

GAHC030006702025



THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT
(HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Case No. : WA/13/2025

- 1: F.LALHMACHHUANA AND 122 ORS.
S/O ZONGURA, HAVILDAR, PTS,
R/O ARMED VENG, AIZAWL, MIZORAM
- 2: LALRAMHLUNA
S/O LALTANPUIA, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O ARMED VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM
- 3: LALNUNTLUANGA
S/O NGURTHANMAWIA, HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM
- 4: VANLALTHUAMA
S/O LALRAWNA SAILO (L), HAVILDAR
2ND BN MAP R/O LUNGLEI RAHSI VENG MIZORAM
- 5: SH LALNUNFELA
S/O CHALTHUAMA, HAVILDAR 3RD BN
MAP R/O BAWNGKAWN AIZAWL MIZORAM
- 6: VANLALROVA
S/O LUNKHAWSANGA (L), HAVILDAR PTS
R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM
- 7: VANLALNGHETA NGENTE
S/O SANGLUAI (L), HAVILDAR 2ND BN MAP
R/O LUNGLEI LUANGMUAL MIZORAM
- 8: LALDINPUIA
S/O K.DARTHIANGA (L), HAVILDAR
PTS R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM
- 9: ROHLUPUIA
S/O HRANGCHHUANA, HAVILDAR
3RD IR BN R/O SIAHA MIZORAM

10: K.SANGBUANGA
S/O K.KUANGLAWMA (L), HAVILDAR
5TH IR BN R/O NGOPA MIZORAM

11: R.LALTHLAMUANA
S/O R.TLANKIMA, HAVILDAR 3RD IR BN
R/O ARMED VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

12: RAJU GURUNG
S/O BB GURUNG, HAVILDAR PTS
R/O KOLASIB MIZORAM

13: H.LALENGZAUVA
S/O H.PAZAWNA, HAVILDAR
1ST IR BN R/O LUNGLEI MIZORAM

14: K.LALRINCHHANA
S/O K.ZAITHANGMAWIA, HAVILDAR
3RD BN MAP R/O CHAWLHHMUN AIZAWL MIZORAM

15: LALTHAKIMA
S/O THANZOVA (L), HAVILDAR PTS
R/O DINTHAR AIZAWL MIZORAM

16: DAVID ZONUNMAWIA
S/O LUNGDINA, HAVILDAR 2ND BN MAP
R/O LUNGLEI LUANGMUAL MIZORAM

17: SH PC ZOKHUMA
S/O ZANGHAWRA, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O ARMED VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

18: PRADEEP KR
S/O OM BAHADUR, HAVILDAR
1ST IR BN R/O BUALPUI MIZORAM

19: VANLALRUATA
S/O K.THANBUANGA, HAVILDAR
1ST BN MAP R/O ARMED VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

20: P.C.VANLALNGAIA
S/O LIANCHHUNGA (L), HAVILDAR
3RD IIP BN R/O ZEMABAWK AIZAWL MIZORAM

21: L.H.LALRINMAWIA
S/O L.H.PAKUNGA, HAVILDAR 2ND BN MAP
R/O LUNGLEI LUANGMUAL MIZORAM

22: LALTHANSANGA
S/O LALAUVA, HAVILDAR SEC
R/O CHANMARI AIZAWL MIZORAM

- 23: GOSPELTHANGA BUNGHAI
S/O LALBUAIA (L), HAVILDAR 2ND BN MAP
R/O LUNGLEI LUANGMUAL MIZORAM
- 24: ENGZAMVELA
S/O C.ZAITHANHRANGA
HAVILDAR PTS R/O CHAMPHAI MIZORAM
- 25: RUALKHUPTHANGA
S/O BIAKMAWIA, HAVILDAR 2ND BN MAP
R/O LUNGLEI LUANGMUAL MIZORAM
- 26: LALCHULLOVA
S/O VANLALRUALA (L), HAVILDAR 3RD IR BN
R/O SALEM VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM
- 27: C.LALTHAZUALA
S/O LALRINCHHUNGA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O KAWNPUI MIZORAM
- 28: ROSANGA PARTE
S/O LALBEISEIA, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O BETHLEHEM VENGTHLANG AIZAWL MIZORAM
- 29: TLANGHMINGTHANGA
S/O BAWIHNUNA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O KAWNPUI MIZORAM
- 30: PC LALDUHAWMA
S/O PC LALLUNA (L), HAVILDAR SEC
R/O RAMTHAR VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM
- 31: VL THUAMA
S/O LALRAWNA SAILO (L), HAVILDAR 2ND BN MAP
R/O LUNGLEI RAHSI VENG MIZORAM
- 32: ZIRNUNMAWIA
S/O K.ROHLIRA (L), HAVILDAR 4TH IR BN
R/O DINTHAR AIZAWL MIZORAM
- 33: LALHMINGRUATA
S/O LALNUNTLUANGA (L), HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O KULIKAWN AIZAWL MIZORAM
- 34: PC LALREMLIANA
S/O LIANZUALA (L), HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O TUIKUAL AIZAWL MIZORAM
- 35: C.LALLUNGHNEMA
S/O C.LALRUATA (L), HAVILDAR

2ND BN MAP R/O LUNGLEI LUNGLAWN MIZORAM

36: ZIRSANGZUALA COLNEY
S/O J.NGURCHHUANA (L), HAVILDAR
1ST IR BN R/O KAWNPUI MIZORAM

37: LALBIAKSANGA
S/O SAICHHUNGA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O MUALVUM MIZORAM

38: C.VANLALRUATA
S/O ROKHUMA (L), HAVILDAR
1ST IR BN R/O KOLASIB MIZORAM

39: LALZUITLUANGA
S/O THANSEIA, HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O CHUNGTLANG MIZORAM

40: K.LALHMANGAIHA
S/O THLAHLIANA, HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O RABUNG MIZORAM

41: PC RAMSANGLURA
S/O LALRAMDINA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O ARMED VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

42: SURESH KUMAR
S/O LALA RAM (L), HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O LUNGVERH AIZAWL MIZORAM

43: C.LALRODINGA
S/O C.TLAILIANA (L), HAVILDAR 2ND BN MAP
R/O LUNGLEI LUNGLAWN MIZORAM

44: LALRINKIMA
S/O HOSANA, HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM

45: F.LALHMINGMAWIA
S/O AIKIMA (L), HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O NGOPA MIZORAM

46: ZAITHANTLUANGA
S/O SAITAWNA, HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O E.LUNG DAR MIZORAM

47: LALBIAKPUIA CHHAKCHHUAK
S/O LALHMINGA (L), HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O TUALTE MIZORAM

48: SURAJ KUMAR

S/O INDRA BAHADUR SAHI, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O ARMED VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

49: LALREMMAWIA
S/O R.KHUMA, HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O CHANMARI WEST AIZAWL MIZORAM

50: LALNUNTHARA
S/O ROHMINGLIANA, HAVILDAR PTS
R/O THENZAWL MIZORAM

51: KHAMDUNA
S/O HRANGAWRHA, HAVILDAR 4TH IR BN
R/O KHATLA EAST AIZAWL MIZORAM

52: LALNUNENGA
S/O H.LALMUANA, HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O KAWNPUI MIZORAM

53: K.ZOHMINGLIANA
S/O LIANKHUMA, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH MIZORAM

54: C.LALROMAWIA
S/O THANGCHHUNGA, HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O PUTLUNGASIH MIZORAM

55: LALCHHUANAWMA
S/O TOCHHUNGA, HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O BETHLEHEM VENGTHLANG AIZAWL MIZORAM

56: LALFIMKHURA
S/O KAWLTHUAMA (L), HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O KEITUM MIZORAM

57: HENRY LALCHHUANAWMA
S/O CHALLIANA (L), HAVILDAR PTS
R/O MUALPUI ITI AIZAWL MIZORAM

58: LALAWMPUIA SAILO
S/O LALTHUAMA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O BETHLEHEM VENGTHLANG AIZAWL MIZORAM

59: LALTHANGMAWIA
S/O MANGLUNGA (L), HAVILDAR
3RD IR BN R/O ELECTRIC VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

60: B.LALRINTHANGA
S/O DENGSAILOVA, HAVILDAR 3RD IR BN
R/O CHHINGA VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

61: H.K.LALZAMLOVA
S/O AWILIANA, HAVILDAR SEC
R/O CHHINGA VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

62: P.C.THANGKHUMA
S/O SAWIKUNGA, HAVILDAR 2ND IR BN
R/O ARMED VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

63: M.C.LALNUNTLUANGA
S/O THANMAWIA (L), HAVILDAR 2ND BN MAP
R/O LUNGLEI LUANGMUAL MIZORAM

64: F.LALMUANKIMA
S/O F.THANGBIKA, HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O MUALVUM MIZORAM

65: C.LALTHAKIMA
S/O C.LALTHLAMUANA, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O DINTHAR AIZAWL MIZORAM

66: LALROLUAHA HMAR
S/O THANGRIKHUMA, HAVILDAR 4TH IR BN
R/O MAMIT MIZORAM

67: R.LALRINTHARA
S/O SING KHUNG RAI, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM

68: LALZAUPUIA
S/O SIAMLIANA, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O REPUBLIC AIZAWL MIZORAM

69: VANLALLAWMA HRAHSEL
S/O THANGHLEIA, HAVILDAR 2ND IR BN
R/O ARMED VENG IAIZAWL MIZORAM

70: ZORAMCHHANA PACHUAU
S/O VANLALCHAKA, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O ARMED VENG. AIZAWL MIZORAM

71: C.NOKHUMA
S/O C.MUANKIMA, HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O KAWNPUI MIZORAM

72: RL CHHANHIMA
S/O LALHMINGTHANGA (L)
HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN R/O VAIRENGTE MIZORAM

73: VL SANGZUALA
S/O KAPDENGA (L), HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O ARMED VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

74: K.LALBIAKSANGA
S/O K.DOMANA, HAVILDAR SEC
R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM

75: SH SAZIKA
S/O FAKZUALA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O MUALVUM MIZORAM

76: R.LALHRUAITLUANGA
S/O R.ZASANGA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O KOLASIB MIZORAM

77: PC LALTHATHANGA
S/O ZAIKUNGA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O MUALVUM MIZORAM

78: R.LALMUANKIMA
S/O KAIZINGA, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O CHHINGA VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

79: ZOREMA
S/O LALNUNSANGI, HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O VAIVAKAWN AIZAWL MIZORAM

80: LALHMINGSANGA
S/O THANGVELA, HAVILDAR 2ND IR BN
R/O BETHLEHEM AIZAWL MIZORAM

81: VANLALCHHUANGA
S/O LIANHLIRA, HAVILDAR SEC
R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM

82: R.LALRAMHLUNA
S/O R.HRANGZUALA, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O CHANMARI AIZAWL MIZORAM

83: H.LALCHHUANGLIANA
S/O KAMLOVA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O MUALVUM MIZORAM

84: LALNGAIHTHANGA
S/O PACHHUNGA, HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O MUALVUM MIZORAM

85: F.LALHRIMA
S/O F.THANGCHINA, HAVILDAR 4TH IR BN
R/O TUIKHUAHTLANG AIZAWL MIZORAM

86: VANLALROCHAWNGA
S/O V.LALTHANLIANA, HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O THIAK MIZORAM

87: T.VANLALAWMPUIA
S/O T.LALTHARA (L), HAVILDAR SEC
R/O CHHINGA VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

88: R.LALRINTHARA
S/O SING KHUNG RAI, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM

89: B.LALLAWMZUALA (L) R/B HIS L/R SMT THANCHUNGNUNGI
W/O B.LALLAWMZUALA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP R/O ARMED VENG
SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM

90: LALTHUPUANA
S/O LALKHAWLIANA, HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O BAWNGKAWN AIZAWL MIZORAM

91: R.MALSAWMA
S/O LALLIANTHANGA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O ARMED VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

92: H.LALCHHUANAWMA
S/O H.LIANZUALA (L), HAVILDAR 2ND IR BN
R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM

93: J.LALNGHAKMAWIA
S/O LAITLUANGI SAILO, HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O WEST PHAILENG MIZORAM

94: ZOHERLIANA
S/O LALROVA, HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O LUNGVERH MIZORAM

95: HS LALRUATKIMA
S/O LETKAMA, HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O VAIRENGTE MIZORAM

96: LALRAMCHHUANA
S/O THANGHLEIA, HAVILDAR 3RD IR BN
R/O KHATLA EAST AIZAWL MIZORAM

97: LALRUATLIANA
S/O C.CHAWNGCHHUANA, HAVILDAR 3RD IR BN
R/O ARMED VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

98: LALRAMCHHANA
S/O DUNGLIANA, HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O SALEM VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

99: C.LALRINPUIA
S/O C.KAMA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O CHHINGA VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

100: ZATIN BORMOHELA
S/O JAUNMUNABOR MOHELA
HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN R/O ASSAM

101: KHUMLIANMANGA
S/O SANGLAWMA, HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O LUNGVERH MIZORAM

102: RAGHUBIR KUMAR
S/O SUNITA DEVI, HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O LUNGVERH MIZORAM

103: LALZOSANGA
S/O LALRINKIMA (L), HAVILDAR 1ST IR BN
R/O KOLASIB MIZORAM

104: ZAITHANMAWIA
S/O KHUMTIRA, HAVILDAR 1ST BN MAP
R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM

105: RIVUNGA
S/O MALSAWMTLUANGA, HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O RAMTHAR VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

106: VANLALHRUAIA
S/O K.ROCHHUNGA, HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O THUAMPUI VENGTHAR AIZAWL MIZORAM

107: K.RAMFANMAWIA
S/O K.LALROPUIA, HAVILDAR 4TH IR BN
R/O KANAN AIZAWL MIZORAM

108: LALREMMAWIA
S/O R.KHUMA, HAVILDAR 5TH IR BN
R/O CHANMARI WEST AIZAWL MIZORAM

109: ISAK LALBUATSAIHA
S/O C.BIOAKCHHINGA (L), HAVILDAR 2ND BN MAP
R/O LUNGLEI LUNGLAWN MIZORAM

110: VANLALHRIATA
S/O THANGHLEIA, HAVILDAR 3RD IR BN
R/O KHATLA AIZAWL MIZORAM

111: VANLALLAWMAWMA
S/O LALUMA (L), HAVILDAR 2ND IR BN
R/O RAMHLUN AIZAWL MIZORAM

112: PC ZORAMSANGA
S/O NGURCHHINGA, HAVILDAR 2ND BN MAP
R/O LUNGLEI VENGLAI MIZORAM

113: RUALKHUPTHANGA
S/O BIAKMAWIA (L), HAVILDAR 2ND BN MAP
R/O LUNGLEI LUNGLAWN MIZORAM

114: LALHLUNTHANGA
S/O SAIDUNA, HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O SANGAU MIZORAM

115: RODINGLIANA
S/O RALKAPTHANGA (L), HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O BUHBAN MIZORAM

116: LALENGKIMA
S/O C.HMINGDAILOVA, HAVILDAR 3RD BN MAP
R/O KEITUM MIZORAM

117: LALTANPUIA
S/O VANZINGA (L), HAVILDAR PTS
R/O SAMLUKHAI MIZORAM

118: LALRAMCHHUANA
S/O LIANTAWNA, HAVILDAR 3RD IR BN
R/O ITI VENG AIZAWL MIZORAM

119: C.LALREMLIANA
S/O C.CHALLIANNGURA, HAVILDAR 4TH IR BN
R/O VENGLHUI AIZAWL MIZORAM

120: RAJESH THAPA
S/O ASHOK THAPA, HAVILDAR 4TH IR BN
R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM

121: C.ZAITHANKHUMA
S/O C.SANGKHUMA (L),
HAVILDAR 4TH IR BN R/O MAMIT MIZORAM

122: K.ZOHMINGLIANA
S/O LIANKHUMA (L), HAVILDAR 4TH IR BN
R/O ARMED VENG SOUTH AIZAWL MIZORAM

123: LALTHAWMMAWIA
S/O HRANGCHHINGA, HAVILDAR SEC
R/O LUANGMUAL AIZAWL MIZORAM

VERSUS

1: STATE OF MIZORAM AND 23 ORS.
R/B CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF MIZORAM, AIZAWL

2:THE COMMISSIONER AND SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF MIZORAM
HOME DEPARTMENT MIZORAM AIZAWL

3:THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
MIZORAM AIZAWL

4:THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (RANGE)
MIZORAM AIZAWL

5:THE SPIO AND ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (HQRS.)
MIZORAM AIZAWL

6:THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE
CHAMPHAI DISTRICT CHAMPHAI

7:SH PRADIP KR BORMAN
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 2ND BN.MAP

8:SH LALRINKIMA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 3RD IR BN.

9:SH H.LALMALSAWMA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 4TH IR BN.

10:SH LALKHUMTIRA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 4TH IR BN.

11:SH C.ZANEIHSANGA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB)
2ND IR BN ATT. TO PCS

12:SH LALLUNGMUANA

SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 3RD IR BN.

13:SH RAMTHARNGHAKA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 3RD IR BN.

14:SH BASHANT KUMAR
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB)
3RD BN MAP ATT. TO PCS

15:SH RATAN MAHATA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 1ST IR BN.

16:SH PAUTHANZAMA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 2ND BN MAP

17:SH LALKHAWCHHANA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 2ND BN MAP

18:SH LALZARMAWIA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 3RD IR BN

19:SH S.CHHUATHA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 2ND IR BN

20:SH H.LALBIAKZAUVA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 1ST IR BN

21:SH CHUMAN PRASAD RAY
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 3RD IR BN

22:SH VANLALPEKA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 1ST IR BN

23:SH LALHMINGSANGA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 1ST IR BN

24:SH REMLALRUATA
SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE (AB) 4TH IR B

For the Appellant(s) : Mr. Lalfakawma, Advocate.

For the Respondent(s) : Mrs. Mary L. Khiangte, Govt. Advocate, Mizoram for respondent Nos.1 to 6

: Mr. C. Lalfakzuala, Advocate for respondent Nos.7 to 24.

- B E F O R E -
HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. ASHUTOSH KUMAR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MICHAEL ZOTHANKHUMA

17.02.2026

(AshutoshKumar, CJ)

We have heard Mr. Lalfakawma, learned Advocate for the appellants/petitioners; Mrs. Mary L. Khiangte, learned Government Advocate, Mizoram for the respondent Nos.1 to 6 and Mr. C. Lalfakzuala, learned Advocate for the respondent Nos.7 to 24.

2. This appeal is directed against the judgment dated 08.09.2025 passed by a learned Single Judge of this Court in WP(C) No.71/2024.

3. The appellants/petitioners had participated in a departmental test of Havildars for promotion to the rank of Sub-Inspector (Armed Branch), which was conducted sometimes between January and February, 2024. The private respondent Nos.7 to 24 were ultimately promoted on the basis of their results.

4. The appellants/petitioners challenged their promotion on various grounds, especially, that the composition of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC), which was notified on 06.11.2023, was not in consonance with the provisions contained in Rule 397(2)(b) of the Mizoram Police Manual, 2006 and that the Test Board was not appointed by the Director General of Police, as mandated in the Police Manual, but by the Assistant Inspector General (Headquarters) and that the appellants/petitioners were, under the RTI, provided with only the overall result which was typed sheet of marks procured by the candidates and not the table marks which was demanded for.

It was also contended by the appellants/ petitioners before the learned Single Judge that for maintaining the purity of the examination system and for making it transparent, the entire process of practical assessment was videographed and the video of the same is lying with the Department which ought to be summoned. According to the appellants/petitioners, few of the successful candidates were not in a position to unlimber the arms and then reassemble it but according to their information, they were assessed 10 out of 10.

5. The learned Single Judge, on perusal of the records, as also after hearing of the parties, found that there was nothing on record to indicate that in the Departmental Promotion Committee, 2(two) Commandants were not the nominees of the Director General of Police. In fact, the original file was perused by the learned Single Judge, who found that the names of the 2(two) nominated Commandants was placed before him and he had approved of their being part of the Departmental Promotion Committee. Since there was no evidence to the contrary, the learned Single Judge refused to presume that those Commandants were not nominated by the Director General of Police as per the requirements of Rule 397(2)(b) of the Police Manual.

6. With respect to the composition of the Test Board, the learned Single Judge was of the view that the records revealed that the Members of the Test Board were appointed with the knowledge and approval of the Departmental Promotion Committee and, therefore, it could not be said that Rule 8 of the Standing Order dated 22.11.2021 was breached even in the least only for the reason of the Notification dated 05.12.2023,

naming the Members of the Practical Test Board by the Assistant Inspector General of Police (Headquarters)/Assistant Inspector General of Police. All that the Rule 8 required was that it should be at the behest of the Director General of Police, which requirement appeared to have been fulfilled.

7. The contention of the appellants/petitioners that non-production of the original handwritten marks of the private respondents under the RTI reflected some kind of opaqueness of the system. It was submitted by the learned counsel for the appellants/petitioners that under the provisions of Rule 341 of the Mizoram Police Manual, all the documents connected with competitive examinations for appointment or promotion and examination at the end of pre-promotion course including the answer scripts, physical measurements, marks obtained in the physical efficiency test, etc., shall be preserved for 6(six) months from the declaration of the Selection List after which they could be destroyed, except the final result of successful candidates with their marks, which are needed for gradation of seniority.

With this Rule in place, the appellants/ petitioners ought to have been afforded the original table marks so as to satisfy them that non-deserving persons were not promoted.

8. To this submission made by the appellants/ petitioners, the learned Single Judge observed that in the Final Gradation List, the names of respondent Nos.7 to 24 were listed above the appellants/petitioners and there was no strong reason for the Court to disbelieve that the private respondents had obtained more marks in the final tally than the

appellants/petitioners. The learned Single Judge relied on the judgment of the Supreme Court in ***Tajvir Singh Sodhi & Ors. -Vs- State of J&K & Ors. :: (2023) Livelaw (SC) 253***, wherein a caution has been sounded about the remit of Courts in dealing with the selection process. The Courts, the judgment cited read, recognized that the process of selection involves high degree of expertise and discretion and in that case, it would not be appropriate for the Courts to substitute their judgement for that of the Selection Committee. The Supreme Court likened it to treading on thin ice for the Courts if they were to venture into reviewing the decision of experts, who formed part of a Section Board.

The Courts can only traverse such territory if opaqueness or irrationality could be detected on face of it and not by inferential logic. There could be no claim of any applicant that he was better than the selected candidates.

9. While agreeing with the afore-noted reasoning of the learned Single Judge on this aspect as well, we have found that the original records of the process of selection was also summoned at the time of hearing of the writ petition and the records are still lying with the learned Government Advocate.

10. During the course of argument today, Mrs. Mary L. Khiangte, learned Government Advocate, Mizoram furnished the aforesaid original documents for the Court's perusal.

11. Before we observe our findings on the same, we deem it appropriate to refer to yet another submission made on behalf of the

appellants/petitioners rather vehemently that the video-clipping of the practical assessment during the process is still preserved with the Police Department, which could be called for. Such prayer was made before the learned Single Judge as well but the same was not acceded to.

12. The learned Single Judge has also observed that the contention of the appellants/petitioners that the promotion order having been signed by the Assistant Inspector General of Police and not by the Commandant was not permissible, is not worthy of any consideration. As per Rule 397(2)(g) of the Mizoram Police Manual, promotion orders are required to be issued by the Commandants but in practicality, this provision was found to be unworkable for few years since the *inter-se* seniority of Sub-Inspectors in the Armed Branch is being maintained at the Headquarters. In that case, if the Commandants issues the order of promotion separately, it would cause problems regarding the orders of merit, which would in turn affect the seniority of the promotees.

13. That apart, the learned Single Judge did not consider that objection to be valid on the ground that the names selected by the Departmental Promotion Committee was sent to the Director General of Police for approval and the promotion order was accordingly arranged as per merit of the candidates.

14. After having said this, we must indicate that with respect to one of the successful candidates, we could find that there was some anomaly in the marks obtained by him in the practical assessment but in the final tally, there was an increase of 1 (one) mark on that count. The difference

of marks in the final tally between the candidates is almost negligible and hence, any mark, wrongly awarded: be it for typographical error or for some other reason, would make change in the select list.

15. Without showing this fact to the learned counsel for the appellants/petitioners, it was made known to the learned Government Advocate, Mizoram to respond, on the next date, whether this anomaly with respect to one of the candidates (respondent No.21) was a typographical error and whether it would lead to any large-scale change in the preparation of the Gradation List.

We say so for the reason that more than a year has passed by when the respondents have already taken over and are serving as Sub-Inspectors in the Armed Branch.

16. The necessary affidavit on behalf of the State shall be filed by the next date.

17. Re-notify on **12.03.2026**.

JUDGE

CHIEF JUSTICE

Comparing Assistant