

ITEM NO.28

COURT NO.6

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CIVIL) No(s). 10/2024

IN RE: DISCRIMINATION INSIDE PRISONS IN INDIA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

Respondent(s)

[Dr. S. Muralidhar, (A.C.)]

IA No. 291196/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

IA No. 151498/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 151019/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 123749/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 41261/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 21655/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

IA No. 190004/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

Date : 30-07-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. VINOD CHANDRAN

For Petitioner(s) : By Courts Motion, AOR

For Respondent(s) : Ms. Devina Sehgal, AOR

Mr. Aman Gupta, AOR

Mr. Shashank Garg, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Prithviraj Oberoi, Adv.

Mr. Anup Kashyap, Adv.

Mr. Divyam Kandhari, Adv.

Mr. Binay Kumar, AOR

Mr. Sambhrant Krishna, Adv.

Mr. Sushant, Adv.

Mr. Utkarsh Kumar Singh, Adv.

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.

Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.

Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, Adv.

Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.

Mr. Digvijay Dam, Adv.

Mr. Chitrangda Rashtravara, Adv.

Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

Mr. Amit Sharma, A.A.G.
 Mr. Sarthak Raizada, Adv.
 Mr. Yashveer Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Pashupathi Nath Razdan, AOR

Ms. Rashmi Nandakumar, AOR
 Ms. Yashmita Pandey, Adv.

Mr. Abhishek Atrey, AOR
 Ms. Ishita Bist, Adv.
 Mr. Brijesh Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. Navneet Gupta, Adv.
 Ms. Vidyottma Jha, Adv.
 Mr. Jagdeep Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Harshad V. Hameed, AOR
 Ms. Savita Singh, AOR

Mr. Pradeep Misra, AOR
 Mr. Daleep Dhyan, Adv.
 Mr. Suraj Singh, Adv.

Ms. Patil Rekha Chandra Gouda, AOR

Mr. Ankit Roy, AOR
 Ms. Mrinalini Ramesh, Adv.

Mr. Bhakti Vardhan Singh, AOR

Mr. Prasanna S., AOR

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
 Mr. T.k. Nayak, Adv.
 Ms. Marbiang Khongwir, Adv.
 Mr. Daniel Lyngdoh, Adv.
 Mr. Zhissac Haiding, Adv.

Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, AOR
 Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv.
 Ms. Chubalemla Chang, Adv.
 Mr. Prang Newmai, Adv.
 Ms. Yanmi Phazang, Adv.

Mr. Chander Uday Singh, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Akshay Sapre, Adv.
 Mr. Yash S. Vijay, AOR
 Ms. Sagar Soni, Adv.
 Ms. Spoorthi Cotha, Adv.
 Ms. Katyayini Suhrud, Adv.
 Mr. Shikhar Aggarwal, Adv.

Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR

Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.

Ms. Disha Singh , AOR
Ms. Eliza Barr, Adv.
Ms. Akansha, Adv.
Ms. Anjali Saxena, Adv.
Mr. Govind Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Singh Rajawat, Adv.

Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR
Mr. Aakash Thakur, Adv.
Mr. Nalin Talwar, Adv.

Mr. Anando Mukherjee, AOR
Mr. Shwetank Singh, Adv.

Mr. Talha Abdul Rehman, D.A.G.
Ms. Baani Khanna, AOR
Mr. Robin Singh, Adv.
Mr. Kapil Balwani, Adv.
Ms. Komal Thakkar, Adv.

Mr. Samir Ali Khan, AOR
Mr. Pranjal Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Kashif Irshad Khan Faridi, Adv.

Mr. Alok Sangwan, Sr. A.A.G.
Mr. Samar Vijay Singh, AOR
Mr. Sumit Kumar Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Rajat Sangwan, Adv.
Ms. Sabarni Som, Adv.
Mr. Aman Dev Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Ayush Kumar Shukla, Adv.
Mr. A.S.L.N. Raju, Adv.

Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.
Mr. Saurabh Rajpal, Adv.
Ms. Sonali Gaur, Adv.
Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR

Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AOR
Ms. Prerna Singh, Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Aravindh S., AOR
Ms. Anika Bansal, Adv.
Mr. Aadithya Aravindh, Adv.

Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AOR
Ms. Neha Singh, Adv.

Mr. Bharat Bagla, Adv.
 Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
 Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR
 Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.

Mr. Vishnu Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Shantanu Sagar, AOR
 Mr. Anil Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. Gunjesh Ranjan, Adv.
 Mr. Prakash Kumar Mangalam, Adv.
 Mr. Manoneet Dwivedi, Adv.
 Mr. Abhishek Kumar Gupta, Adv.
 Mrs. Divya Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Vaibhav Srivastava, A.A.G.
 Ms. Sugandha Anand, AOR
 Mr. Chetan Anand Mohapatra, Adv.

Mr. Nishant Awana, AOR
 Mr. Suraj Kundu, Adv.
 Mr. Amogh Pandey, Adv.

Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.
 Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.
 Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.
 Mr. Mukesh K Verma, Adv.
 Mr. Shashwat Parihar, Adv.
 Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR
 Mr. Harish Pandey, Adv.

Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR
 Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Adv.
 Mr. Deepayan Dutta, Adv.

Mr. Atul Jha, A.A.G.
 Mr. Abhishek Pandey, Adv.
 Mr. Siddhartha Sinha, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
 O R D E R

1. Dr. S. Muralidhar, the learned *Amicus* has placed on record a detailed Status Report.
2. In the Status Report, the learned *Amicus* has provided the background of the entire litigation, more particularly the various directions issued by this Court in its decision titled "Sukanya Shantha vs. Union of India and Others", reported in (2024) 15 SCC 535.

3. The report talks about compliance of various directions issued by this Court in the Judgment, referred to above, including the clarificatory Order passed by this Court dated 7th November, 2024.

4. We have looked into the entire report. One copy of the Status Report has been provided to all other learned Counsel appearing in this litigation.

5. However, in the course of today's hearing, learned Amicus laid much stress on para 25 of his status report.

Para 25 is titled 'Information Awaited'

Para 25 reads thus:-

The AC is awaiting further written responses from several States/UTs in respect of:-

a. The method of collection and transmission of caste-data to NCRB;

b. Deletion of caste columns in all the registers and forms in prisons;

c. Outsourcing of cleaning work;

d. Status of compliance with the guidelines in the judgments in Arnesh Kumar and Amanatullah Khan;

e. Notifications constituting BoVs district wise;

f. Status of new Acts/Rules/Manuals that are proposed by several States/UTs;

g. Status of amendments to offending provisions in the Acts/Rules/Manuals."

6. As regards the information which the learned Amicus seeks, we requested Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, the learned Additional Solicitor General, to look into the same and take up the matter with all States and Union Territories and try to gather the necessary information at the earliest.

7. The learned Amicus made us understand that the State of Assam, the State of Madhya Pradesh, the State of Meghalaya, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh have evolved a methodology insofar as collection and transmission of caste data is concerned. According

to him, the same methodology may be adopted by other States/UTs for the purpose of procuring the necessary information.

8. The learned *Amicus* also brought something very important to our notice. According to him, as on date, none of the States/Union Territories has constituted Board of Visitors District-wise. According to him, it is very much important and necessary for each State/UT to constitute Board of Visitors in each of the Districts where are sub-jails.

9. This has to be done under the Model Prison Manual, 2016, more particularly, Clause 29.01 read with 29.03 respectively including the State Prison Manual respectively.

10. We direct all the State Governments/Union Territories to ensure that Board of Visitors is constituted district - wise headed by the Principal District Judge of that particular District, within a period of four weeks from today. Board of Visitors shall be constituted accordingly without fail. Any laxity in this regard will be viewed strictly.

11. We request Ms. Bhati to see that the each of the States/Union Territories are conveyed as regards the direction issued today by this Court for the purpose of constituting the Board of Visitors District-wise.

12. We also direct all the States/Union Territories to provide us the status of amendments to the offending provisions in the Acts/Rules/Manuals as pointed out by the learned *Amicus* in his Status Report within a period of four weeks from today.

13. Registry shall forward one copy each of this Order to the Principal Secretary (Home) of all the States/Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories. The necessary Report as regards the aforesaid shall be forwarded by the respective States/Union Territories by 3-9-2026. Once all the necessary information is received, the Registry shall provide one copy each to the learned *Amicus* at the earliest.

13. By Order dated 15-12-2025, we had taken note of relief prayed for in one interim application preferred by the applicant concerned.

14. In the said interim application, relief prayed for seeking direction to all the States to file appropriate affidavits concerning any similar provisions and to produce Police Regulations and/or Standing Orders and/or Rules and/or any other subordinate legislation concerning policing before this Court and issue appropriate directions in that regard.

15. Insofar as this prayer is concerned, we had observed that we will have to hear all the States and Union Territories which may take a long time. In such circumstances, we request the Union of India to look into it and file its reply in this regard before the next date of hearing.

16. Post this matter on 10-9-2026.

(VISHAL ANAND)
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

(POOJA SHARMA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)