

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

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s).5756/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 08-09-2025 in BA No.2039/2025 passed by the Gauhati High Court]

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

ARUN KHUNDONGBAM @NANAO

Respondent(s)

WITH

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

IA No. 65035/2026 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 65026/2026 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 130954/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 115711/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 213116/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 155266/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 103548/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 93882/2024 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 185454/2023 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 155582/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION
IA No. 154999/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION
IA No. 154824/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION
IA No. 154823/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION
IA No. 157612/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION
IA No. 100121/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 195814/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 144163/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 142916/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 155427/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 104107/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 104041/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

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

IA No. 23846/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 159270/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 23845/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

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

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

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

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

W.P.(C) No. 574/2023 (X)
IA No. 104941/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 104939/2023 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF

W.P.(C) No. 576/2023 (PIL-W)
IA No. 167211/2023 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 134039/2023 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 113486/2023 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 105227/2023 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF

W.P.(Cr1.) No. 321/2023 (PIL-W)
IA No. 143696/2023 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON

W.P.(Cr1.) No. 327/2023 (X)
IA No. 146436/2023 - APPLICATION FOR FILING THE PETITION WITHOUT
DISCLOSING THE IDENTITY OF THE PETITIONER/RESPONDENT, IA
No.146435/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

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

W.P.(C) No. 802/2023 (X)
IA No. 154036/2023 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF

W.P.(C) No. 875/2023 (X)
IA No. 165144/2023 - EX-PARTE AD-INTERIM RELIEF

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

SLP(Cr1) No. 5757/2026 (II)

Diary No(s). 19206/2023 (XV)
IA No. 194232/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 100067/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 96003/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 96000/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED
JUDGMENT, IA No. 147906/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION
IA No. 144564/2023 - INTERLOCUTARY APPLICATION
IA No. 155289/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 100064/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 194233/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 155292/2023 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON
IA No. 96002/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL

DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, IA No. 147907/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE
APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION, IA No. 96001/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE
PETITION (SLP/TP/WP/..)

Date : 17-09-2026 These petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE V. MOHANA

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Mr. Karun Shamra, Adv.
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Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.
Ms. Lalima Das, Adv.
Mr. Abhi Sharma, Adv.

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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

SLP(Crl.) Nos. 5756 and 5757 of 2026

1. At the outset, as requested by Mr. D.P. Singh, learned Additional Solicitor General of India appearing for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and Mr. Nizam Pasha, learned counsel for the victim - complainant, SLP(Crl.) Nos. 5756 and 5757 of 2026, which pertain to grant of bail/cancellation of bail to some of the accused in Manipur violence cases, are ordered to be de-tagged.

2. Post these matters on 05.10.2026 alongwith SLP(Crl.) No.2729/2026 under different serial numbers.

Rest of the matters

3. Shri Dattatray Padsalgikar, former Director General of Police, Maharashtra, appointed vide order dated 07.08.2023 to supervise the investigation of cases by the SITs, has filed his 16th status report dated 08.09.2026. The report highlights the law and order situation subsisting from 01.08.2026 to 07.09.2026, inter alia, noting that public protests were organised to update the NRC before conducting the census in the State, which led to a 2-day shutdown in the State, followed by a general strike for two days. Thereafter, the State decided to defer the census before implementing the NRC in Manipur, and the State Assembly also reaffirmed this through two resolutions. The agitation thus subsided, and the State Government's peace initiatives are receiving a positive response. The initiative prompted two MLAs from the Kuki-Zo Community to attend the Manipur Legislative Assembly session in Imphal after a break of three years.

4. The road transport for public passenger services along the Imphal-Dimapur-Guwahati National Highway No.2 has also successfully resumed since 21.08.2026. However, there is an area where some communal attacks continued to take place, resulting in the deaths of three persons. The overall recovery of weapons stands at 8901 arms, 1,06,699 ammunition and 6390 explosives.

Status Report by CBI

5. The CBI has explained, as noticed earlier also, that there are a total of 31 cases transferred to it for investigation by the State Government, out of which charge-sheets have been filed in 28 cases before the Special Judge, CBI & NIA, Guwahati, as well as the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kamrup, Guwahati. Proceedings have also commenced in all the charge-sheeted cases. Out of the total charge-sheets filed, six were closure reports, four of which have been accepted. Three cases are still under investigation by CBI. A total of 978 witnesses have been cited, out of which only six have been examined so far. There are 38 accused arrested in the matters.

Status Report of SITs

6. A separate chart-cum-status report, in respect of the FIRs/cases handled by the SITs, has also been placed on record. It is pointed out that a total of 36 SITs of Manipur Police have been constituted, and investigation by these SITs was monitored and supervised by Mr. Dattatray Padsalgikar, former DGP, Maharashtra. These SITs have been entrusted with 3020 cases for investigation, out of which charge-sheets have been filed in 302 cases, closure reports have been filed in 1583 cases, whereas 1135 cases are still

under investigation and trial has commenced in 33 cases.

Report by Three Member Committee

7. Report No.47 dated 14.08.2026 has been filed by the Three-Member Committee headed by Hon'ble Ms. Justice Gita Mittal, former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court. The report highlights mortality in the relief camps and the release of compensation. The Committee has referred to a news item published on 07.06.2026 in a newspaper stating that 25 internally displaced persons (IDPs), sheltered in relief camps across Manipur, suffered unnatural deaths. The Committee sent an email on 11.06.2026 to the office of the Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, seeking information on the district-wise number of deaths in relief camps since 03.05.2023. Although some information was supplied on 02.07.2026, it lacked the requisite details. Based on the information so received, it was revealed that the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Churachandpur, reported one unfortunate incident of unnatural death resulting from sexual assault. Hence, another request was sent to the State Government on 04.07.2026 to furnish the information in the prescribed format. It seems that the response to the communication dated 04.07.2026 is still awaited.

8. Substantiating the contents of Report No. 47 of the three-member Committee, Ms. Diana Devi, IAS, who is working as a nodal officer, has sent a response through email dated 17.07.2026, *inter alia* pointing out that 640 deaths have taken place in the relief camps across eight districts, out of which 34 are unnatural deaths. The post-mortem was conducted only in 20 cases. Similarly, 25

criminal cases have been registered owing to unnatural deaths, but investigation is complete only in four cases. No details concerning the remaining cases have been furnished to her. The report shockingly highlights that the compensation amount paid to the next of kin varies from Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000 in some cases, to Rs.5 to 10 lakhs in others.

9. As the contents of the email dated 17.07.2026 sent by Ms. Diana Devi speak for themselves, we direct the Chief Secretary of the State of Manipur to file an affidavit explaining the details of the deaths that have taken place in relief camps, especially in the cases of unnatural death. It must be explained as to why post-mortem was conducted only in 20 cases and not in all 34 cases. Additionally, the reasons for such unnatural deaths, as per the post-mortem report, should also be explained. The State Government is also obligated to explain as to why, in some cases, a meagre amount of Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000 has been paid to the next of kin of internally displaced persons who met with unnatural death while they were sheltered in the relief camps.

10. We also direct the Manipur State Legal Services Authority to take up this cause immediately to ensure that:

(i) FIRs are registered in respect of all the unnatural death cases;

(ii) The cause of death, if unavailable, be adequately ascertained, either from post-mortem reports or otherwise;

(iii) Identification of measures required to be taken to ensure the safety and dignity of the internally displaced persons or other

vulnerable victims staying in the relief camps;

(iv) The expeditious and speedy investigation of the FIRs already registered.

The State Legal Services Authority shall also file a separate status report in this regard.

11. In deference to our order dated 10.08.2026, the Manipur State Legal Services Authority has filed a latest compliance report dated 15.09.2026. The report highlights the follow-up action taken by the State Legal Services Authority. In para 9 of the report, the details of the charge-sheeted CBI-investigated Manipur violence cases have been furnished along with the name of the legal aid counsel and his/her mobile number. The full description of the victims and their legal heirs/family members is also given.

12. We have permitted the learned Advocate-on-Record for the petitioners or other affected parties to note down the details of the special trial numbers, the courts where such cases are pending, and the legal aid counsel along with contact numbers. This will ensure that if the victims or their family members need any further assistance or there is any information to be furnished to the defence counsel, it can be done without any impediment.

13. The Assam State Legal Services Authority has also filed a separate compliance report highlighting the steps already taken to comply with the directions issued by this Court from time to time, and also as to how the Assam and Manipur State Legal Services Authorities are acting in collaboration to ensure that all the victims or their family members, etc., are provided legal aid

counsel and other logistical support for their participation in the pending trials in Guwahati (Kamrup).

14. We may also note here that learned counsel have pointed out the total pendency of cases before the Presiding Officer of the CBI Court, who is also handling the NIA matters. This Court has, *vide* a separate order dated 07.09.2026 passed in SMW(Cr1.) NO.1/2026, recommended establishment of two more NIA Courts in the State of Assam for conducting trial in the cases of Section 11 of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

15. We are assured by Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, that necessary steps to establish the two additional Courts will be taken immediately. Once the needful is done and NIA cases are transferred to the newly created Courts, we have no reason to doubt that the Special Court in these cases shall be exclusively assigned CBI matters for ensuring expeditious trial.

16. Post the matters on 29.10.2026 for further consideration and necessary compliance reports.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR