

MANIPUR  **GAZETTE**
सत्यमेव जयते

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Imphal, Friday, August 23, 2024

(Bhadra 1, 1946)

HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR

NOTIFICATION

Dated Imphal, the 22nd August, 2024

The Manipur Gram Nyayalayas Rules, 2024

No. HCM/R-52/2024/17364 : In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) and (2) of section 39 of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the High Court of Manipur, do hereby makes the rules for regulation of Gram Nyayalayas established in the State of Manipur.

CHAPTER-I

1. Short title and commencement :-

- (a) These rules may be called the "THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR GRAM NYAYALAYAS RULES, 2024".
- (b) These rules shall come into force with effect from the date of publication in the official Gazette of the State of Manipur.

DEFINITION

2. In these rules unless the context otherwise provides :-

- (a) "Act" means Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008.
- (b) "Conciliator" means the Conciliator appointed under Section 27 of the Act.
- (c) "Chief Judicial Magistrate" means Chief Judicial Magistrate of the concerned District in whose local limit Gram Nyayalaya is established.
- (d) "District & Sessions Judge" means District & Sessions Judge of the concerned District in whose local limit Gram Nyayalaya is established.
- (e) "High Court" means the High Court of Manipur.
- (f) "Judicial Officer" means any officer of Grade-III of Manipur Judicial Service.
- (g) "Nyayadhikari" means the Presiding Officer of the Gram Nyayalaya established under Section 5 of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008.
- (h) "State Government" means the State Government of Manipur.
- (i) Words and expressions used but not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Act or the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 or Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Samhita (BNSS), 2023.

CHAPTER-II

GRAM NYAYALAYA

3. One or more Gram Nyayalaya shall be established under Section 3 of the "Act" for "every Block/Panchayat or a group of Block/Panchayat", depending upon the area and population, by the State Government.
 - (a) Headquarter of the Gram Nyayalaya shall be at a place specified by notification issued by the State Government under Section 3 & 4 of the Act.
 - (b) Gram Nyayalaya may conduct sittings at such place or places within its jurisdiction with prior public notice under intimation to the High Court.
4. All proceedings before the Gram Nyayalaya may be in English (in Roman Script) or Manipuri (in Meitei Mayek, Bengali or Roman scripts), as may be notified by the State Government, from time to time, for particular Gram Nyayalaya(s) or as a whole.
5. The District & Sessions Judge shall have supervisory powers and control over the Gram Nyayalayas established within its jurisdiction, subject to general superintendence of the High Court.
6. The office of Gram Nyayalayas shall be opened on all working days from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. or during such hours as may be notified by the High Court from time to time.
7. The Gram Nyayalayas shall ordinarily hold sittings from 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. with a lunch break not exceeding half an hour between 1.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

NYAYADHIKARI

8. The State Government shall, on recommendation of the High Court, appoint Nyayadhikari from amongst the officers of the cadre of Civil Judge (Junior Division) to preside over one or more Gram Nyayalayas.
9. (i) NYAYADHIKARI, appointed for Gram Nyayalaya, shall within his/her local limits hold mobile court with prior intimation to the Chief Judicial Magistrate and/or District & Sessions Judge of the concerned District.

10. (i) The Gram Nyayalayas shall use a common seal of one and half inch square with the name of Gram Nyayalayas on the top; name of panchayat at the bottom; name of Revenue District on the left arm; State of Manipur on right arm and monogram of "Ashok Chakra" with inscription "Satyameva Jayate" in the State language in the centre as shown below:-

Name of Gram Nyayalaya		
Name of Revenue District	Ashok Chakra with Satyameva Jayate inscription	State of Manipur
	Name of Panchayat	

- (ii) The Nyayadhikari shall use his/her designation seal as under:-

Nyayadhikari
Name of the Gram Nyayalaya
Name of the District, Manipur

CHAPTER-III

JURISDICTION:

11. The pecuniary jurisdiction of the Gram Nyayalayas shall be to entertain and decide all civil matters as specified in Schedule-II of the Act when the value of subject matter does not exceed Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand) only.
12. The local limits of each Gram Nyayalaya shall be the Block/Panchayat area for which the Gram Nyayalaya has been constituted.

13. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Court Fees Act, 1870 and without prejudice to any other law in force, a court fees of Rs. 100/- (Rupees One Hundred) only shall be payable on all the applications which are in the nature of suits, claims and disputes for Civil Disputes presented before the Gram Nyayalaya and a court fee of Rs. 5/- (One Five) only shall be payable on all other miscellaneous applications as well as Criminal Case and on other interlocutory matter including vakalatnama presented before the Gram Nyayalayas.

CHAPTER-IV

PROCEDURE:

14. Unless otherwise expressly provided in the Act or by the Rules, all extant rules applicable to civil and criminal courts under the jurisdiction of High Court of Manipur shall apply mutatis mutandis in relation to proceedings before the Gram Nyayalayas to the extent they are not inconsistent with the Act.
15. Unless otherwise expressly provided in the Act or by the Rules, provisions of Alternative Dispute Resolution (High Court of Manipur) Rules, 2019 and Civil Procedure Mediation (High Court of Manipur) Rules, 2019 shall apply mutatis mutandis in relation to proceedings before the Gram Nyayalayas.
16. Where a suit, claim or dispute has been duly instituted, summons shall be issued by the Gram Nyayalaya, accompanied by a copy of the plaint/application to the opposite party to appear and answer the claim by such date as may be specified therein and same shall be served either personally or through the Gram Nyayalaya's Process Service/Staff entrusted with such job or through registered A/D Post, or any other means of service including service through electronic means as may be prescribed by notification by the High Court from time to time. The process server may take the assistance of the Headman/Village Chief/Local club officials etc., of that particular area for service of such summon/notice and in such, the Headman/Village Chief/Local club officials shall put his/her signature as a witness to such service or non-service of summon/notice.
17. (i) All suits, claims or disputes as referred in Schedule-II of the Act shall be presented in the form of simple application by stating the name and detail address of the petitioner(s), opposite party(s), facts leading to dispute and relief claimed followed by a verification.

- (ii) The applications in the nature of suits, claims or disputes and all other miscellaneous applications shall be presented before the Nyayadhikari or the officer so authorised by the Nyayadhikari.
18. Duty of the Nyayadhikari in the first instance should be to make efforts for settlement of all civil disputes through conciliation and mediation. The provisions of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 shall be extended to the litigants before the Gram Nyayalayas.
19. Appointment of Conciliators/Mediators:- For the purposes of Section 26, the concerned District & Sessions Judge, in consultation with its respective District Magistrate, shall prepare a panel consisting of the names of social workers at the village level having integrity, qualification and experience, for appointment as Conciliators/Mediators.
20. The following persons may, after observing the formalities in Section 27 of the Act, be appointed as Mediators:-
- (a) Principal/Head Master of School within the local area
 - (b) Village Headman
 - (c) Retired Government Servant above the cadre of Class IV employees
 - (d) Panchayat President/Member(s)
 - (e) Senior Anganwadi Worker(s)
 - (f) Senior Gram Sevak(s)
 - (g) Circle Officer(s)
 - (h) Any other person who has been trained as Mediator
 - (i) Any leading citizen of the locality whom the Nyayadhikari finds fit to work as Mediator

CHAPTER-V

21. (i) The District & Sessions Judge or any other Grade-I Judicial Officer as nominated or authorised by the District & Sessions Judge shall inspect the Gram Nyayalayas within his/her jurisdiction once in every six months or as directed by the High Court.
- (ii) The Annual Confidential Report of the Nyayadhikari shall be written by the concerned Chief Judicial Magistrate and upon reviewing by the respective District & Sessions Judge, shall be submitted before the High Court.

22. The Gram Nyayalayas shall observe such holidays, as may be notified by the High Court, from time to time.
23. The provision of the Indian Limitation Act, 1963 shall be applicable to the proceedings before Gram Nyayalayas and no suit or proceeding shall be initiated for which the period of limitation as prescribed has expired.
24. The High Court of Manipur shall have power to amend, modify, delete or relax any provision of these rules, as may be deemed necessary.

By Order-

OJESH MUTUM,
Registrar General,
High Court of Manipur.