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COURT OF RECORD

Sikkim HC Clarifies Jurisdiction in Panchayat Election Cases

Civil Judge Alone Can Rule on Candidate Disqualification

Sheikh Rayees • July 3, 2026

PUBLISHED REPORT

The Sikkim High Court has drawn a clear distinction between election disputes and post-election disqualification proceedings, holding that challenges to a candidate's eligibility at the time of contesting Panchayat elections must be decided exclusively by a civil judge hearing an election petition, and not by the "Prescribed Authority" under the Sikkim Panchayat Act, 1993. Delivering the judgment in *Tulshi Das Subba v. Man Bir Subba & Ors.*, Justice Bhaskar Raj...

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