

ITEM NO.13

COURT NO.1

SECTION X

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition (Civil) No.1307/2023

MANIPUR UNIVERSITY EIMI WELFARE SOCIETY & ANR.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

Date : 04-12-2023 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Ajay Justice Shaw, Adv.
Mr. Sanbha Rumnong, Adv.
Mr. Aakarsh Kamra, AOR
Mr. Chandra Tanay Chaube, Adv.
Mr. Ankita Wilson, Adv.
Mr. Jaiwant Patankar, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Mr. Tushar Mehta, SG
Mr. Lenin Singh Hijam, Adv.Gen., Manipur
Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.

**UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R**

- 1 The petition covers a total of two hundred and eighty-four students who are pursuing their studies at Manipur University, Imphal. These students whose cause is espoused in the petition are stated to have relocated to different parts of the country consequent upon the violence which took place in the State in the month of May 2023 and the continuing violence thereafter. Their grievance is that they are unable to pursue their course of studies in Manipur University and, hence should be relocated to alternate central universities.

- 2 Mr Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General appearing with Mr Lenin Singh Hijam, Advocate General of the State of Manipur states that on 16 August 2023, the Registrar of the Manipur University addressed a communication to the Deputy Commissioner. The communication, *inter alia*, contains the following modalities:
 - “1. To appoint one Nodal Officer of your district to deal with such matters related to Manipur University. The Nodal Officers be advised to contact the students in the respective districts and report it to the University.

 2. To advise the students to visit nearby colleges and identify whether the concerned subject/course/programmes studying by the student is run in that college or not. If the course/subjects/programmes are available in that college then ask the student attend the class in the college after consulting the college authority, and the University through the Nodal Officer.

 3. To assist the students in terms of providing internet facilities through the Office of the Deputy Commissioner/NIC/IGNOU Study Centre/NEILIT Study Centres for attending ONLINE Classes to be conducted by the University or for downloading the STUDY MATERIALS/LECTURE NOTES already uploaded by the Faculty Members of the University in the UNIVERSITY WEBSITE.

4. To provide the displaced students support for accessing their email at the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for downloading Lecture Notes/Study Materials sent by the faculty members of the University.
5. To provide a platform at the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for attending the concerns/problems of displaced students and report it directly to the Manipur University for resolving it on priority basis.”

3 Hence, it has been submitted that any of the students who desire to take the benefit of attending online classes would be at liberty to do so.

4 Apart from the above arrangement, it has also been indicated in the submissions of the respondents that the students may also opt for any one of the following two Universities which are central universities:

- 1 Assam University, Silchar
- 2 North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong

5 In order to facilitate the students for seeking admission to any of the two Universities at their option, the Manipur University has notified a Nodal Officer. The details of the Nodal Officer shall be placed on the website of the Manipur University. Any student who desires to take admission at any of the two central Universities referred to above, would be at liberty to contact the Nodal Officer of the Manipur University, who shall take necessary steps to facilitate the process of admission and relocation.

6 The third option of pursuing online classes is in the alternate available to those students who wish to do so.

7 The process of relocation shall be carried out within a period of two weeks from the date on which any such request is made by the student to the Nodal Officer.

- 8 The Manipur University shall ensure that the aforesaid exercise does not affect the ability of the students to receive degrees upon completing their course of studies.
- 9 We also permit the students to place any subsisting grievance before the Committee appointed by this Court and chaired by Justice Gita Mittal. The Committee after duly inquiring into the grievance and engaging with the State administration, would be at liberty to submit its report before this Court for further directions as may be necessary to facilitate the interest of education of the students who have been displaced for the time being.
- 10 The Petition is accordingly disposed of.
- 11 Pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

(CHETAN KUMAR)
A.R. -cum-P.S.

(SAROJ KUMARI GAUR)
Assistant Registrar