



REPORTABLE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR

AT IMPHAL

WP(C) No. 722 of 2026

Nishita Laishram, aged about 18 years, D/o Laishram Noren Singh, resident of Yumnam Huidrom Makha Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Wangoi, District Imphal West, Manipur-795009.

..... Petitioner/s

- Versus -

1. The State of Manipur through the Commissioner (Health & FW), Government of Manipur, Secretariat Building, Mantripukhri, P.O. Mantripukhri, P.S. Heingang, District Imphal East, Manipur-795002.
2. The Director of Medical Education, Government of Manipur, Lamphelpat, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur-795004.
3. The Joint Secretary (Health & FW.), Government of Manipur, Secretariat Building, P.O & P.S, Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur-795001.
4. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Shija Academy of Health Sciences, Langol, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur-795004.
5. The Proprietor, NETCOM Cyber Cafe, Keishampat, Keisam Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur-795001.

.....Respondent/s

with

MC(WP(C) No. 749 of 2026

Nishita Laishram, aged about 18 years, D/o Laishram Noren Singh, resident of Yumnam Huidrom Makha Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Wangoi, District Imphal West, Manipur-795009.

..... Applicant/s

- Versus -



1. The State of Manipur through the Commissioner (Health & FW), Government of Manipur, Secretariat Building, Mantripukhri, P.O. Mantripukhri, P.S. Heingang, District Imphal East, Manipur-795002.
2. The Director of Medical Education, Government of Manipur, Lamphelpat, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur-795004.
3. The Joint Secretary (Health & FW.), Government of Manipur, Secretariat Building, P.O & P.S, Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur-795001.
4. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Shija Academy of Health Sciences, Langol, P.O. & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West District, Manipur-795004.
5. The Proprietor, NETCOM Cyber Cafe, Keishampat, Keisam Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur-795001.

.....Respondent/s

B E F O R E
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A. GUNESHWAR SHARMA

For the petitioners	::	Mr. Kh. Tarunkumar, Sr. Adv. assisted by Mr. S. Johnson, Adv.
For the Respondents	::	Mr. Lenin Hijam, A.G. assisted by Ms. Sanya Shangari, Adv.; Mr. HS. Paonam, Sr. Adv. assisted by Mr. S. Gunabanta, Adv.
Date of Hearing	::	24.09.2026
Date of Order	::	25.09.2026

ORDER (CAV)

[1] Heard Mr. Kh. Tarunkumar, learned senior counsel assisted by Mr. S. Johnson, learned counsel for the applicant/petitioner; Mr. Lenin Hijam, learned Advocate General assisted by Ms. Sanya Shangari, learned counsel for respondent Nos. 1, 2 & 3 and Mr. HS. Paonam, learned senior counsel assisted by Mr. S. Gunabanta, learned counsel for respondent No. 4. Service to respondent No.5 is awaited.



[2] The single point for determination in the present case for the purpose of consideration of interim relief is

“Whether a candidate, appearing in NEET-UG counselling for MBBS conducted by Directorate of Medical Education, Government of Manipur in terms of the Notification dated 10.08.2026 read with Annexure-SOP, can choose a different ‘seat choice’ in subsequent round of counselling, as different from the one chosen in earlier round of counselling or not?”

[3] The petitioner herein, i.e., Ms. Nishita Laishram appeared in National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (UG), 2026 [in short, NEET (UG), 2026] for admission in MBBS. As per the result declared by National Testing Agency and National Medical Commission, the petitioner scored a total of 325 out of 720 with All India Rank 500285, category of OBC-NCL (Central List), and rank in the category is 225374.

[4] The Directorate of Medical Education, Government of Manipur issued a Notification dated 10.08.2026 [Annexure A-3] for giving general information to all the concerned, that candidates who have qualified in NEET-UG, 2026 can participate in “The Manipur e-Counselling 2026-2027” for allotment of ‘three types of seats’:

- A: State Government seat for MBBS, BDS, BASLP courses at RIMS, JNIMS, Shija Academy of Health Sciences (SAHS), Churachandpur Medical College (CMC), Regional Dental College (RDC), Guwahati.
- B: Management quota seats for MBBS courses at Shija Academy of Health Sciences (SAHS)
- C: NRI quota seats for MBBS course at Shija Academy of Health Sciences (SAHS).



As per the term of the Notification, eligible candidates are compulsorily to register in the web portal of the Directorate:

- (i) Registration and Choice Filling/Locking: 13.08.2026 to 19.08.2026;
- (ii) Notification of Merit List of applied candidates: 21.08.2026;
- (iii) Publication of Seat Allotment Result: 25.08.2026; and
- (iv) Reporting/Joining at the allotted institute: 25.08.2026 to 28.08.2026.

[5] Para 5 of the Notification says that the “SOP for Registration and 1st Round of Counselling” in Annexure-A has to be read by the candidates carefully. As per para 6, two types of payment are to be made:

a. Non-refundable Applications Fees:

- (i) ₹2000/- (₹1500/- for ST and SC candidates) for State Government seats.
- (ii) 2000/- for Private (Management & NRI quota) seats at SAHS, Langol.
- (iii) ₹4000/- (₹3500/- for ST and SC candidates) for both Government and Private (Management/NRI quota) Seats.

b. Refundable Security Fees of ₹15000/- for all categories.

Para 7 says that candidates who have applied in the 1st Round not required for filling in the registration in the subsequent round but “Choice Filling” in the web-based application will be mandatory for every round of counselling.

Para A: 4 of the SOP says that a candidate can choose from three types namely, Government (RIMS, JNIMS, CMC, SAHS-Govt. quota, RDC), Management (SAHS Management) and NRI (SAHS NRI). At the time of registration, multiple choices of seats are allowed subject



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to payment of relevant fees; once final submission is completed, seat type selections are permanently locked; and re-categorization, modifications or alteration requests are strictly prohibited.

For clear understanding and easy reference, a scanned copy of the Notification dated 10.08.2026 issued by Directorate of Medical Education, Government of Manipur laying down procedures for registration for online counselling for MBBS course, is reproduced below:

- 17 - ANNEXURE - A/3

**GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION**

NOTIFICATION
Imphal, the 10th August, 2026

No. DME-18/1/2026-HEALTH: It is for general information to all concerned that candidates who have qualified in NEET-UG 2026 can participate in "the Manipur Medical e-Counselling 2026-27" for allotment of the following seats:

- State Government seats for MBBS/BDS/BASLP courses at RIMS, JNIMS, Shija Academy of Health Sciences (SAHS), Churachandpur Medical College (CMC), Regional Dental College (RDC), Guwahati.
- Management quota seats for MBBS course at Shija Academy of Health Sciences (SAHS).
- NRI quota seats for MBBS course at Shija Academy of Health Sciences (SAHS).

- The entire counselling process will be conducted strictly in ONLINE MODE through the dedicated online portal at <https://manipurmc.mn.gov.in>
- Eligible Candidates shall compulsorily register in the web-based application available at <https://manipurmc.mn.gov.in> to participate in the "Manipur Medical e-Counselling 2026-27" as per schedule given below:

Sl. No.	Activity	Date
1	Registration & Choice Filling / Locking	13-08-2026 to 19-08-2026
2	Notification of Merit List of applied candidates	21-08-2026
3	Publication of Seat Allotment Result	25-08-2026
4	Reporting / Joining at the allotted institute	25-08-2026 to 28-08-2026

COPY Link to the online portal is also available on the website <https://manipurhealthdirectorat.mn.gov.in>.

- Candidates shall carefully read the "SOP for Registration and 1st Round of counselling" given in Annexure-A. "Technical Instructions for Registration" and "Seat matrix" shall be notified soon.
- Registration will be complete only after payment of the following 02 (two) kinds of Fees:
 - Non-refundable Application Fees as follows:
 - ₹2000/- (₹1500/- for ST and SC candidates) for State Government seats.
 - ₹2000/- for Private (Management & NRI quota) seats at SAHS, Langol.
 - ₹4000/- (₹3500/- for ST and SC candidates) for both Government and Private (Management/NRI quota) Seats.



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- b. Refundable Security Fees of ₹ 15000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand Only) for all categories.
- This amount shall be refunded after completion of all rounds of counselling, subject to fulfilment of relevant conditions.
7. Registration in the web-based application will be allowed before every Round of Counselling. Candidates who have registered for any round of counselling need not register again for further rounds. "Choice Filling" in the web-based application will be mandatory for every round of counselling. "Choice of seat" filled in any round will not be valid for further rounds.
8. Further communication regarding the Counselling process will be done only through (i) SMS to the registered mobile number & (ii) notifications on <https://manipurmc.mn.gov.in> and (iii) notifications on www.manipurhealthdirectorateman.gov.in official website
9. For any queries, please contact 9366255065 (10:00 am to 5:00 pm on working days) or email at dmeoffice.manipur@gmail.com.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(Somorjit Salam)
Director of Medical Education, Manipur

TRUE COPY

Advocate

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ANNEXURE

SOP for Registration and 1st Round of counselling

A. Registration

1. Qualified and eligible candidates are required to register in the web-based application <https://manipurmc.mn.gov.in>, to participate in the counselling process for allotment of seat. Directorate of Medical Education (DME) does not allot any seats manually.
2. Registration through any other mode is not allowed.
3. A candidate can submit NEET-UG Counselling application/registration form for State Counselling only once. Any candidate found to have submitted more than one application/registration form for NEET-UG Counselling shall be debarred from NEET-UG Counselling allotment process, his/her candidature shall be cancelled.
4. A candidate can choose from 3(three) Seat types namely, Government (RIMS, JNIMS, CMC, SAHS-Govt. quota, RDC), Management (SAHS Management) and NRI (SAHS NRI) at the time of registration. Multiple choices are allowed subject to payment of relevant fees. Once final submission is completed, seat type selections are permanently locked. Re-categorization, modifications, or alteration requests are strictly prohibited across the current and all future counselling rounds without exception.
5. Refundable Security Fees will be forfeited if a candidate fails to join the Institute in the Second or subsequent rounds within the stipulated joining time. Also, Refundable Security Fees will be forfeited if the admission gets cancelled for any reason. E.g., if the candidate gives wrong information at the time of registration, based on which a seat may be allotted, and the admission is later cancelled by college authorities.
6. Candidates shall undertake and declare that the information given at the time of registration is correct and complete to the best of his knowledge and, he may be prosecuted under any court of law for wilfully submitting wrong information or suppressing material facts, if there is any.
7. No candidates shall be allowed to change/alter their existing data of NEET UG 2026 (as received from the Medical Counselling Committee, DGHS, Govt. of India) at the time of registration.
8. Information regarding fee structures may be had from the colleges concerned before filling in the "Seat Choices".
9. Candidates may lock their "Seat Choices" within the stipulated timeline after which they cannot be modified. Even if the "Seat Choices" are not locked by the candidate, it will be auto-locked at the end of the stipulated timeline.

OPY

Advocate



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10. Any updates on the "Schedule / latest updates / Results / Notices / News & Events regarding the online counselling" may be had from the DHS website www.manipurhealthdirectorat.mn.gov.in or the web-based application <https://manipurmc.mn.gov.in>.
11. The DME reserves its absolute right to alter, amend, modify, or apply any or some of the instructions/ guidelines. In case of any ambiguity in the interpretation of any of the instructions/ terms/ rules/criteria, the interpretation of the DME shall be final and binding in nature.
12. Candidates must ensure that mobile numbers and e-mail ID filled at the time of Registration are their own or their Parents/guardians' only, as DME will communicate only through SMS or e-mail on the given mobile number and e-mail ID. DME will NOT be responsible for any incorrect credentials. Any complaint with regard to the change of registered mobile number or email address shall not be entertained by the DME.
13. Applications once submitted cannot be withdrawn. Mere deduction of fees from the bank account is not a proof of fee payment. Acknowledgement slip of Registration is the confirmatory proof for fee payment.
14. Registration in the web-based application will be allowed before every Round of Counselling. Candidates who have registered for any round of counselling need not register again for further rounds. "Choice Filling" in the web-based application will be mandatory for every round of counselling. "Choice of seat" filled in any round will not be valid for further rounds.
15. Refund will be processed as per counselling Scheme once all the rounds are completed.

B. First Round of Counselling.

1. Main Counselling Registration which will include payment of Non-Refundable Registration fee and Refundable Security Deposit (to be refunded only in the account from which payment has been made).
2. Exercising of choices and locking of choices during choice filling/ locking window to be done as per the schedule.
3. Process of Seat Allotment: Seat allotment shall be done based on Manipur Medical MBBS/BDS/BASLP (Selection of Candidates for Nomination) Rules, 2021 and its Amendment Rules, 2025.
4. Publication of result of Round-1 on the official website www.manipurhealthdirectorat.mn.gov.in and issue of allotment letter to the allotted candidates on the online portal.
5. Allotted Candidates shall download the "allotment letter" from the web-based application <https://manipurmc.mn.gov.in>.

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6. Candidates shall be required to choose their preference of either "FREEZE" or "FLOAT" to proceed further. Further change after confirmation shall not be allowed in any case.
 7. Physical Reporting with original documents at the allotted Medical/Dental College against Round-1 for candidates who do not want upgradation (FREEZE CANDIDATES).
 8. Candidates who want to upgrade their seat in further Rounds can give willingness for upgradation online. (FLOAT CANDIDATES). Such candidates do not need to physically report at the allotted college. They shall download the "Provisional Admission letter" from the web-based application <https://manipurmc.mn.gov.in> after due verification by the respective Institutes. However, candidates allotted seats in the Regional Dental College (RDC), Guwahati shall mandatorily report physically to the Institute for verification of original documents and completion of admission formalities. The provisions relating to Online Verification and Online Provisional Admission shall not apply to such candidates.
- C. Process for Seat Withdrawal (Resignation)/ Surrender Process for Candidates allotted in First Round of Counselling.**

The process of resignation/ seat surrender based on willingness of candidate will be as follows for Freeze/ Float Candidates:

1. FREEZE CANDIDATE- will have to visit physically to the allotted Institute for resignation

- a) Candidate will physically report at the allotted institute and submit Resignation within stipulated time period prescribed by DME to be eligible for next round of counselling.
- b) Once a seat is surrendered/resigned, candidate will have NO claim on that particular seat.

2. FLOAT CANDIDATE

- a) Candidates with provisional admission may submit an online seat surrender request in the prescribed template on the counselling portal within stipulated time period prescribed by DME.
- b) Once a seat is surrendered/resigned, candidate will have NO claim on that particular seat.

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vocate



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ONLINE STATE COUNSELLING SCHEME (1ST ROUND)

Registration, Choice filling done by the Candidate on dedicated portal

Seat allotment based on Manipal Medical MBBS/BDS/BASLP
(Selection of candidates for Nomination) Rules, 2021 and its
Amendment rules, 2025

Candidates can decide to be a Freeze or Float Candidate

Freeze Candidate is a
candidate who does
not want to upgrade
and retain the seat
allotted to him/herWill have to Report
Physically to allotted
Institute for admissionFloat Candidate is a
candidate who gives
willingness for
upgradation for next
round through online
mode onlyVerification of
candidates on the
dedicated portal by the
allotted InstituteGenerate Provisional
Admission Letter on the
dedicated portal after
successful verificationEnd of 1st Round State Counselling

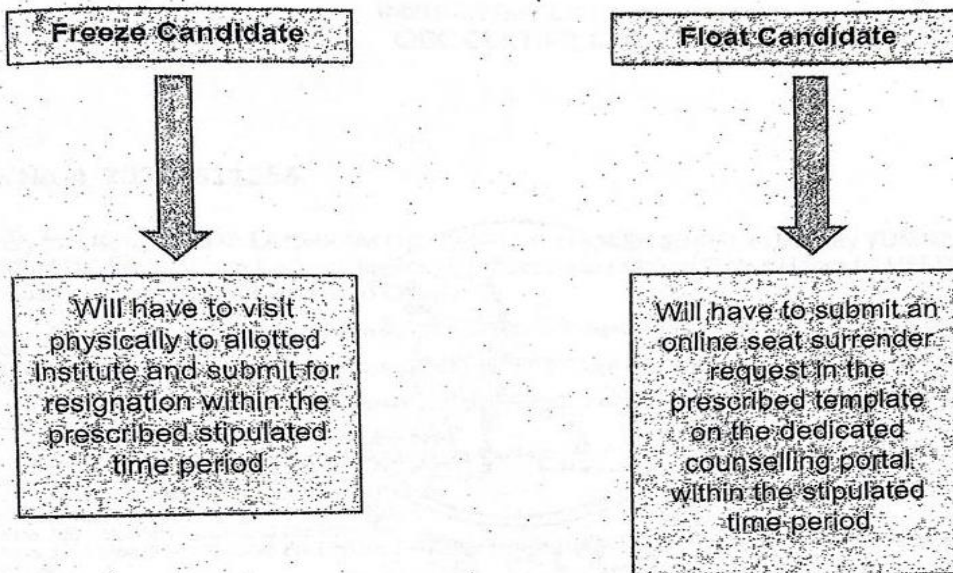
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ocate

22.9.26
H. M. Babu Devi
Commissioner (Judicial)
West District & High Court
legd. No: 609/2025



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SEAT WITHDRAWAL FLOWCHART (FOR 1st ROUND)

ONCE A SEAT IS SURRENDERED/RESIGNED, CANDIDATE WILL HAVE NO CLAIM ON THAT PARTICULAR SEAT

TRUE COPY
Advocate

[6] The petitioner submitted her application in the website of State respondent from a cybercafé run by respondent No. 5. In the proforma format [Annexure A-5] available at the cybercafé for the said purpose, she chose/ticked 'Management seat of SAHS'. However, at the time of uploading of her choice, it was inadvertently ticked as 'State seat'. A scanned copy of the proforma format is reproduced as:



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ANNEXURE - A/s

DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION / ADMISSION COUNSELLING AUTHORITY
UNIFIED APPLICATION FORM FOR ADMISSION TO MEDICAL, DENTAL, NURSING, PHARMACY &
ALLIED HEALTHCARE COURSES (2026-2027)

Account Holder Name LAISHRAM NOREN SINGH
 Bank Name STATE BANK OF INDIA
 Account Number 11746726566
 IFSC Code: SBIN0007440

Affix Recent
 Passport Size
 Photograph
 (Self-Attested)

CANDIDATE PERSONAL DETAILS

NEET application no: 26041199872
 NEET Roll No.: 3201110273 Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY): 02-02-2008
 Candidate Mobile No.: 8413055796
 Candidate Email ID: nishitalaishram33@gmail.com

Full Name of Candidate (in Block Letters): NISHITA LAISHRAM

Father's / Guardian's Name: LAISHRAM NOREN SINGH

Mother's Name: KHURAIJAM SONIYA DEVI

Gender: ☐ Male ☒ Female ☐ Other

Aadhaar / National ID Number: [Aadhaar Redacted] / 532150497591 Domicile State: Manipur

2. CATEGORY & RESERVATION DETAILS

Category / Quota: ☐ General / UR ☒ OBC-NCL (Meitei) ☐ OBC-NCL (Pangal) ☐ SC ☐ ST ☐ EWS

Special Category: ☐ Armed Forces / Ex-Servicemen ☐ Sports person ☐ Person with Disability (PwD)
 Seat Quota Applied: ☐ Govt. Seats (RIMS/JNIMS/SAHS/CMC/RDC) ☒ Management Seats ☐ NRI Seats

3. ENTRANCE EXAM DETAILS (NEET UG / EQUIVALENT)

NEET Roll No.: 3201110273 NEET All India Rank (AIR): 500285
 NEET Category Rank: 225374 NEET Total Score / Marks: 325

4. CONTACT & ADDRESS DETAILS

Permanent Address: YUMNAM HUIDROM MAKHA LEIKAI
 District: IMPHAL WEST State: MANIPUR Pincode: 795009
 Correspondence Address:
 District: State: Pincode:
 Parent / Guardian Mobile No.: 9862189327

5. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

A. Class 12th School Summary

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Cu z
 Advocate

22.9.26
 Mr. M. Baby Devi
 Oath Commissioner (Judicial)
 Imphal West District & High Court
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Board / University: COHSEM Year of Passing: 2025
School / Institute: T.G. HIGHER SECONDARY Percentage / CGPA: 74.4

B. Class 10+2 / Higher Secondary Marks Breakdown (Science Stream)

Subject	Full Marks	Pass Marks	Marks Obtained	% Marks
English	100	32	73	
Physics			60	
Chemistry			60	
Biology / Biotechnology			78	
Aggregate PCB Group				PCB %
Overall Total (All Subjects)				Total %

6. COURSE & INSTITUTE PREFERENCE SELECTION

Indicate your preference order (1 to 6) for preferred course and institute combinations:

Preference No.	Course Name (MBBS / BDS / BScP / Pharmacy / Allied)	Preferred Institute / College
Preference 1	MBBS	SAITA HOSPITAL
Preference 2	MBBS	CHURCHANPUR
Preference 3	MBBS	JNEMS
Preference 4	MBBS	RIMS
Preference 5		
Preference 6		

8. Document list

- ☐ NEET UG Scorecard / Rank Card & Admit Card
☐ Class XII Marksheet & Pass Certificate
☐ Caste / Category Certificate (OBC / SC / ST / EWS)
☐ Government Photo ID Proof (Aadhaar / Passport / Voter ID)

- ☐ Class X Certificate / Marksheet (Age Proof)
☐ Domicile / Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC)
☐ Special Category Certificate (Armed / Sports / PwD)
☐ Recent Passport Size Photographs (4 Copies)

Date: 12/9/2026
Place: Imphal

Nurita L
Signature of Candidate

TRUE COPY

Advocate

22-9-26
Smt. M. Baby Devi
Oath Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court



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[7] In the web-based print out issued by the Medical Directorate, the preference acknowledgement slip for 1st Round Counselling of the petitioner is given as SAHS, CMC, JNIMS and RIMS. The same is annexed as Annexure A/6 with the writ petition, a scanned copy of which is as under:

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<https://manipurmc.mn.gov.in/counselling/round-sel>

MANIPUR MEDICAL e-COUNSELLING **ANNEXURE A/6**
2026-27

DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

Choice Preference Acknowledgement Slip			
NEET Roll No.	3201110273	Candidate Name	NISHITA LAISHRAM
Caste/Category	OBC-M	Mobile No.	8413055796
Counselling Round	Round 1		

Locked Course-Institute Preferences		
Preference Order	Institute	Course Name
1	SAHS	MBBS
2	CMC	MBBS
3	JNIMS	MBBS
4	RIMS	MBBS

✓ These choices were locked on 13-Aug-2026 05:51 PM for Round 1 of UG Medical Counselling 2026-27.

[8] On coming to know about the error in her choice of institute category as 'State quota' in the uploaded application, she submitted a representation dated 18.08.2026 to the Director of Medical Education/Admission Counselling Authority for changing her seat



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selection from 'Government Seat' to 'Management seat at SAHS'. A scanned copy of the representation [Annexure-7] is reproduced below:

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ANNEXURE A/7

To
Imphal, the 18th August, 2026.

**The Director of Medical Education/ Admission Counselling Authority,
Manipur Secretariat, Mantripukhri, Imphal.**

Sub: - Request for allowing to change the erroneous ticking of the **Seat Quota Applied: from Govt. Seats (RIMS/JNIMS/SAHS/RDC) to Management Seats.**

Respected Sir,

I have the honour to state the following few lines for your kind consideration and favourable orders.

1. That, I am an applicant of the NEET candidate under Roll No. **3201110273**, NEET application No. **260411199872**, NEET All India Rank: **500285** and NEET Category Rank: **225374** for the year 2026-2027.
2. That, I could score 325 marks in the above NEET Examination.
3. That, I had submitted an application **online** with the help of a Cybercafe named **NETCOM** at Keishampat, Imphal on 13/08/2026. The Cybercafe had issued a prescribed form for their convenience. The copy of the filled in application is also enclosed in original for your kind perusal.
4. That, while checking my status online, I came to know that the Cybercafe ticked **Seat Quota Applied: Govt. Seats (RIMS/JNIMS/SAHS/RDC)** which must be **Management Seats**. As my scored marks is 325 only, I preferred to opt under the **SAHS Management Seats**.

The details of my brief information are stated below:

(a)	Name of the Candidate	: NISHITA LAISHRAM
(b)	Father's name	: LAISHRAM NOREN SINGH
(c)	Mother's name	: KHURAIJAM SONIYA DEVI
(d)	Date of Birth	: 02-02-2008
(e)	Contact number (mobile)	: 84130 55796/ 98621 89327
(f)	Email ID	: nishitalaishram33@gmail.com

In the circumstances stated above, I am requesting you kindly to consider for correction of the erroneous ticking of the Seat Quota Applied from Govt. Seats to Management Seats by the Cybercafe on humanitarian ground, as a special case.

Yours faithfully,

Enclosed: as above along with the Score Card.

TRUE COPY

(NISHITA LAISHRAM)
Yumnam Huldrom Makha Leikal,
Imphal West District, Manipur.

Smt. M. Ruby Devi
Oath Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court

[9] The Directorate of Medical Education, Government of Manipur forwarded the request of the petitioner along with two others to the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Government



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of Manipur vide a letter dated 18.08.2026 with a comment that the petitioner is eligible for applying in the Management quota. A scanned copy of the forwarding letter dated 18.08.2026 [Annexure-8] is reproduced as:

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ANNEXURE - 1/8

**GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION**

No. DME- 18/1/2026-HEALTH Imphal, the 18th August, 2026

To,

The Commissioner cum Secretary,
Health & Family Welfare
Govt. of Manipur

Subject: Modification in details entered during registration of Manipur Medical e-Counselling 2026-27 for NEET-UG 2026 qualified candidates.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above cited subject, I am to inform you that in pursuance of administrative approval obtained via Secretariat: Health Department Govt. of Manipur, letter no. MED-506/16/2023-HS-HEALTH dated 10th August, 2026, this Directorate is conducting the Manipur Medical e-Counselling 2026-27 for NEET-UG 2026 qualified candidates for admission to MBBS/BDS/BASLP courses. (copy enclosed)

2. Accordingly, "SOP for Registration and 1st Round of Counselling" was published vide this Directorate notification of even number dated 10th August, 2026 (copy enclosed). As per the said notification, Registration & Choice filling/Locking on the web portal is scheduled from 13-08-2026 to 19-08-2026.

3. Further, as per the "SOP for Registration and 1st Round of Counselling" point no. A.4,

"Once final submission is completed, seat type selections are permanently locked. Re-categorization, modifications, or alteration requests are strictly prohibited across the current and all future counselling rounds without exception."

4. However, multiple representations have been received from candidates requesting for modification in details entered during registration in the web portal (copy enclosed), due to inadvertent error during the registration process by the candidate/representatives. The modifications requested by the candidates are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of candidate	Current Details	Modifications requested	Remarks
1.	Khangembam Rakesh Singh	Person with Benchmark Disability – NO	Person with Benchmark Disability – YES	PwBD Eligibility certificate submitted and NEET UG-2026 score card with PwBD option submitted.



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2.	Kshetrimayum Eshanou	Special Category (Children of Ex-servicemen) - NO	Special Category (Children of Ex-servicemen) - YES	Certificate by Rajya Sainik Board, Imphal submitted
3.	Nikita Laishram	Seat Type Applied for - Government	Seat Type Applied for- Government & Management	Eligible for applying in Management Quota

In view of the above facts, I am to request approval of the Competent Authority to the modification of the above details for the candidates applying for the Manipur Medical e-Counselling 2026-27.

Encl.: as above

Yours faithfully,

(Somorjit Salam)
Director of Medical Education
Government of Manipur

Copy to:-
1. Joint Secretary, Health & FW, Govt. of Manipur
2. Guard file

[10] However, by the impugned Order dated 21.08.2026 issued by the Joint Secretary (Health & FW), Government of Manipur, the representation of the petitioner was rejected on the ground that there is no room for re-registration as per the relevant guidelines; notifications and the relevant SOP do not allow changing of the seat. Accordingly, the representation dated 18.08.2026 was rejected. A scanned copy of the speaking order dated 21.08.2026 [Annexure-9] is reproduced below:



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ANNEXURE - A/9

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
SECRETARIAT: HEALTH DEPARTMENTSPEAKING ORDERImphal, the 21st August, 2026

No. MED-506/16/2023-HS-HEALTH-Part(2): Whereas, Nishita Laishram, submitted a representation dated 18th August, 2026 requesting for modification of particulars entered during registration in the Manipur Medical e-Counselling 2026-27 for NEET-UG 2026 qualified candidates;

2. Whereas, pursuant to the notification dated 10th August, 2026 issued by the Directorate of Medical Education, Government of Manipur, NEET-qualified candidates were invited to register for the "Manipur Medical e-Counselling 2026-27" for admission to MBBS/BDS/BASLP seats under the following three available seat types at the time of "Registration", Government seats at RIMS, JNIMS, CMC, RDC & SAHS, Management seats at SAHS and NRI seats at SAHS;

3. And whereas, candidates were informed of the "SOP for Registration and 1st Round of Counselling" vide the said notification dated 10th August, 2026, which included the following guidelines under Serial No. 4 of the SOP:

"4. A candidate can choose from 3(three) Seat types namely, Government (RIMS, JNIMS, CMC, SAHS-Govt. quota, RDC), Management (SAHS Management) and NRI (SAHS NRI) at the time of registration. Multiple choices are allowed subject to payment of relevant fees. Once final submission is completed, seat type selections are permanently locked. Re-categorization, modifications, or alteration requests are strictly prohibited across the current and all future counselling rounds without exception."

4. And whereas, as part of the registration process, candidates were required to indicate their choice under "Special Category", comprising of "Meritorious Sports person", "Children of Armed Forces Personnel/Ex-servicemen", "Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD)" and "NO"; wherein selecting any of the special categories required candidates to upload relevant supporting documents;

5. And whereas, the final step of the registration process prior to final submission on the web portal required an explicit undertaking and declaration by the candidate, mandatory acceptance of which was a prerequisite for successful completion of registration as provided under Serial No. 6 of the "SOP for Registration and 1st Round of Counselling" as follows:-

"6. Candidates shall undertake and declare that the information given at the time of registration is correct and complete to the best of his knowledge and, he may be prosecuted under any court of law for wilfully submitting wrong information or suppressing material facts, if there is any."

6. And whereas, Serial No. 9 of the "Technical Instructions to Candidates for Manipur Medical e-Counselling 2026-27" for the web-based registration at the portal notified vide this Directorate notification no. DME-18/1/2026-HEALTH dated 12th August, 2026 reads as follows;

"9. Application Review and Submission: Preview your application carefully. Once satisfied, click 'Yes' on Declaration and submit the application. Once it is submitted, application cannot be changed."



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7. And whereas, web-based registrations for the Manipur Medical e-Counselling 2026-27 were conducted through the web portal at www.manipurmc.mn.gov.in, wherein ample opportunities were provided to the candidates at every stage of the registration process to edit their entered details and preferences, or to re-initiate the registration process from the beginning until the final submission; and necessary confirmations and undertakings from the candidates were obtained from the candidates before the final submission;

8. And whereas, Nishita Laishram, a candidate intending to apply under Management seat type, has submitted that she had inadvertently selected only the "Government" seat type option and successfully completed her registration on the portal;

9. And whereas, the Hon'ble High Court of Manipur, vide its order dated 10-06-2026 passed in Review Petition No. 5 of 2026 with Review Petition No. 6 of 2026 (*State of Manipur & Anr. vs. Khullem Nishant Singh & 3 Ors.*), has explicitly clarified that previous interim permissions granted to candidates for upgrading/modifying choices of seat shall not be treated as a precedent in future;

10. And whereas, the aforementioned candidate did not register for the Management seat type during the time of registration. As such, there is no room for re-registration as per the relevant Guidelines and Notifications. Registration under the appropriate Seat Type is a mandatory requirement under the counselling process. Failure to comply with this condition renders the candidate ineligible for consideration under the Management Seat Type;

11. Therefore, in strict compliance with the notified SOP and guidelines for Manipur Medical e-Counselling 2026-27, the request made in the representation submitted by the aforementioned candidate for modification/alteration of details entered during registration is found devoid of merit and hereby disposed of accordingly.

Shamim Ahmad Shah 21/08/26

(Shamim Ahmad Shah)
Joint Secretary (Health & FW)
Government of Manipur

Copy to:

1. PS to Commissioner (Health & FW), Government of Manipur.
2. Director, Medical Education, Manipur.
3. Nishita Laishram D/O Laishram Noren Singh of Yumnam Huidrom Makha Leikal, Imphal West District
4. Guard file.



[11] Being aggrieved by the same, the petitioner filed the present writ petition with a prayer for setting aside the impugned order dated 21.08.2026. The prayer is reproduced below:

- “(i) issue rule nisi calling upon the respondent to show cause as to why the prayer prayed for by the petitioner shall not be granted after hearing them make the rule absolute. Call for the records of the case.*
- (ii) issue a writ of certiorari to quash and set aside the impugned order dated 21-08-2026 (Annexure-A/9) as the same is not sustainable in the eyes of law.*
- (iii) issue a writ of mandamus by directing the Respondents to allow the petitioner to appear at the 3rd round of counselling at The SAHS under the Management Seat/Quota as have been done in respect of other similarly situated persons.*
- (iv) pass any other appropriate writ/ order/direction that this Hon'ble Court deems fit and proper.”*

[12] Along with the writ petition being WP(C) No. 722 of 2026, the petitioner also filed an application being MC(WP(C)) No. 749 of 2026 inter-alia praying for allowing her to appear in the 3rd Round Counselling at SAHS under the Management seat by staying the operation of the impugned order dated 21.08.2026. The prayer in MC(WP(C)) No. 749 of 2026 is reproduced below:

- (i) allow the applicant to appear before the said 3rd round of counselling at the SAHS under the Management seat by staying the operation of the impugned order dated 21-08-2026 (Annexure-B/1) as the same is not sustainable in the eyes of law.*
- (ii) pass any other appropriate interim order/direction that this Hon'ble Court deems fit and proper.”*

[13] When the matter was taken up on 22.09.2026 as unlisted item on mentioning due to urgency involved in the matter, as 3rd Round Counselling would start on 29.09.2026, Mr. Lenin Hijam, learned A.G., requested for taking up the matter on 23.09.2026 at 2:00 p.m. so that he could take appropriate instruction. On 23.09.2026, when the matter was



taken up, learned A.G. submitted that he filed an affidavit of preliminary objection dated 23.09.2026 raising the question of maintainability of the writ petition along with the documents. Since the same was not on record, the matter was directed to be listed on 24.09.2026.

[14] Mr. Kh. Tarunkumar, learned sr. counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has scored 325 out of 720 in the NEET with all India rank of 500285, in OBC category and NEET category rank: 225374 for the year 2026-27. In terms of the notification dated 10.08.2026 issued by the Director of Medical Education, Manipur, she applied for participating in the counselling of Manipur Medical e-Counselling 2026-27 for MBBS course. As per the said notification, there are three categories as mentioned above; the date of registration and choice filing/locking were from 13.08.2026 to 19.08.2026; and 'para 5' of the notification dated 10.08.2026 required the candidates to read SOP for registration and 'para 6' prescribes a 'non-refundable fee' of (i) Rs. 2000/- (Rs. 1500/- for ST and SC candidates) for State Govt. seats, (ii) Rs. 2000/- for Private (Management & NRI quota) seats at SAHS, Langol, & (iii) Rs. 4000/- (Rs. 3500/- for ST & SC candidates) for both Govt. and private (Management/NRI quota) seats and refundable security fee of Rs. 15000/- for all categories. 'Para A.4' of SOP provides that the candidates can choose three types of seats namely, (i) Govt. (RIMS, JNIMS, CMC, SAHS-Govt. quota, RDC), (ii) Management (SAHS Management), and (iii) NRI (SAHS NRI) at the time of registration. Multiple choices are permitted subject to payment of the requisite fees. Once the final submission is completed, seat type selections are permanently locked; and no modification thereof will be entertained.

[15] Learned sr. counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner submitted her application through NETCOM CyberCafe, Keishampat, Keisam Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District,



Manipur (respondent no. 5 herein) and in the proforma available with respondent no. 5, the petitioner mentioned all her details including the seat quota applied for. She ticked the 'Management quota at SAHS'. Learned sr. counsel further submits that inadvertently while uploading by respondent no. 5 on behalf of the petitioner, the choice of seat was wrongly ticked as 'Govt. seat' with 1st preference as SAHS, 2nd as CMC, 3rd as JNIMS, 4th as RIMS. On coming to know of this inadvertent mistake in uploading the wrong seat choice, the petitioner submitted representation dated 18.08.2026 to the Director of Medical Education/ Admission Counselling Authority, Manipur for changing her seat preference from 'State quota' to 'Management quota'. The representation was forwarded by the Director of Medical Education, Govt. of Manipur to the Commissioner cum Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Manipur by a letter dated 18.08.2026 along with 2(two) other applications with the remarks that the petitioner was 'eligible for applying for Management quota'. However, without considering the same and by taking a very hyper technical view, the representation was rejected by impugned speaking order dated 21.08.2026; on the ground that, as per the SOP, the change of seat category cannot be entertained.

[16] Learned sr. counsel for the petitioner submits that by the present petition, the only prayer is for allowing the petitioner to appear in the 3rd round of counselling against the 'Management quota seat at SAHS' and in doing so, the petitioner is not claiming any relaxation in the merit and the schedule of the counselling will not be affected. The petitioner cannot be penalized for the inadvertent mistake committed at the time of the online registration. This would amount to penalising promising students like the petitioner herein for no fault of theirs that too for an innocuous and non-deliberate omission.



[17] Learned sr. counsel draws the attention of this Court in order dated 18.09.2026 passed by this Court in WP(C) No. 707 of 2026 with MC(WP(C)) No. 733 of 2026 (**Preety Soibam vs. State of Manipur & 2 Ors.**) whereby, in an exactly similar situation, the petitioner therein, who obtained the NEET scored of 397 was also not included in the 2nd list of counselling for 'Management seat at SAHS' on the ground that the petitioner therein, had also ticked her choice as 'State quota at SAHS', This Court allowed the writ petition by holding that the choice of seat preference (as per State record) showed only 'SAHS' without any qualification of 'State quota' or 'Management quota' and choice of SAHS would include both 'State quota' and 'Management quota'. Scanned copy of the order dated 18.09.2026 is reproduced below for easy reference:

"18.09.2026

[1] *This matter is taken as unlisted item due to urgency involved in the matter (admission in the MBBS Course in Manipur).*

[2] *Heard Mr. N. Ibotombi, learned sr. counsel assisted by Ms. Y. Jinita, learned counsel for the petitioner.*

[3] *The petitioner appeared in National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (UG), 2026 for admission in MBBS Course and her scored is 397 out of 720. In the 1st round of counselling for the medical college in Manipur, the petitioner made first preference as Churachandpur Medical College (CMC) and second preference as SAHS (Shija Academy of Health Sciences). The petitioner was not considered in the 1st round of counselling, however, for the 2nd counselling the petitioner made first preference as SAHS, second as CMC, third as Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) & fourth as Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS). The seats allocation for the 2nd counselling was issued by notification dated 16.09.2026 against the management quota for SAHS; 25(twenty-five) students were*



recommended for admission; the last one scored 339 and first two scored 470 and 397 respectively.

[4] Mr. N. Ibotombi, learned sr. counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner scored is 397 and she should be recommended at sl. no. 2 in the SAHS against the management quota and without any justification her name has been omitted, thereby depriving the petitioner has a chance to get admission in the 2nd round of counselling. The learned sr. counsel for the petitioner submits that the respondents may be permitted to make seat choice against MBBS seat in management quota at SAHS and directed the respondents to participate in 3rd round of counselling or any other seat available in SAHS. It is further submitted that the petitioner has been informed that her name was not in the selected list of the candidates for admission in SAHS against the management quota, as her choice was considered against the SAHS State seat.

[5] Issue notice.

[6] Mr. A. Priyokumar Sharma, learned counsel assisting Mr. S. Chittaranjan, learned Addl. AG accepts notice on behalf of respondent nos. 1 & 2 and Mr. S. Gunabanta, learned counsel assisting Mr. HS Paonam, learned sr. counsel accepts notice on behalf of respondent no. 3 (SAHS). Hence, service is complete on all respondents. Since, the only prayer is for admission in MBBS Course, instead of waiting for counter affidavit, this Court with the consent of all the learned counsel appearing for the parties proposes to dispose of this case at this stage.

[7] Mr. S. Chittaranjan, learned Addl. AG submits that the choice of the petitioner has been considered against SAHS State seat. He further explains that in the SAHS, there are 3(three) categories of seat, i.e. State quota, Management quota and NRI quota. He draws the attention of this Court to the contents in 'para 5' of the writ petition where, it is specifically pleaded the petitioner has not opted for management quota by way of her choice and in such



situation, she was rightly excluded from the list of 2nd counselling for management quota in SAHS.

[8] Mr. HS Paonam, learned sr. counsel for the SAHS submits that at this stage, SAHS has no role in the admission and whole admission process is done as per the direction of the State respondents and in the State counselling, SAHS has no role except complying the recommendation made by the State Level Counselling Committee.

[9] Mr. N. Ibotombi, learned sr. counsel submits that presuming that the petitioner has applied for SAHS State quota only (not admitting but considering the sake of argument as submitted by learned Addl. AG), her case can be considered favourably. There is precedent by this Court where, candidates in the MBBS Course in SAHS were permitted to opt for the management quota where the choice at the time of the counselling was for State quota. Learned sr. counsel refers to order dated 12.08.2025 passed by this Court in WP(C) No. 620 of 2025 (Khulem Nishant Singh vs. Union of India & 4 Ors.) whereas, all candidates in similar situation were permitted to opt for the SAHS management quota.

*[10] This Court has perused the materials on record. As per **Annexure-A/3**, the choice of seat option given by the petitioner is one CMC, second SAHS and for clear understanding, the seat choice in the 1st counselling and 2nd counselling are reproduced below:*



2026:MNHC:216

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MANIPUR MEDICAL e-COUNSELLING
2026-27
DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

Annexure-A/3.

Choice Preference Acknowledgement Slip			
NEET Roll No.	3201114017	Candidate Name	PREETY SOIBAM
Caste/Category	Gen	Mobile No.	9856135376
Counselling Round	Round 1		

Locked Course-Institute Preferences		
Preference Order	Institute	Course Name
1	CMC	MBBS
2	SAHS	MBBS

● These choices were locked on 17-Aug-2026 12:26 PM for Round 1 of UG Medical Counselling 2026-27.

MANIPUR MEDICAL e-COUNSELLING
- 43 - 2026-27
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES
GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

Annexure-A/7.

Choice Preference Acknowledgement Slip

NEET Roll No.	3201114017	Candidate Name	PREETY SOIBAM
Caste/Category	Gen	Mobile No.	9856135376
Counselling Round	Round 2		

Locked Course-Institute Preferences		
Preference Order	Institute	Course Name
1	SAHS	MBBS
2	CMC	MBBS
3	JNIMS	MBBS
4	RIMS	MBBS

● These choices were locked on 11-Sep-2026 02:05 PM for Round 2 of UG Medical Counselling 2026-27.

[11] On clear perusal of the choice of preferences filed by **Annexures- A/3 & A/7**, nothing is shown that the petitioner opted for SAHS State quota. This Court is of the view that the petitioner opted for SAHS necessarily includes both State quota as management quota and NRI. Petitioner shall be eligible for considering against the State quota as



well as management quota by Annexure- A/3 & A/7 which are documents of the State counselling and mentioned by the Directorate of Medical Education, Govt. of Manipur. Even though SAHS has no role at this stage, Mr. HS Paonam, learned sr. counsel fairly submits that there are seats available against the management quota of SAHS of MBBS Course as on today.

[12] Considering all these facts together, this Court is of the view that it will be the interest of justice to treat the petitioner at sl. no. 2 in the list of candidates in the 2nd round for SAHS management quota. In the circumstances, this Court directed respondent no. 2 to insert the name of the petitioner as 1(a) in the notification dated 16.09.2026 and she is permitted to take admission as qualified in 2nd counselling on the basis of this order.

[13] Mr. S. Chittaranjan, learned Addl. AG submits that today is the last day of joining of the college. Accordingly, petitioner is permitted on the basis of this order to join SAHS today. Any formality will be completed within a period of 10(ten) days from today.

[14] With these observations, WP(C) No. 707 of 2026 & MC(WP(C)) No. 733 of 2026 are disposed of. No costs.

[15] Furnish a copy of this order to the learned counsel appearing for the parties by whatsapp or any other available mode."

[18] This Court, after hearing the parties and on perusal of the choice preference acknowledgement slip, held in **Preety Soibam** (supra) that preference showing as 'SAHS' would means both the 'State quota seat' and 'Management quota seat' in SAHS. In the circumstances, respondents were directed to include the name of the petitioner herein, in the 2nd counselling list and to admit her in SAHS from 2nd counselling list.

[19] Learned sr. counsel for the petitioner submits that the present case is exactly similar with the facts of **Preety Soibam** (supra);



and both are appearing in the same counselling of NEET (UG), 2026 for admission conducted by Manipur Government. It is further submitted that by allowing the petitioner to participate in the 3rd round of counselling for admission in MBBS course under Manipur Govt., no prejudice will cause to any other persons and it will be in the interest of justice. The petitioner should not be made to suffer for the lapse happened at the time of the registration, notwithstanding by herself or NETCOM Cyber Cafe (respondent no. 5 herein); and petitioner is not asking any relaxation of the merit and by allowing her to appear in 3rd round of counselling, the prescribed time schedule will not be affected.

[20] On the other hand, Mr. Lenin Hijam, learned Advocate General has referred to the preliminary affidavit dated 23.09.2026 to the fact that the writ petition is not maintainable in the present form, as it does not disclose violation of any mandatory statutory provision; and the petitioner has failed to demonstrate any patent illegality or violation of the mandatory requirement; and the present case is not one where the petitioner was not selected due to any fault of the State, but due to her own mistake. It is further stated that averment is based on misconception of facts and is legally untenable. Learned AG refers to the notification dated 10.08.2026 issued by Director of Medical Education that 3(three) categories of seat are available, i.e., (i) Govt. quota (RIMS, JNIMS, CMC, SAHS-Govt. quota, RDC), (ii) Management quota (SAHS Management), and (iii) NRI quota (SAHS NRI) and the candidate has option to apply online for all the categories after payment of necessary fees. Learned AG draws the attention to the SOP schedule at 'para A: 4' to the point that once the choices relating to 3(three) categories of seat are permanently locked, no modification or alteration will be entertained thereafter. Learned GA submits that **Annexure A/5** (the proforma available with respondent no. 5) is not recognized by the State and the State is not bound by its contents; and



State will strictly go by the information available in the website and official documents. As evident from the preference acknowledgment slip, i.e., **Annexure A/6** with the writ petition, this preference of SAHS, CMC, JNIMS, RIMS will be considered against the Govt. seat in terms of the 'para 1 A' of the notification dated 10.08.2026. Learned AG has also referred to the preliminary affidavit where, the petitioner deposited a sum of Rs. 17,000/- only [Annexure C-1] which is Rs.2,000/- for the State seat and Rs. 15,000/- refundable. If the petitioner intends to appear for Management seat of SAHS also, she has to pay Rs. 2,000/- more. In this regard, learned AG further refers to preliminary affidavit of the State where, another candidate pays Rs. 19,000/- [Annexure C-3] (Rs. 2,000/- for Govt. seat and Rs.2,000/- for Management seat of SAHS). It is urged that the petitioner has not rightly been considered for the 'Management seat of SAHS' in terms of SOP specially at para A.4. Since the petitioner has paid only fee for State quota only, she cannot be considered for the Management quota of SAHS. It is also further submitted that the last candidate under Management quota in SAHS has a score of 339 at sl. no. 25 and petitioner scored being 325, she would be eligible even in the 3rd round of counselling. Learned AG refers to the following cases law:

- (i) **2001(8) SCC 355 at para 4 [Arvind Kumar Kankane vs. State of UP & Ors.]** where, Hon'ble Supreme Court held that *"4.It is clear that once an option is exercised by a candidate on the basis of which he is allotted the subject and thereafter that candidate is allowed to participate in subsequent counselling and his seat becomes vacant, the process of counselling will be endless and, as apprehended by the High Court, it may not be possible to complete the academic course within the stipulated period."*
- (ii) **2012 (7) SCC 433 para 38-40 [Priya Gupta v. State of Chhattisgarh]** where, the Hon'ble Supreme Court emphasised for adherence to the merit and time schedule for admission and refraining from mid-term admission. It was



held that the 'schedule' of admission has force of law under Article 141 of Constitution of India, as the same part of the judgment of the Court.

- (iii) **Jammu Kashmir Public Service Commission vs. Israr Ahmad & Ors.** reported in **2005 (12) SCC 498** para 5 held that categories of caste cannot be changed mid-way and para 5 is reproduced as:

"5. We have considered the rival contentions advanced by both the parties. The contention of the first respondent cannot be accepted as he has not applied for selection as a candidate entitled to get reservation. He did not produce any certificate along with his application. The fact that he has not availed of the benefit for the preliminary examination itself is sufficient to treat him as a candidate not entitled to get reservation. He passed the preliminary examination as a general candidate and at the subsequent stage of the main examination he cannot avail of reservation on the ground that he was successful in getting the required certificate only at a later stage. The nature and status of the candidate who was applying for the selection could only be treated alike and once a candidate has chosen to opt for the category to which he is entitled, he cannot later change the status and make fresh claim. The Division Bench was not correct in holding that as a candidate he had also had the qualification and the production of the certificate at a later stage would make him entitled to seek reservation. Therefore, we set aside the judgment of the Division Bench and allow the appeal. No costs."

- (iv) In the case of Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur & Anr. vs. Neetu Harsh & Anr.** reported in **2021 (11) SCC 383**, where the candidate for appearing in the Judicial Service Examination mentioned in application form has 'no' against the 'column 3.1- person with disability, fee was paid for General seat; and the disability certificate was not enclosed with the application form and nor was produced before the completion of the interview. It is held by Hon'ble



Supreme Court that option cannot be changed midway before completion of the examination.

(v) **2024(1) SCC 448 [Divya vs. Union of India & Ors.]** at para 94, where, the Hon'ble Supreme Court emphasis that option category cannot be changed and eligibility has to be considered on the relevant date. As the petitioner did not satisfy criterion of EWS on the relevant cut-off date, she would not be considered against EWS quota on basis of subsequent fulfilling of criterion on a later date.

[21] Learned AG has highlighted that as per the notification and SOP for registration, the candidate is required, at first instance, to confirm the correctness of data entered by him/her before final up-dation and the verification is also carried out by the candidate and not by the Cyber Café (respondent no. 5). It is the lapse of the petitioner and it is further stated that the notification and SOP has statutory force as held in **Priya Gupta** (supra); and the same cannot be interfered even by the Constitutional Court in exercise of its extraordinary power. It is submitted that the application for interim relief seeking permission for the petitioner to participate in 3rd round of counselling starting from 23.09.2026 be rejected being devoid of merit; and the same is contrary to the SOP published by the State respondent vide notification dated 10.08.2026.

[22] In reply, Mr. Kh. Tarunkumar, learned sr. counsel for the petitioner submits that cases cited by the learned AG are not applicable in the present case and those decisions are on different factual matrices. It is explained that in the present case, the petitioner is not praying anything for relaxation and she simply requests for allowing her to allow to participate in 3rd round of counselling as per her merit and nothing more than that.



[23] Mr. HS Paonam, learned sr. counsel for the SAHS submits that at this stage, SAHS has no role in the counselling and/or admission; and it will abide by any decision and recommendation of the State counselling board.

ANALYSIS OF FACTS:

[24] By the present petition, the petitioner prays for a simple adjustment of her choice of seat to the Management quota of SAHS; and the petitioner is willing to pay the difference of Rs. 2,000/- as per the notification dated 10.8.2026 and SOP; and by allowing her to do so, the main contents of the guidelines and SOP will not be compromised; rather, the petitioner is only asking for allowing her to participate in the 3rd round of counselling for MBBS Course on her own merit. It is submitted that the petitioner has prima facie a good case on merit, the balance of convenience is also in her favour and the petitioner shall suffer irreparable loss, if the relief prayed for (*i.e., for participation in the 3rd round of counselling pending the writ petition challenging the impugned order dated 21.08.2026*) is not granted. It is further urged that if the interim relief is not granted and in case the petitioner succeeds in the writ petition, it would be a futile exercise; as she will not be able to get admission for the MBBS course (2026-27) in Manipur.

[25] This Court has considered the materials on record especially, the notification dated 10.08.2026 issued by Director of Medical Education, Manipur laying down the guidelines for Manipur Medical e-Counselling 2026-27 for allotment of seats for Govt. quota (RIMS, JNIMS, CMC, SAHS-Govt. quota, RDC), Management quota (SAHS Management) and NRI quota (SAHS NRI). The candidate can also choose all three options subject to payment of requisite fee for each category, i.e., Rs. 2,000/- each and for availing 'State quota' seat and 'Management quota' seat at SAHS and with



refundable fee of Rs. 15,000/-. Admittedly, the petitioner paid only for one category Rs. 17,000/- (Rs.2000+15000). Even if she intended to apply for Management quota of SAHS, due to inadvertent and bonafide mistake at the time of uploading from the Cyber Café of respondent no. 5, the category was wrongly ticked as 'State quota' while uploading her registration; and the same was done on 13.8.2026. On coming to know of this inadvertent error, the petitioner submitted a representation dated 18.08.2026 to Director of Medical Education for changing from 'State quota' to 'Management quota' seat well before the closing of the registration or locking of the choice which was valid from 13.08.2026 to 19.08.2026. However, the same was rejected after the lapse of the prescribed time period by impugned order dated 21.08.2026 only on the ground that SOP does not allow to change of the seat. This Court has gone through the preliminary affidavit filed by the State respondents raising the maintainability of the writ petition and also annexure files along with it. From this document filed by the State respondent especially **Annexure C-1**, the petitioner submitted fees of Rs. 17,000/- for the State seat in RIMS, JNIMS, CMC, RDC and SAHS Govt. quota and her subject preference as per **Annexure C-2** of the preliminary affidavit in SAHS, CMC, JNIMS and RIMS.

[26] This Court does not find any merit on the plea of the State respondents that the writ petition is not maintainable in the present form for the simple reason that by the impugned order, the petitioner has been debarred from participating in 3rd round of counselling for admission in MBBS. In fact, she is 'an aggrieved person' who has every right to approach this Court for redressing her grievance. The plea of learned AG to the point that SOP has statutory value does not merit any consideration, as the SOP is just a piece of administrative instruction and not issued in exercise of power conferred by any statute/rules.



[27] This Court has also perused the guidelines for counselling issued by National Testing Agency and NCM [Annexure A/1] for counselling and reservation of MBBS. No such strict stipulation prohibiting alternation of seat choice is contemplated in the national guidelines. From perusal of Annexure A-6, the petitioner has made choice preference as 'SAHS' without any prefix or suffix as 'State quota' or 'Management quota'. The same will be clear from bare perusal of preference acknowledgement slip [Annexure A-6] of the petitioner downloaded from the website of the respondents. Annexure A-6 is, admittedly, the document of State Government.

CHANGE OF CHOICE OF SEAT:

[28] It will be relevant to refer to Para A: 14 of SOP which stipulates that 'choice of seat' is mandatory for every round of counselling and 'choice in any round will not be valid for further rounds'. Para A: 14 is reproduced for seeking clarity and to nullify and demolish the falsity in plea of learned AG that 'choice of seat' is locked for all rounds of counselling and cannot be changed/altered at any stage.

Para A: 14. Registration in the web-based application will be allowed before every Round of Counselling. Candidates who have registered for any round of counselling need not register again for further rounds. "Choice Filling" in the web-based application will be mandatory for every round of counselling. "Choice of seat" filled in any round will not be valid for further rounds."

(underlined is supplied by this Court)

[29] From the above quoted Para A: 14 of SOP, it is clear as broad daylight that 'choice of seat' for any round will not be valid for any



subsequent round and 'choice filling' of seat in web-based application is mandatory for every round of counselling. In other word, the petitioner has to make another 'choice filling' of seat for third round of counselling and earlier choice made for first round will not be valid in the third round. In the circumstances, this Court is of the view that the submission of learned Advocate General that seat choice modification is barred by Para A: 4 of SOP, has no substance and the same is liable to be rejected. The only obvious conclusion is that learned AG has conveniently not referred to Para A: 14 of SOP; and has made selective reference to Para A: 4 of SOP only so as to block the participation of a promising student from 3rd round of counselling. It may be noted that Advocate General as defined under Article 165 of the Constitution of India is for the 'whole' of 'State' including its 'citizens' and he is not to defend the Government alone, unlike other Government Advocates and Prosecutors. It is a settled proposition of law that an Advocate General can advise the government on any issue, specifically when injustice is meted to citizens.

[30] This Court intends to differentiate between the stipulations made in Para A: 4 & 14 of the SOP; and these two para are to be read in conjunction, so that both of them are not redundant. On casual reading of Para A: 4, it is crystal clear that once seat choice is locked, the same cannot be changed/modified for that particular round of counselling. On the other hand, Para A: 14 specifically stipulates that choice of seat in a round will not be valid in subsequent round of counselling and candidates have to make and lock seat preference for every round of counselling. Learned AG has wrongly relied Para A: 4 for subsequent round of counselling, where Para A: 14 will be applicable in terms of the notification and SOP issued by the State respondents themselves.

[31] This Court, in the case of **Preety Soibam** (supra), has held in 'para no. [11]' that the choice of 'SAHS' necessarily includes both 'State



seat' as well as 'Management seat'. It has been informed during the course of hearing that the order dated 18.09.2026 in **Preety Soibam** (supra), has not been challenged before the appropriate forum, nor has any review petition been filed against the same. Hence, the same has attained finality.

DIRECTIONS:

[32] This Court is of the view that it would be in the interest of justice, if the petitioner is allowed to participate in the ongoing 3rd round of counselling against the Management quota by converting her application dated 18.08.2026 [Annexure A-7] as fresh 'choice of seat' for third round of counselling in view of Para A: 14 of SOP appended to Notification dated 10.08.2026 [Annexure A-3]. Accordingly, MC(WP(C)) No. 749 of 2026 is allowed and the State respondents are directed to allow the petitioner to participate in the ongoing 3rd round of counselling. This direction is issued in exercise of extra ordinary jurisdiction conferred on a Constitutional Court as mandated under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to do complete justice to an innocent student who is a victim of State malice

[33] In case the 3rd round of counselling has already been concluded, a special 3rd round of counselling shall be conducted for the petitioner.

[34] It is made clear that this Court has, consciously, passed this interim order in order to protect the interest of the petitioner. In case, she succeeds in the writ petition and is without the interim relief at this stage, her success in the main matter would be a futile exercise and will become infructuous.

[35] List the main matter on **28.09.2026**.

[36] Parties may complete their pleadings during this meantime.



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[37] Registry is directed to furnish a copy of this order to learned counsel appearing for the parties by whatsapp or any available mode during the course of day.

Oinam

Thoiba Meitei

FR/NFR

Digitally signed by Oinam
Thoiba Meitei
Date: 2026.09.25 14:47:14
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JUDGE

Kh. Joshua Maring/Thoiba