Item Nos. 24-26

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL

WP(C) No. 476 of 2024
With
MC(WP(C)) No. 408 of 2024
With
MC(WP(C)) No. 507 of 2024

1. Shri Potshangbam Nilakanta Singh, aged about 50 years, S/o (Late) P. Koireng Singh of Haobam Marak Ngangom Leikai, P.O & P.S. Singjamei, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795001.

...***Petitioner/s***

Vrs.

1. The State of Manipur represented by Special Secretary/Commissioner (Home), Government of Manipur, Office at Old Secretariat, Babupara, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur - 795001.
2. The Superintendent of Police, (CID) Crime Branch Imphal, office at 2nd MR Complex North AOC (Temporary Office), P.O & P.S. Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur.
3. The Additional Superintendent of Police, Cyber Crime, Lucknow, Sri Balmiki Marg, Inside Hazratganj Police Station, DM Compound Colony, Hazratganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh – 226001.
4. The Branch Manager, ICICI Bank Ltd, Old Assembly Road, Khwai Bazaar, P.O Imphal & P.S. Lamphel, Imphal West, Manipur, Imphal 795001.

...***Respondent/s***

-B E F O R E-

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHANTHEM BIMOL SINGH

For the petitioner	:	Mr. Rendy, Advocate
For the respondents:		Mr. H. Samarjit, Sr. Advocate & GA Mrs. R.K. Emily, Dy. GA Mr. Leo Rommel, Advocate
Date of hearing	:	**14.07.2026.**

Date of order : **14.07.2026.**

(O R D E R)

[1] Mr. Rendy M., learned counsel appeared on behalf of the petitioner, Mr. H. Samarjit, learned Sr. Advocate and GA assisted by Mrs. R.K. Emily, learned Dy. GA appeared on behalf of the respondent nos. 1 & 2, and Mr. Leo Rommel, learned counsel appeared on behalf of the respondent no. 4 through VC platform. None appeared on behalf of the respondent no. 3.

[2] The present case has been filed with a prayer for directing the respondents, more particularly the respondent no. 4 Viz., the Branch Manager, ICICI Bank Ltd, Old Assembly Road, Khwai Bazaar, Imphal West, to defreeze the petitioner saving account bearing No. 095901001318 in the ICICI Bank Ltd, Old Assembly Road, Khwai Bazaar, Imphal West.

[3] It is the case of the petitioner that the petitioner was informed by the respondent no. 4, vide letter dated 28.03.2024 that his saving account mentioned hereinabove has been debit freeze as directed by Cyber Cell, Lucknow Police under its letter dated 20.05.2023 in connection with the investigation of the FIR No. CCNO 97/2022. The petitioner came to learnt from respondent no. 4 that on account of crediting a sum or Rs. 41435

(Rs. Forty-one thousand four hundred and thirty-five) in his account allegedly by means of Cyber Crime Fraud, the aforesaid FIR has been registered by Cyber Crime Cell Police Authority, Lucknow. As the petitioner cannot operate his account, he was facing a lot of difficulty and as such, the petitioner has approached this court by filing the present writ petition for redressing his grievances.

[4] It may be noted that the in-charge Inspector Cyber Crime Cell Police, Commissionerate, Lucknow (Law Enforcement Agency) by a letter dated 14.08.2024 informed the respondent no. 4 to defreeze the account of the petitioner by putting a lien of Rs. 41435. However, in the affidavit in opposition file on behalf of the respondent no. 4, it has been stated that as the saving account of the petitioner is involved in 2(two) FIR Cases Viz., FIR No CCNO 97/2022 registered by the Cyber Cell, Lucknow police and FIR No. 12/2023 registered by Cyber Crime Police Station, Lucknow, the respondent no. 4 cannot defreeze the petitioner's saving account even though, the Cyber Crime Cell has requested them to defreeze the saving account of the petitioner in respect of one FIR.

[5] After hearing the submission advance by the learned counsel appearing for the parties and on examination of record,

this court find that there is no material or allegation that the petitioner is involved in utilizing his saving bank account in connection with any fraudulent transactions. The only reason for freezing the saving account of the petitioner is due to crediting a sum of Rs. 41435. In view of such a factual position, this Court is of the considered view that the investigating authority can proceed with the investigation of both the FIR case without debit freezing of the saving account of the petitioner and by withholding or not allowing the petitioner to withdraw the involved sum of Rs. 41435 from his bank account.

[6] Accordingly, the respondent no. 4 is hereby directed to defreeze the above mention saving account of the petitioner by withholding a sum of Rs. 41435 so that the investigating authority can carry on with the investigation of the FIR case.

[7] With the aforesaid directions, the present writ petition as well as all the connected misc. applications are hereby disposed of.

JUDGE

Lucy