matters the final Appellate Authority is the Supreme Court. Thus, even if the Bar Councils do not rise to the occasion and perform their duties by taking disciplinary action on a complaint from a client against an advocate for non-appearance by reason of a call for strike or boycott, on an appeal the Supreme Court can and will. Apart from this, every court now should and must mulct advocates who hold vakalats, but still refrain from attending courts in pursuance of a strike call, with costs. Such costs would be in addition to the damages which the advocates may have to pay for the loss suffered by his client by reason of his non-appearance.

Advocate being a fiduciary of his client can not pass on the confidential information to anyone else.

principles of uberrima fides

In *Kokkanda B. Poondacha V. K.D. Ganapathi*, (2011)12 SCC 600 at para 12 the Supreme Court held that “the relationship between a lawyer and his client is solely founded on trust and confidence. A lawyer cannot pass on the confidential information to anyone else. This is because he is a fiduciary of his client, who reposes trust and confidence in the lawyer. Therefore, he has a duty to fulfil all his obligations towards his client with care and act in good faith. Since the client entrusts the whole obligation of handling legal proceedings to an advocate, he has to act according to principles of UBERRIMA FIDES i.e. the utmost good faith, fairness and loyalty”

An advocate’s attitude towards and dealings with his client have to scrupulously honest and fair.

Dhanraj Singh Choudhary
V. Nathulal Vishwakarma,
(2012) 1 SCC 741 – Para 23

Para 23 “The legal profession is a noble profession. It is not a business or a trade. A person practising law has to practise in the spirit of honesty and not in the spirit of mischief – making or money – getting. An advocate’s attitude towards and dealings with the client have to be scrupulously honest and fair”

Resolution of bar association that they will not defend a particular person in a particular case is null and void.

A. S. Mohammed Rafi
V. State of Tamil Nadu,
2010 (13) SCALE 119

Several Bar Associations all over India have passed resolutions that they will not defend a particular person or persons in a particular

criminal case – All such resolutions are held as null and void being against all traditions of the Bar and against professional ethics.

Advocate representing a party in an earlier suit was representing opposite party is improper not misconduct.

Daya Shankar V. O.T. Aldoms,
(2004)10 SCC148 [3 Judges]

Professional Misconduct _ Representing a party which in an earlier suit was an opposite party – Since there was no conflict of interest between the two parties, therefore, on the facts strictly speaking there was no professional misconduct but nevertheless it was an improper act for which reprimand was awarded by the Bar Council of India was sufficient to meet the ends of justice.

Counsel should not seek unnecessary adjournments

Noor Mohammed V. Jethanand,
2013 (2) SCALE 94

Adjournments – Duty of counsel as the officer of the court to assist the Court and not to seek unnecessary adjournments – Chief Justices of the High Courts are requested to conceive and adopt a mechanism, regard being had to the priority of cases to avoid such inordinate delay.

Advocate’s right to practice can be denied by a law that may be framed by competent legislature.

N.K. Bajpai V. Union of India,
(2012) 4 SCC 653.
Paras 21 to 25 & 59

Advocate’s statutory Right to Practice – Held, said Statutory right is a restricted right – Right to practice is not an absolute right which is free from restrictions and is without any limitations – Advocate’s right to appear before

an authority or a person can be denied by a law that may be framed by competent legislature. Therefore, right to practise, which is not only a statutory right under the Advocate's Act but also a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(g) – is subject to reasonable restrictions.

Lawyers owe fiduciary duties to their clients and should follow the client's instructions.

Himalayan Co-Operative Group Housing Society V. Balwan Singh,
2015(6) SCALE 731.
Page 738 – Para 23.

Apart from the above, in our view lawyers are perceived to be their client's agents. The law of agency may not strictly apply to the client – lawyer's relationship as lawyers or agents, lawyers have certain authority and certain duties. Because lawyers are also fiduciaries, their duties will sometimes more demanding than those imposed on other agents.

The authority – agency status affords the lawyers to act for the client on the subject matter of the retainer. One of the most basic principles of the lawyers – client relationship is that lawyers owe fiduciary duties to their clients. As part of those duties lawyers assume all the traditional duties that agents owe their principals and, thus, have to respect the client's autonomy to make decisions at a minimum, as to the objectives of the representation. Thus, according to generally accepted notions of professional responsibility, lawyers should follow the client's instructions rather than substitute their judgement for that of the client.

Unless there is easy access to the bench and bar both, availability of justice to all which is a social goal can not be made a reality.

Rameshwar Prasad Goyal, Advocate, IN RE
(2014)2 SCC 572.
Page 579 – Para 18.

The availability of justice to all which is a social goal, must be a reality. However, it cannot be done unless there is an easy access to the Bench and the Bar both. If the Court is not working properly or if the Bar is not rendering proper assistance, it would lead to a travesty of justice and destroy the basic democracy, which would tantamount to failure of administration of justice. The people and particularly, the common man would cease to be beneficiaries of democracy. Justice is based on law and the law in modern democracy is too complicated, therefore, it is not possible for an ordinary litigant to raise the voice without engaging a lawyer. In case the lawyer is negligent or not willing to assist the Court, or fails to perform his duty towards the Court, loss to the poor litigant is beyond imagination.

If the lawyers do not perform their functions properly, it would be destructive of democracy and the rule of law

Page. 577 – Para 10.

Lawyers play an important part in the administration of justice. The profession itself requires the safeguarding of high moral standard. As an officer of the Court the overriding duty of a lawyer is to the Court, the standards of his profession and to the public. Since the main job of a lawyer is to assist the Court in dispensing justice, the members of the Bar cannot behave with doubtful scruples or strive to thrive on litigation. The lawyers must remember that they are equal partners with Judges in the administration of justice.

If the lawyers do not perform their functions properly, it would be destructive of democracy and the rule of law (vide Manak Lal V. Premchand Seighvi, AIR 1957 S.C. 425, Jamilabai Abdul Kaadar V. Shankarlal Gulabchand, (1975)2 SCC 291, S.P. Gupta V. Union of India, 1981 Supp. SCC 87 and Sheela Barse V. State of Maharashtra, (1983)2 SCC 96.

Counsel for the state has a higher responsibility and is expected to have higher standard of conduct

State of Rajasthan
V. Surendra Mohnot
(2014) 14 SCC 77
Paras 31 to 33

A lawyer is responsible officer of the Court. It is his duty as the officer of the Court to assist the Court in properly prepared manner. That is the sacrosanct role assigned to an advocate. As far as the counsel for the state is concerned, it can decidedly be stated that he has a higher responsibility. A Counsel who represents the State is required to state the facts in a correct and honest manner. He has to discharge his duty with immense responsibility and each of his action has to be sensible. He is expected to have higher standard of conduct. He has a special duty towards the court and is also obliged to protect the public interest. That apart, he has a moral responsibility to the court. When these values corrode, one can say "THINGS FALL APART". He should always remind himself that an advocate, while not being insensible to ambition and achievement, should feel the sense of ethicality and nobility of the legal profession in his bones.

Quality of profession of advocacy lies with advocates

State of Rajasthan V. Surendra Mohnot
(2014) 14 SCC 77
Page. 94 – Para 22

In Ministry of Information and Broad Casting, In RE, (1995) 3 SCC 619 the court observed that it is in hands of members of the profession to improve the quality of the service they render both to the litigants and public and to the courts and to brighten their image in the Society. The perceptible casual approach to the practice of profession was not appreciated by the court.

Advocate's appearance before consumer fora.

Authorised agents who are not advocates may represent before consumer fora

C.Venkatachalam
V. Ajit Kumar C. Shah
(2011) 9 SCC 707 [3 Judges]

Held that "Authorised Agents" who are not advocates, may file complaints and represent persons before Consumer Fora. Further held, this would not violate Advocates Act, 1961 – Directions issued to National Commission in respect of rules to be framed for regulation of practice by such "authorised agents" before commission Fora.

Personal presence of an advocate facing disciplinary proceeding before disciplinary committee is necessary.

Dhanraj Singh Choudhury
V. Nathulal Vishwakarma
(2012) 2 SCC 92

The Supreme Court held that having regard to the issues raised in the appeals, we are of the view that the appellant should personally present on the next date of hearing.

Honesty of an advocate is extremely significant

In T.A. Kathiru Kunju V. Jacob Mathai, (2017) 5 SCC 755 – Para 12 the Supreme Court held that "Honesty of an Advocate is extremely significant. The conduct of an Advocate has to be worthy so that he can be called as a member of the noble fraternity of lawyers. It is his obligation to look after the interest of the litigant when he is entrusted with the responsible task in trust. An Advocate has to bear in mind that the profession of law is "NOBLE ONE"

Advocate discharges a public duty of the highest utility

In *Cardamom Marketing Corporation V. State of Kerala*, (2017) 5 SCC 255 – Para 13 the Supreme Court held that Law reflects man's sense of order and justice. There can be no Government without order, there can be no order without law; and there can be no

administration of law without lawyers. It is no small service to be called upon to prosecute and enforce the rights of a litigant through the Court of law and in that sense the legal profession is treated as service to the justice seekers. It is, therefore, by contributing an essential aid to the process of the administration of justice that advocate discharges a public duty of the highest utility.

PRACTICING LAW: AS A PROFESSION

By: Salam Rupachandra Singh

Senior Advocate, former Assistant Solicitor General of India, High Court of Manipur and Additional Advocate General, Manipur.

Law is defined as a rule of action to which men are obliged to make their conduct comfortable. A command, conferred by some sanction, to acts or forbearances as a class as per jurisprudence of Austin. A principle of conduct may be habitually observed by an individual or a class, it may become a custom or it may be imposed on all individuals who consent or are unable to resist its application and the sanction or the penalty imposed for non compliance, and in that case, it becomes a law. If, in addition, the law and its sanction are imposed by, or by authority of a sovereign, the law becomes positive as per the said jurisprudence.

The reported judgment 1973 (1) SCC 99, *The Director Of Industries & Commerce, Government Of A. P, Hyderabad –v- V. Venkata Reddy*, interprets Law in Force in the Territory of India as it occurs in Article 35 (b) also in Article 372 of Constitution of India which continues in force existing laws which existed not only in the provinces of British India but also in all Indian States.

India has three distinctive pillars as Legislature, Executives and Judiciary. And a recent trend of Press claiming as another important pillar in the Country emerges. Blake's Law Dictionary defines legislature and legislative as: - The process of making law in written form according to some type of formal procedure by a branch of government constituted to perform this process and the branch of government who makes or creates laws or legislature. The role of law makers is to bring laws into or out of existence by making laws and those who have taken part in the process as Legislators. In Indian States Assemblies Members as MLAs, Country parliament as MPs and they have to make law within the given jurisdiction of the Country.

Judiciary is taken as a coordinate department of the Government and is not a mere subordinate branch and is combined to its own functions which cannot be encroached upon, is also a department of Government which construes and applies the laws which has to be done with the expounding and administering the law. It

is also taken as the third organ of the State which deals with application, interpretation and adjudication upon the law of the land protecting the basic rights of citizens.

The Executive, as per Article 166 of the Constitution of India, is comprehensive enough to include the order emerging result of quasi-judicial decision of the Government and is a branch of the Government to which liability is entrusted regarding enforcement of law and distribution of other powers but it is not the same as legislative or judicial branches. The Executive order can be made only on the advice of Ministers since the Governor has to such power to exercise quasi-judicial function. The executive power of the State shall be vested in the Governor and shall be exercised by him either directly or through officials subordinate to him in accordance with this Constitution. It is used in broaden sense as including both a direction and action and the carrying out of decision.

To practice law, a person should be an advocate entered in any roll under the provision of Advocates Act, 1961, who obtains bachelor's degree in law from any University established by law in India. The enrollment shall be under Bar Council. Under the Bar Council of India, State Bar Councils have been constituted for each State of India. So far Manipur is concerned; it was earlier under the Bar Council of the North East i.e., the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram etc. However, on establishing the High Court of Manipur, the separate High Court of the State in the year 2013, Manipur has its own Bar Council with its own Rules.

An advocate has been regarded as a person indulging in a noble profession and he has been termed as the officer of the Court. On the other hand, an advocate has certain duties towards his clients and Courts. In case, such ethics have not been followed and practiced, there entails

the question of misconduct thereby to get debarred from the Roll.

Advocates are of different kinds:- Law officers serving in Government Department, panel lawyers for Central Government, State Government Advocates and standing Counsels for many departments. Their fees are settled according to terms and conditions and as individual preference. There is no hard and fast rule that an advocate shall charge such and such fees. It is a trite saying that for a prosperous and leading lawyer, his income is not fixed and only the Sky is the limit.

However, for the beginners, the profession is always a challenge. In the initial stage of practice learning is the priority and earning is negligible. That is why, even the Bar Council of India or other forum has been insisting to Central and State Governments for providing stipend to upstart young lawyers. The longer the practice, gaining the more experience and if one becomes a presentable and successful lawyer, one's earning and respect has no limit.

In the Indian context and International arena, many politicians are turn outs from this profession. Thus, it has its lucrative value in practicing law. The advantage of practicing law is that there is no hurdle of advanced age or no question of age of retirement comes up. As long as health permits, one can practice. As said above, many dos and don'ts, an advocate has to follow. In the don'ts list, an advocate cannot retain files for fees and has no liens over files returned. An advocate has to withdraw his enrolment when his being full time salaried. However, he can come back to the profession again. An Advocate-on-record is required to be registered in the Supreme Court and he is to be present, in case, the conducting Counsel fails to appear and if certain misconduct takes place, his name is to be removed the from register of Advocates-on records.

An advocate has no right to ask indecent

questions to the prosecutrix, i.e., the victim of a rape or sexual harassment case. He is to attend Court in proper dress and if acts to switch side in a criminal case, he is termed as to commit professional misconduct. If he accepts a criminal case, he must attend the trial day-today. Even if his client communicates in furtherance of illegal object or purpose, it must be disclosed by the advocate. If a brief is handed over to another advocate without the consent of the client, it is against the professional etiquette.

When advocates are on strike, Court cannot shut its responsibility to decide the case and Supreme Court has come down to the extent that advocates should not participate or launch strike. Section 35 of the Advocate Act, 1961 confers power on Disciplinary Committee of the Bar Council to take action against an advocate for his/her misconduct.

These are the some of the adversaries towards advocates being in the noble profession. For the welfare of the advocates, on the other hand, demands are there for Advocates Family Welfare Schemes and enactment for Advocates Protection Act etc. as if done in case of Medical professional by enactment of Medical Protection Act.

The field of law is very vast like an ocean and as such, the efforts and endeavours to be made by the advocate to pursue or defend for his clients are great. The more efforts the lawyer gives, the more result he gets. Besides it, an advocate should have tacts in Court, presence

of mind and at times to overcome the mind of the judge by his own wits and wisdom so as to become a successful lawyer. The presentation in the form of a good orator with substance of facts and laws are inevitable for a successful lawyer. The sound in law with wide knowledge of Constitution is essential and will be definitely expected by every presiding officer.

It goes without saying that human wants are unlimited. Thus, for an advocate, everyone in the profession wishes to climb the ladder to become Senior Advocate, Attorney General, Solicitor General, Advocate General or Judge of the subordinate Court or High Court. Eventually, to a hard working lawyer, or born to be, there has always room for climbing the ladder. The Solicitor General is one of the law officers of the Central Government, his duties are practically as the same as those of Attorney General but a subordinate to him, and who is fit to be Judge of the Supreme Court. He represents Government of India as their advocate being appointed by President.

Advocate General of State is the leader of the Bar having Constitutional Status and public prosecutor for the State in the High Court. The Universe itself is governed by natural law. Practicing law in a State or Country is not the less regarded profession. To choose this profession, no doubt with a great challenge, will remain as lucrative, well earned, paid and respected. Therefore, practicing law as a profession now stands attractive day by day.

ENCOURAGING MEDIATION IN MANIPUR

Courts are not at all a happy place.

Either you come to court because someone filed a case against you, or you feel you have been wronged and you have to take recourse of the courts to redress your grievances.

People's lives, people's future and people's pasts are all in display.

Probably, this is how (or why) Justice Frankfurter made an observation that mere speed is not the test of justice. Deliberate speed is, and deliberate speed takes time.

It takes time to identify with the persons who come to the courts, to step into their shoes and to feel them...

All over Manipur, there are around 50 courts spread over the 9 judicial districts of Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Senapati, Ukhrul, Tamenglong, Chandel and Churachandpur. The revenue districts of Jiribam, Kakching, Noney, Kangpokpi, Tengnoupal, Pherzawl and Kamjong still come under Imphal East, Thoubal, Tamenglong, Senapati, Chandel, Churachandpur and Ukhrul respectively as far as judicial administration is concerned. The most famous court complex remains the Cheirap Court Complex, housing the judicial courts of District and Sessions Judge Imphal West and East, Additional Sessions Judge (Fast Track Court) (NDPS), Chief Judicial Magistrate, Imphal West along with the office of the All Manipur Bar Association and the office of the District Public Prosecutor.

As per the records, there are 7527 cases pending in the district courts of Manipur at the end of February, 2023. Out of which, 4080 cases are civil and the remaining 2647 are criminal cases. Here, it is to be noted that this figure represents only the main cases and not the miscellaneous

By: Shri Sadananda Sorokhaibam, MJS
Chief Judicial Magistrate, Churachandpur

cases which are an offshoot of the main cases. Needless to say, anyone can access this data/statistics in the website of the High Court of Manipur.

For the purpose of this write-up however, emphasis will be primarily laid on cases of civil nature as the article concerns encouraging mediation as an effective means of resolving disputes in Manipur. Hence, the available data from the High Court of Manipur is further analyzed with the data available in the National Judicial Data Grid (<https://njdg.ecourts.gov.in/njdgnew/index.php>) as follows-

Out of the 4800 civil cases, it can be gathered that more than 90 percent of the cases are money suits, suits of declaration of rights & consequential reliefs and of injunctions.

It can also be seen from the data available that more than forty-five percent of the cases are less than one year old. This necessarily infers two things- firstly, the disposal rate in the district courts of Manipur is relatively on the higher side and secondly, most of the cases thus instituted are at the early stages. The relevance of this second point will be revisited later on as the write-up progresses.

As far as the stage of the case is concerned, it can be glimpsed from the NJDG that around 40 percent of the total civil cases pending in Manipur are at hearing stage. As the name suggest, hearing is the stage for hearing out the parties. In quite a stark contrast, only ten percent of the total civil cases are at the stage

of evidence appreciation, i.e., examination of witnesses and documents or allied matters. In adversarial proceedings, the evidence stage can be termed as one of the most important stage as it will enable the courts to discharge its adjudicatory functions, on the basis of the available evidence before it. Thus, it can be inferred that majority of the civil cases are at hearing stage, which do not really require the courts to dole out its adjudicatory functions.

If we go by district wise figures again, the twin districts of Imphal make up for more than 80 percent of the total number of cases pending at the stage of hearing. The remaining districts make up for the remaining 20 percent. Of course, there are comparatively more cases in Imphal than in other districts.

This figure can still be nitpicked to see how many cases are pending at each court at hearing stage. For example, the Court of Civil Judge Senior Division, Imphal West accounts for more than 29 percent of the total cases. This number is not surprising as this Court alone accounts for more than 31 percent of the total civil cases pending in the whole of Manipur.

The above figures are representative, as the said data is procured from the data available at the National Judicial Data Grid.

In any case, a brief summary of the analysis is as follows-

Out of the 7527 cases pending in the district courts of Manipur, there are around 4080 civil cases. Out of which, more than forty-five percent, i.e., around 1836 cases are at early stages. Further, the majority of these 4080 cases are money suits and declaratory suits. Again, more than forty percent, i.e., roughly about 1630 odd cases are pending at hearing stage out of the total 4080 cases.

Now, armed with this analysis, we can superimpose the importance of encouraging mediation as a means of resolving disputes in an

effective and expeditious manner. Here, it needs to be reiterated that mere speed is not the test of justice. The speed has to be deliberate and wholesome, not hasty. *Justice delayed is justice denied* has now become more of an overused propagandist plank, without fully understanding the true import of its words. Everybody's perspective on the idea of justice differs; my idea will differ from your idea and your idea will differ from somebody else, and so forth. Hence, raising battle cries and banners of destruction much before we have clarified what is the justice we seek, will only prove antithetical; and further risking undesired and unintended results in the long run also.

However, if we can free the courts of those cases, which doesn't necessarily require adjudication, or which can be reasonably be amicably settled between the parties; then the Courts can focus all their energy, time and resources in adjudicating those cases which cannot be settled amicably or which cannot be compromised at any level, e.g., criminal cases which involve serious or heinous offences or other civil cases which involves serious questions of dispute and hence require adjudication. Trial of such cases have to be proceeded on deliberate speed and not hastily in the name of speedy justice. That will only be counter-productive, and justice will remain forever elusive and denied, and thus delayed perpetually.

Mediation- A cursory glance:

Mediation is a voluntary process; wherein a neutral trained mediator facilitates resolving of disputes between the warring parties. It is an informal procedure where through a settlement process, the disputing parties arrives at a mutually acceptable agreement. The mediator does not impose the conditions or solutions, but only creates an environment conducive for the parties to resolve their disputes amicably. Mediation proceedings are not bound by the rules of procedure or evidence, and it is a

completely confidential process. Whatever discussions, deliberations or disclosures made by the parties in the proceedings are fully confidential and they will not form records of the case in the court, in case of failure of the mediation proceedings. Another key difference is that in mediation, parties play the pivotal roles in resolving their own disputes, and there will be no role of the judge as an adjudicator of their disputes. The parties are free to frame their own terms and conditions of their settlement or agreement reached.

Recognizing the importance of mediation, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had set up the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) way back in 2005, and accordingly, they had initiated a court integrated mediation process which has proved quite successful. The pending cases in courts are identified by the courts, and with the consent of the parties, they are being sent to mediation proceedings.

As to the questions of who are the mediators, how are they appointed and the venue of mediation, what cases can be referred and the whole procedure of mediation in general, they will be explained in the context of Manipur.

Presently, Manipur has a total of 41 judges and 21 advocates who are trained mediators. The trained mediators have been so empanelled after they had undergone the necessary training modules of the MCPC. The Manipur State Legal Services Authority is the authority looking after the mediation and other Alternative Disputes Redressal mechanisms in Manipur. The Member Secretary, MASLSA is presently the Co-ordinator of the mediation activities in Manipur.

The process for initiating the mediation proceedings for pending court cases is as follows-

The Courts will identify the cases before it which may be sent for mediation. Here, the sole parameter is whether there exist elements of settlement in the dispute of the parties. It is

normally assessed after both the parties have submitted their pleadings in the Court. Other general criteria may be – when the case is at its early stages before issues have been framed and evidence stage is yet to be reached, or cases which have been fixed for hearing of the parties only, with no real adjudicatory functions required from the courts. The Court will then apprise the parties of the availability of the mediation process along with the advantages of it. Accordingly, with their consent, the case will be referred for mediation and an order to that effect will be sent to the office of the Member Secretary, Manipur SLSA, with a direction to the parties to appear before this office. Then, the parties will be given the option to appoint the mediator out of the panel of trained mediators, and a date will be fixed for mediation proceedings as agreed between the parties and the mediator. Here, it is worth noting that no expenses will be borne by the parties, as to the cost of mediation or the fees of mediator. It is completely free as of now in Manipur. As a part of encouraging mediation, the whole expenses are being borne by the state.

For the twin districts of Imphal, mediation is being carried out in the ADR Centre (Building) in the Lamphel Court Complex, which also houses the office of the MASLSA. Five new ADR centres have also been established in the districts of Bishnupur, Thoubal, Senapati, Churachandpur and Ukhrul. For the remaining districts, mediation are still conducted in the chamber of the judges or at such space as may be arranged.

As far as statistical data is concerned, only 28 cases were referred for mediation in the year 2017. Now, in the successive two years 2018 and 2019, 131 and 199 cases have been referred for mediation. The success rate of cases being settled through mediation is also increasing steadily. However, due to the covid pandemic, mediation proceedings suffered a setback in the year 2020 and only 42 new cases were referred

in the whole year and pending 160 cases could not be proceeded with. To ease this though, MASLSA has started providing facilities for online mediation. An online 5 days refresher course on mediation for the 21 trained advocate mediators was also conducted by the trainers from MCPC with special emphasis on online mediation.

As far as awareness regarding mediation is concerned, MASLSA has initiated the process of opening dedicated mediation centres. The Legal Aid Clinic at Cheirap Court Complex has been turned into a dedicated mediation centre to cater to the general public and also to encourage mediation at the same time. Manipur SLSA also started encouraging pre-litigation mediation in the course of time.

As a result subsequently, in the year 2021, 232 cases were referred for mediation despite the covid pandemic. Out of which, 59 were referred from the courts and the remaining made up of pre-litigation cases. 20 cases referred from the courts were successfully settled through mediation.

In the year 2022 though, 715 cases were referred for mediation. Out of which, 397 cases were referred from courts (pending cases). 98 of these court referred cases were also successfully settled.

For this year 2023, till the month of February, 77 cases have been sent for mediation from the various courts. And 20 have been successfully settled also.

It is thus apparent that mediation as an effective means of resolving disputes is gaining traction in Manipur.

Some issues, which unfortunately still need to be highlighted are as follows-

- Adequate and proper staff for looking after the mediation activities
- Lack of awareness amongst the general

public about the mediation proceedings.

- Out of the total 4080 civil cases pending in the courts of Manipur, only a miniscule percentage are sent for mediation even though it appears that a vast majority of these cases seem to be ripe for mediation proceedings from the data available.
- Negligible cases are referred for mediation in other districts, leaving the twin districts of Imphal.
- If emphasis is to be laid on online mediation, uninterrupted internet connectivity is the first requisite. In any case, internet connectivity will remain the first and foremost requisite for the paradigm shift to e-judiciary.

Finally, it goes without saying that in pre-colonial Manipur, the Cheirap was the highest court of the land. It wielded both original and appellate jurisdiction. There were also ecclesiastical courts and courts for women (Pachas). However, the most important court can be considered to be the village courts, which was constituted at the village level, consisting of the village headman and other elders of the village.

Here, it is worth noting that the village courts were not adversarial in nature, and were actively engaged in settling the disputes amongst the villagers. They followed more of the principle of amicable settlement of disputes as far as possible. The more serious cases, though, were left to be handled by the Cheirap. The still somewhat accepted system of resolving local or leikai disputes by the leikai clubs are a bearing of the old times.

Thus, what we need is probably a walk in the history, to re-invigorate traditional mechanisms, infused it with modern technologies, so that the identified fault lines can be intervened at the opportune time.

"The wheels need not be re-invented every time. We may just need to push it a little harder"

SOME NOTABLE JUDGMENTS OF THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR IN 2022

1. **Khumanthem Nagor Singh vs. State of Manipur and Ors. in W.P. (C) No. 496 of 2019, Decided On: 21.07.2022**

Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar and Justice M.V. Muralidaran

The petitioner is the father of Khundrakpam Ajitkumar Singh @ Naoba Singh, a young man of just 20 years of age, who met with an untimely death on the intervening night of 14th and 15th March 2004. By way of the writ petition, he sought direction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate into the killing of his son by armed forces personnel. The Court observed that in a democratic society governed by the rule of law, there can be nothing more despicable than 'uniformed armed personnel' resorting to brutal extra-judicial killings to assert their might and power. In most such cases, the wrongdoers go scot-free, be it for one reason or the other. However, in the case on hand, acceptance by the Central Government of the findings rendered by this Court, holding that the petitioner's son was killed in a fake encounter by the personnel of 19th Rajput Rifles, mandates that the wrongdoers, four of whom are already known, be brought to book by proper investigation into their criminal acts. The refusal by the CBI at the relevant point of time has led to an unnecessary delay of 18 long years since that ill-fated young man of just 20 years was done to death brutally. As the CBI has none to blame but itself for this delay, it is incumbent upon it to use all the resources available to it and undertake investigation forthwith by ascertaining the whereabouts of all the personnel of 19th Rajput Rifles, who were involved in the incident, and take appropriate action against them in accordance with law. The State police are directed to hand over all the

records to the CBI. The CBI shall complete the investigation within six months from the date of receipt of such records.

2. **Ksh. Kennedy Singh and Ors. vs. The State of Manipur and Ors. in Criminal Petition No. 11 of 2022, Decided On: 08.04.2022**

Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar

The petitioners were arrested on 22.03.2012 in connection with FIR No. 32(03)2012 BPR PS. After a full-fledged trial, they were convicted of offences under Sections 367, 376(2)(g) and 392 IPC and sentenced to imprisonment for life, along with payment of fine, by the learned Sessions Judge, Manipur East, in Sessions Trial No. 8 of 2012, vide Judgment dated 12.06.2013 and Order of Sentence dated 25.06.2013. In appeal, however, this Court reduced the sentence imposed upon the petitioners to 10 years rigorous imprisonment. The petitioners are presently lodged in Manipur Central Jail, Sajiwa. They assert that they completed the requisite incarceration on 22.03.2022, after reduction of the set-off period claimed by them. It is stated that the fine amount imposed upon the petitioners has already been paid. The issue arise in this case is as to whether the period of detention undergone by a person during the investigation, inquiry or trial of the same case, which would be in the nature of 'simple imprisonment', can be set-off against the 'rigorous imprisonment' that he or she is sentenced to after conviction. In the case on hand, the petitioners were arrested on 22.03.2012 and, therefore, they completed 10 years of imprisonment by 22.03.2022. The period of rigorous imprisonment suffered by them commenced from 25.06.2013 but in

the light of Section 428 Cr.P.C., the 'period of detention' undergone by them till that day would be liable to be set-off against the total period of imprisonment to be undergone.

3. Kimkim and Ors. vs. State of Manipur in CrI. Rev. Petition Nos. 20 and 21 of 2022, Decided On: 18.11.2022

Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar

By Charge Order dated 28.04.2022 passed in Special Trial (ND & PS) Case No. 3 of 2021 [Ref:- FIR No. 48(7)2019 NAB. PS. u/S. 18(b)/29 ND & PS Act], the learned Special Judge (ND & PS), Bishnupur, framed a charge against Mrs. Kimkim Haokip that she had committed an offence punishable under Section 18(b) of the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (for brevity, 'the NDPS Act) and a charge against Mrs. Hevah Vaiphei that she had committed an offence punishable under Section 29 of the NDPS Act. The seized opium was not even shown to both the accused at the time of framing of the charges and they were never asked whether they admitted the seizure of 13 'iodised salt' packets containing opium, irrespective of the weight, whereby at least an inference of guilt by implication could have been drawn by the learned Special Judge against them. In the absence of a comprehensive admission of guilt from both the accused in relation to possession of a commercial quantity of opium, the learned Special Judge ought not to have convicted them straightaway of offences relating to a commercial quantity of opium and sentenced them accordingly. In this regard, reference may be made to State of Maharashtra vs. Sukhdev Singh alias Sukha and others [(1992) 3 SCC 701], wherein the Supreme Court observed that a plea of guilt tantamounts to an admission of all the facts constituting the offence and it is therefore essential that before accepting and acting on the plea, the Judge must feel satisfied that the accused admits facts or ingredients constituting the offence. It was further observed

that plea of the accused must therefore be 'clear, unambiguous and unqualified' and the Court must be satisfied that he has understood the nature of the allegations made against him and admits them.

The Charge Order dated 28.04.2022 and the Sentence Hearing & Order dated 05.05.2022 are therefore unsustainable in law and are accordingly set aside.

4. Akangjam and Others Versus Akangjam Naran Singh and Others in CRP (C.R.P. Art. 227) No. 69 of 2019, Decided on October 17, 2022

Justice P.V Sanjay Kumar

The petitioners filed revision under Article 227 of the Constitution. They were aggrieved by the dismissal of their application in Judl. Misc. Case No. 82 of 2018 (Ref : O.S. No. 9 of 2003), filed for producing additional documents and for recalling a witness on their behalf to adduce the same in evidence. In the case on hand, it may be noted that the suit is of the year 2003 and though the matter was fixed for final arguments as long back as in the year 2017, the same is being delayed for one reason or the other. Merely because a newly impleaded defendant was recalled and certain documents which were not in existence at the time of filing of the suit were permitted to be produced by the plaintiffs, the plaintiffs cannot claim any vested right to produce more additional documents. All the more so, when such documents were very much in existence at the time of filing of the suit and could have been obtained with due diligence at that time. When the plaintiffs could secure two Jamabandies and file the same along with the suit, there is no reason why they could not have applied for the old public documents which are now sought to be produced belatedly.

This Court therefore holds that the Trial Court judiciously exercised its discretion under Order XIV Rule 3 CPC and disallowed the plea of

the petitioners/plaintiffs to permit belated production of some more public documents. No cause is therefore made out for interference with the well-reasoned order passed by the Trial Court. The civil revision petition is devoid of merit and is accordingly dismissed

5. Simplex Projects Ltd. vs. National Sports University and Ors. in WP(C) No. 428 of 2022, Decided On: 27.07.2022

Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh

The respondents raised a preliminary objection on the issue of maintainability of the present writ petition. The petitioner and the respondent No. 2 have voluntarily made an agreement in para No. 12 of the Agreement of Novation and Assignment dated 13-03-2020 that the Courts of Delhi shall have the sole jurisdiction in respect of any disputes or claims arising out of or in respect of the said contract work and accordingly, the Delhi High Court shall have the sole jurisdiction to entertain the present writ. The principle of law that when two Courts have concurrent jurisdiction to try the dispute between the parties and the parties have agreed that the disputes should be tried by only one of the courts, then the court mentioned in the agreement shall have jurisdiction has been well settled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a catena of its judgments. In the present case, having regard to the undisputed facts and as the petitioner and the respondent No. 2 have voluntarily entered into an agreement in Para No. 12 of the Agreement of Novation and Assignment dated 13-03-2020 that the courts of Delhi shall have the sole jurisdiction in respect of any disputes or claims arising out of or in respect of the said contract work. Accordingly, the present writ petition is hereby dismissed as not maintainable.

6. Tayenjam Biju Singh vs. The State of Manipur and Ors. in WP (C) Nos. 42 of 2021 and 46 of 2021, Decided On: 17.05.2022

Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh

Appeal sought for quashing order directing petitioners to remove illegal structures constructed upon land and to deliver vacant possession. In the present cases, as the Deputy Commissioner, Imphal East issued a notice dated 21.11.2020 summoning the petitioners to appear before him to substantiate their claim of rights and title or ownership over the disputed land and as the Deputy Commissioner held an elaborate enquiry and heard the petitioners through their counsel before issuing the impugned eviction order dated 15.01.2021, this Court is of the considered view that the Deputy Commissioner, Imphal East, had substantially complied with the provisions of Rule 18 of the MLR & LR Rules and had also complied with the principles of natural justice. This Court is also of the considered view that the petitioners could not make out any case of causing any prejudice to them by non-issuance of a notice prior to issuance of the impugned eviction order. In view of the above, this Court declines to interfere with the impugned eviction order.

7. Ningombam Puinabati Devi vs. Thongram Ongbi Premeshwori Devi and Ors. in WP(C) No. 723 of 2021, Decided On: 10.10.2022

Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh

The case of the petitioner is that, her husband passed his High School Leaving Certificate Examination in the year 1982 from the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur in the year 1982. According to the petitioner, her husband told her that one of his friend namely, Mr. Tongram Angou Singh requested him to give his Matriculate Certificate, but he turned down the said request. After sometime, the husband of

the respondent No. 1 joined the Border Security Force (BSF) as Constable by impersonating as Ningombam Kuber Singh of Sapam Mayai Leikai in the year 1983. According to the petitioner, her husband suspected that his matriculation certificate had been stolen by the husband of the respondent No. 1 and joined the Border Security Force as Constable by impersonating the petitioner's husband. The petitioner also learned that the husband of the respondent No. 1 passed away in the year 1992 due to an unfortunate incident while serving as Lance Naik in the BSF. It has been alleged by the petitioner that the husband of the respondent No. 1 joined the BSF as Constable by impersonating as the husband of the petitioner and that after the death of the respondent No. 1's husband, the respondent No. 1 had been enjoying the family pension as the wife of (L) Ningombam Kuber Singh. In the present case, the incident of impersonation alleged by the petitioner took place in the early part of 1983, about 38 (thirty-eight) years back and all the allegations raised by the petitioner against the respondent No. 1 and her husband had been already considered and rejected by the concerned authorities of the Border Security Force by giving elaborate reasons as contained in the letter of the Commandant, 191 Bn. BSF dated 22.02.2016. It is also an undisputed fact that the petitioner never question or challenge the decision or the reasons given by the Commandant, 191 Bn. BSF in his letter dated 22.02.2016. Accordingly, this Court is of the considered view that such issues cannot be re-opened and considered at this point of time especially in view of the fact that the husband of the respondent No. 1 had already expired long back in the year 1992. In the result, the writ petition is hereby dismissed, however, without any order as to cost.

8. Munna Kumar Singh vs. The Union of India and Ors. in W.P. (C) No. 681 of 2019 Decided On: 17.08.2022

Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh

The present writ petition had been filed with the prayer to quash and set aside the impugned order dated 16-01-2019, whereby the Director General, CRPF had refused to consider the representations dated 04-10-2018 and 13-11-2018 submitted by the petitioner against the entries of grading "GOOD" in his Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) for the period from 01-04-2017 to 31-03-2018 on the ground that there is no provision for considering the representation against the grading/remarks recorded in the APAR after the expiry of the prescribed period of time for submitting such representations. The petitioner has also prayed for quashing or setting aside the adverse entries in his APAR for the period from 01-04-2017 to 31-03-2018 and for expunging the adverse entries in his APAR. In the present case, the Reviewing Authority had recorded in writing the reasons for downgrading the assessment given by the Reporting Officer in the APAR of the petitioner and as the serious allegations raised against the petitioner by the respondents in their counter affidavit remain uncontroverted and undenied, the aforesaid judgment relied on by the counsel for the petitioner, is not applicable in the facts and circumstances of the present case. In the result, the present writ petition fails and the same is hereby dismissed

WP(C) No. 721 of 2020 had been filed by 9 (nine) petitioners with a prayer for quashing the impugned order dated 23.10.2020 and for directing the respondents to count the period of the petitioners ad-hoc services prior to their regularisation as qualifying services for the purpose of availing pensionary and other retiral benefits. WP(C) No. 679 of 2020 had been filed by the wife of (L) Y. Hembabu Singh, who was serving as Supervisory (Credit) on

regular basis in the Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Manipur, with a prayer for directing the respondents to count the period of ad-hoc service rendered by her late husband prior to his regular appointment for the purpose of availing pensionary and other retiral benefits. As the facts and issues raised in the present 2 (two) writ petitions are common and interlinked, the said 2 (two) writ petitions were heard jointly and the same are being disposed of by this common judgment and order.

In the facts and circumstances of the present case and for the foregoing reasons given hereinabove, the present writ petitions are allowed by quashing and setting aside the impugned order dated 23.10.2020 and by directing the respondents to give to the petitioners the benefit of counting the period of their ad-hoc services prior to regularization of their ad-hoc services as qualifying service for availing pension and other retiral benefits only.

9. The Office of the Lokayukta Manipur vs. Thokchom Kaminimohon Singh and Ors. in M.C. (Cril. Petn.) Nos. 28 of 2022 and 31st of 2022, Decided On : 29.09.2022

Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh

The present application has been filed with a prayer for referring the connected writ petition to the Hon'ble Chief Justice for placing the said writ petition before the Division Bench having regard to the importance and complexity of the case as provided under Rule 3(1)(d) of Chapter IV-A of the High Court of Manipur Rules, 2019. After hearing the rival submissions of the learned counsel appearing for the parties and after careful consideration, this court is of the considered view that even though a Single Judge of this court is empowered to refer the case to the Hon'ble Chief Justice for placing it before a Division Bench having regard to the importance or complexity of the case as provided under

Rule 3(1)(d) of Chapter IV-A of the High Court of Manipur Rules, 2019, this court cannot exercise that power in the present case as a Division Bench of this court comprising of the Hon'ble Chief Justice had already passed a judicial order on 07-03-2022 in the connected writ petitions directing for listing the said writ petitions before a Single Bench of this court and this court is bound by the said order.

This court is also of the considered view that if any order is passed by this court as prayed for by the applicant in the present application, such order will not only be contrary or conflicting to the order dated 07-03-2022 passed by the Division Bench in the connected writ petition, but the same will also be a nullity inasmuch as this court has no jurisdiction or power to pass any order which has the effect of superseding or overriding the order passed by the Division Bench of this court. Accordingly, the application is dismissed .

10. N. Ranjit Singh vs. The State of Manipur and Ors. in W.P. (C) No. 634 of 2019 Decided On: 27.07.2022

Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh

The only issue raised in the present writ petition is whether the petitioner is entitled to the regularization of his ad hoc service w.e.f. 24-05-1986 as provided under the Office Memorandum dated 31-05-1986 issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (PD), Government of Manipur.

The petitioner was initially appointed as Village Level Worker (VLW) in the Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Manipur on ad hoc basis for a period of six months by an order dated 30-10-1984 issued by the Secretary to the Government of Manipur. It is the case of the petitioner that the period of his ad hoc service were extended from time to time by the Government. While the petitioner was serving as a Village Level Worker on ad hoc basis, the

Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (PD), Government of Manipur issued an Office Memorandum dated 31-05-1986 laying down the policy of the State Government for regularization on ad hoc service. In the said Office Memorandum, it is, inter alia, laid down that all persons appointed on ad hoc basis on or prior to 31-12-1984 to Class - III and IV posts against the vacancies of the direct recruit quota and who continued to hold their respective post on ad hoc basis on 24-05-1986 and who fulfill all the requirements excepting age limit laid down under the relevant recruitment rules for appointment to such post may be regularized w.e.f. 24-05-1986 without a reference being made to the relevant Departmental Promotion Committees.

11 Singul Larson Anal and Ors. vs. The State of Manipur and Ors. in WP(C) No. 719 of 2017 Decided On: 07.07.2022

Justice M.V. Muralidaran

This writ petition has been filed to direct the respondents to appoint the petitioners as primary teachers along with appointed candidates as per the letter dated 22.11.2016 issued by the Secretariat (Tribal Affairs & Hills), Government of Manipur, as they are higher in order of merit as well as similarly situated based on the letter dated 22.4.2010.

The case of the petitioners is that the Chief Executive Officer, Autonomous District Council, Chandel, Manipur, requested the District Employment Exchange to sponsor eligible candidates for direct recruitment for appointment of primary teachers against 159 posts of primary teachers and instructions was notified for public information vide letter dated 23.1.2010. As per the above said letter, 519 select list for the post of primary teachers with further 74 wait list was notified as approved candidates. As per the notification, written examinations and interviews thereto

were conducted and the select list and wait list were also submitted to the Government for approval. By the letter dated 20.4.2010, the Government conveyed approval of the DPC proceedings for appointment of 519 primary teachers and 74 approved wait list primary teachers. The petitioners are all candidates amongst the 74 wait listed primary teachers. Further case of the petitioners is that from the said wait list, 14 candidates were later on appointed as primary teachers with effect from the date of joining service vide separate orders dated 22.4.2010 and 533 newly appointed primary school teachers who are enjoying the Government service. Meanwhile, 60 wait listed candidates from Serial 15 to 74, which includes the petitioners, have been kept waiting for their appointment despite the fact that there are 843 sanctioned posts less 716 present strength of 127 posts of primary teachers lying vacant in the Autonomous District Council, Chandel.

In the result, (a) the writ petition is allowed. (b) The respondents are directed to appoint the petitioners as primary teachers against the available vacancies under the ADC, Chandel, Manipur. (c) The said exercise is directed to be completed within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

12 Houlim Shokhopao Mate vs. Lorho S. Pfoze and Ors. in Election Petition No. 1 of 2019, Decided On: 23.09.2022

Justice M.V. Muralidaran

This Election Petition has been filed by the petitioner under Section 100(1)(d)(i)&(iv) and under Section 100(1)(b) of the Representation of People Act, 1951 (for short, "the RP Act") to declare that the election of the first respondent from 2-Outer Manipur (ST) Parliamentary Constituency to the 17th Lok Sabha, 2019 as null and void and to declare that the petitioner is the duly elected Member in the 17th Lok Sabha, 2019 from 2-Outer Manipur (ST) Parliamentary Constituency under Section 101 of the RP Act.

The Court is of the view that the affidavit in Form 26 filed by the first respondent suffers from the defects of substantial character. The petitioner also established that the first respondent filed affidavit in Form 26 dated 21.3.2019 along with the nomination paper submitted by him. The only uploaded affidavit in Form 26 of the first respondent is dated 21.3.2019 and while filing nomination along with the affidavit in Form 26, the first respondent has failed to follow the instructions of the Election Commission of India in relation to separate bank election expenditure. The act of the first respondent would amount to corrupt practice and therefore, it materially affected the result of the election of 2-Outer Manipur (ST) Parliamentary Constituency to the 17th Lok Sabha, 2019. For all the reasons stated above, the election of the first respondent is declared void under Section 100 (1) (d) (i) (iv) read with Section 100 (1)(b) of the RP Act.

13. Tungkhhan Mung Zou vs. State of Manipur in MC (Crl. A.) No. 10 of 20221 in Crl. A. No. 5 of 2021 Decided On : 03.08.2022

Justice M.V. Muralidaran

The petitioner, who has been arrayed as accused No. 2 in Special Trial Case No. 100 of 2018 on the file of the learned Special Judge, ND&PS, Manipur at Lamphelpat was convicted under Sections 21(c)/22(c) and Section 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 [for short, "the said Act"] and sentenced to undergo 15 years rigorous imprisonment each and to pay fine of Rs. 1,00,000/- each to be paid within a period of one year from the date of sentence, failing which the petitioner shall serve another six months rigorous imprisonment. Challenging the conviction and sentence imposed on the petitioner, he has filed the criminal appeal before this Court. Along with the appeal, the petitioner has filed the petition seeking to

suspend the sentence stating that he has a very good case on merits and likely to succeed in the appeal filed by him on the ground that the mandatory provisions as prescribed under the said Act were not complied with by the prosecution.

In the instant case, though the petitioner was initially arrested, on 19.8.2020 he was released on bail and from 28.12.2020 he was in judicial custody. That apart, as rightly argued by the learned counsel for the petitioner the appeal is of the year 2020 and due to practical reasons, the appeal cannot be taken up in the near future and disposed of expeditiously. Therefore, this Court finds that this is a fit case to suspend the sentence imposed on the petitioner pending appeal, however, subject to stringent conditions.

14. Bhagwati Prashad and Ors. vs. The State of Manipur and Ors. in WP (C) 151 of 2008, 857 of 2014 and 124 of 2015, Decided On : 18.01.2022

Justice M.V. Muralidaran

The case of the petitioners is that Teli community are inhabitants of Telipatti area, Khurai, Imphal East District, Manipur since time immemorial and most probably around 1872, the Maharaja of Manipur donated the Mahavir Mandir Complex located at Telipatti for construction of Mahavir Mandir. In the trace map No. 102, the actual size where the Mahavir Mandir is located is shown in Dag No. 33. Since 1872, the Mahavir Mandir Complex is maintained and looking after by the villagers of Telipatti and using as a place of worship and as such the plot of land measuring about 19 acres under Dag No. 33 was registered in the name of the President of Mahavir Mandir Telipatti Shebait Bhagwati Prasad. Jamabandi/Patta was also issued in the name of Mahavir Mandir Telipatti Shebait Bhagwati Prasad.

Mahavir Mandir complex is used by the Shebait and the villagers of Telipatti as a place of worship and for the purpose connected without any

disturbance/interference from any quarter. While so, the respondents, on the pressure of some vested groups of people, declared the Telipati area as protected historical site of Khurai Ahongpung. Further, the respondents without following the procedures laid down in Sections 2(b)(v), 4(1) to (3), Section 13 and 20 of the Manipur Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological sites and Remains Act, 1976 and Rules 3(1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) of the Manipur Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological sites and Remains Rules, 1979 declared the Telipati area as the protected historical monument site of Khurai Ahongpung. According to the petitioners, the respondents without complying with the procedures laid down in Sections 4(1), 5(1), 6(1), 7, 8 and 9 of the Land Acquisition Act issued the impugned order dated 14.11.2007. Challenging the same, the petitioners have filed W.P.(C) No. 151 of 2008 before the Gauhati High Court, Imphal Bench and the Gauhati High Court passed status quo order regarding the nature and possession of the land described i.e. the alleged Khurai Ahongpung Telipatti site

Since in reference to the area in which the Khurai Ahongpung and Mahavir Mandir Temple and other temples are situated, there was land dispute between the petitioners as one part and the Meitei community on the other part, the rights with regard to the land and/or the land for expansion on the northern side has to be decided by a civil court, for which the parties are at liberty to approach the civil court for redressal. Till such redressal of the rights of the parties by a civil court, all parties concerned, including the two communities as aforesaid are directed to maintain status quo as exists and this court relegated the power to decide the ownership of the land to the concerned jurisdictional civil court.

15 Laitonjam Nabadwip Singh and Ors. vs. The State of Manipur and Ors. in WP (C) No. 289 of 2021, Decided On : 07.06.2022

Justice M.V. Muralidaran

The petitioners have legitimate expectation for being the regular employees of the Department prior to their attaining the age of superannuation and therefore, the respondents are duty bound to consider their cases for regularization/absorption to their respective posts. Many ad-hoc/officiating/substitute employees have been regularized to their respective posts by the State Government by formulating various schemes in respect thereof including the one relating to conversion from the work-charged to regular establishment and the fact that the petitioners have not yet been regularized/absorbed had shown that they were being discriminated. The petitioners were engaged as Skill Artisans (Foundry) and (Carpet Weaving) respectively on 5.6.1986 and their engagements were extended from time to time. As a result of which, they have been continuing in that capacity till date. In the result, the respondents are directed to regularise the services of the petitioners and extend the similar service benefits received by K. Birjit Singh and 8 other incumbents.

16. Jacob John vs. The State of Manipur and Ors. in Cril. Petition No. 8 of 2017, Decided On: 19.01.2022

Justice M.V. Muralidaran

This petition has been filed by the petitioner under Section 482 Cr.P.C. seeking to quash FIR Case No. 23(4) 2013 on the file of the Ukhrul Police Station registered under Sections 370(5)/376/34 IPC and under Section 6/10 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act) against the petitioner on the ground that for the same incident as stated in FIR Case No. 23(4) 2013, an FIR No. 145 of 2013 was registered by the

Mansarovar PS, Jaipur City under Sections 244, 323, 354A, 376 IPC and under Sections 23, 28 of Juvenile Justice Act and Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and under Sections 3/14 of Child Labour Act and under Section 24 of the Orphanages and other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Act, 1960 is pending. Offences under Sections 370(5), 376(2)(6)(i) IPC and Sections 6, 10 and 12 of the POCSO

Act involved in the instant case would fall in the category of heinous and serious offences and therefore, they are to be treated as crime against the society and not against the individual alone and, thus, the criminal proceedings in FIR No. 23(4) 2013 on the file of Ukhru PS which have a serious impact on the society cannot be quashed in exercise of powers under Section 482 CrPC on the ground made by the petitioner.

PHOTO GALLERY OF MAJOR EVENTS IN THE YEAR 2022

73rd Republic Day Celebration, 2022



31st March, 2022: 9th Anniversary Celebration of Establishment of High Court of Manipur





5th May, 2022: Swearing of Hon'ble Shri Justice A. Bimol Singh as permanent Judge, High Court of Manipur



15th August, 2022 : Independence Day Celebration



26th September, 2022 : Workshop on Wildlife Crime Prevention
Organised by MASLSA and AARANYAK



5th November, 2022 : State Level Consultation on implementation of POSCO Act



26th November, 2022 : 73rd Constitution Day Celebration



8th June, 2022 : Full Court Farewell of Hon'ble Shri Justice LS Jamir



16.07.2022 : Virtual inauguration of District & Sessions Court, Tamenglong



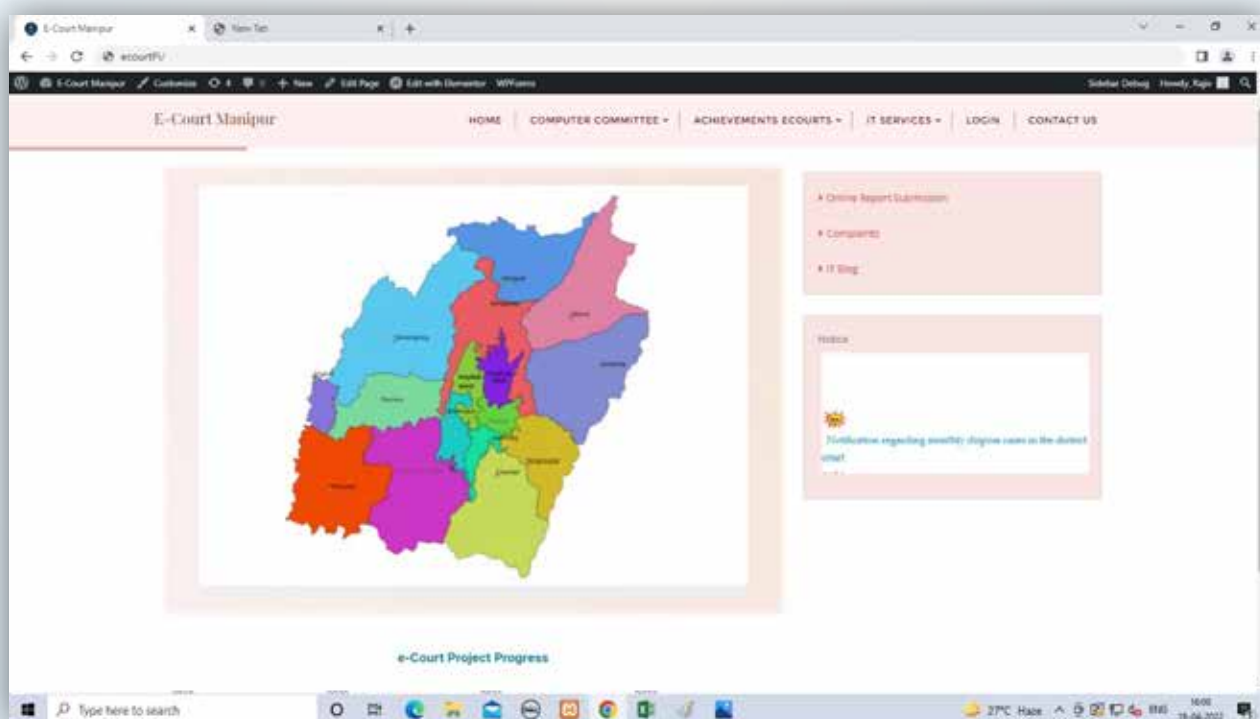
**29.12.2022 : Felicitation Programme of Hon'ble PV Sanjay Kumar,
Chief Justice High Court of Manipur**



24th May, 2022: Reception of Hon'ble Shri Justice V. Ramasubramanian



Hon'ble Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Judge of the Supreme Court of India inaugurated a dedicated website for the e-Courts project Manipur and High Court Legal Services Committee on 24th May, 2022



The High Court of Manipur launched e-filing version 3 on 21-11-2022



NIC Manipur in collaboration with NIC Delhi, organised a virtual demonstration of the e-Office for the Hon'ble High Court Judges and Registry.



The Justice Clock was inaugurated at Cheirap and Lamphel Court Complexes to showcase daily information regarding the disposal and pendency of cases in District and Subordinate Courts, spreading legal awareness and information about various e-Courts services for the benefit of the litigants and members of the public at large.



ICT Special Drive Programmes were organised as per the direction of the Hon'ble e-Committee in Corroboration with Manipur Judicial Academy for Judicial Officers and Staff



Meeting of the State Court Management Committee held on 19th April, 2022
at the Judges Lounge, High Court of Manipur



The HCLSC launched a campaign on 24-08-2022 to provide legal assistance to jail convicts.



National Lok Adalat held on 12th November, 2022 at the High Court Complex



International Yoga day was celebrated on 21st June, 2022 at the High Court premises



A Flash Mob and Street Play on Human Trafficking was organized at the High Court of Manipur on 7th November, 2022 by the HCLSC



A meeting held on 05-08-2023 with Pro Bono Lawyers to encourage them to take cases on pro bono basis



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri N.Biren Singh, inaugurated the E-Sewa Kendra at the High Court Complex on 31st March, 2022



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri N.Biren Singh, inaugurated the E-Sewa Kendra at the High Court Complex on 31st March, 2022



A one-week induction training programme was organized in collaboration with the Manipur Judicial Academy for E-Sewa Kendra Office Assistants.



Opening of e-Sewa Kendras in various districts of Manipur



Opening of e-Sewa Kendras in various districts of Manipur





In collaboration with the Manipur State Legal Services, E-Sewa Kendra office assistants are providing awareness related to e-Court services in the National Lok Adalat, Sangai festival, and Legal Awareness programmes.



Distribution of vehicles to MJS officers



MJA TRAINING PROGRAMME PHOTOS

Managing the Docket: Court & Case Management – Principles of Management and their uses and case, time and Court Management on 08.01.2022



Adjudication management in Cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 on 12.02.2022



Effective & Efficient implementation of the ND&PS Act, 1985 on 26.03.2022



Commitment of a Complaint Case to the Court of Sessions when the offence complained of is triable exclusively by the Court of session on 09.04.2022



Discussion on Customary Laws in Manipur on 08.05.2022



What can Judges in the District Judiciary do for better delivery of justice on 05.07.2022



Art of Judgment Writing on 06.08.2022



Effective adjudication of cases under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 on 27.08.2022



Training-cum-interaction programme for all the Class I & Class II Officers of the Registry, High Court of Manipur on "How to write Annual Confidential Report (ACR)" on 27.08.2022



Provisions of National Security Act, 1980 on 12.11.2022



CONSTRUCTION SITE INSPECTION PHOTOS

Chief Justice inspected Ukhrul Court Complex on 07. 05.2022



Chief Justice inspected under construction Tamenglong District Court building on 20.08.2022



Newly Completed Bishnupur Annexe Court Building



Newly constructed Canteen of Bishnupur Court Complex



Photographs of Judges and Officers of the High Court of Manipur

Group photograph of Hon'ble The Acting Chief Justice & Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Manipur



Officers of the Registry of High Court of Manipur



Golmei Gaipulshillu
Registrar General



Yumkham Rother
Registrar (Judicial)



Athokpam Shanta Devi
Registrar (Vigilance)



Shubham Vashist
Joint Registrar(Judl./ CPC, eCourts)



Ph. Japan Singh
Joint Registrar (Admn./PM&P)



Dr. M. Basantakumar Sharma
Deputy Registrar (Accts./Planning) till 28.02.2023



S. Joychand Singh
Deputy Registrar (Protocol)



L. Surchandra Singh
Deputy Registrar (Admn.)



M.C. Nandini
Deputy Registrar (Accts./Planning) [from 01.03.2023]



Reeta Laishram
Language Officer (Special Officer)



Kh. Opendro Singh
Principal Private Secretary to Hon'ble CJ



S. Upendro Singh
Assistant Registrar - II



Kh. Johnnev
Assistant Registrar - III



R.S. Samuel
Assistant Registrar - IV



S. Devendra Meitei
Assistant Registrar - V



M. Binarani Devi
Assistant Registrar - VI



D.S. Haokip
Assistant Registrar - VII



Roshan Oinam
Court Manager



Th. Nirpan Singh
Court Manager



Th. Luckyson Maring
Court Manager



Th. Shantikumar Singh
System Analyst



Court Masters

Officers & Staff of the High Court of Manipur



Law Assistants