

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G SWrit Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 13381/1984

M.C. MEHTA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA &amp; ORS.

Respondent(s)

1. IA NO. 16582 OF 2026 (APPLN FOR WITHDRAWAL OF IA NO. 68382 to 84 OF 2025) 2. IA NOS. 281016, 281017 AND 281019 OF 2024 (APPLNS FOR INTERVENTION, DIRECTIONS AND O.T.) 3. IA NO. 15396, 19589 AND 15398 OF 2026 (APPLN. FOR IMPLEADMENT, PERMISSION FOR FELLING AND O.T.) "ONLY" IN W.P. (C) NO. 13381/1984 ARE LISTED. "ONLY" NAMES OF THE FOLLOWING ADVOCATES MAY BE TREATED TO HAVE BEEN SHOWN IN THE LIST. PETITIONER-IN-PERSON MR. A.D.N. RAO, SR. ADVOCATE (A.C.) MS. LIZ MATHEW, SR. ADV. (A.C.) MR. SIDDHARTHA CHOWDHURY, ADV. (A.C.) MS. AAKASHI LODHA, AOR MS. KESHVI ARYA, Adv. MR. AMRISH KUMAR, MR. M.K. MARORIA, MR. G.S. MAKKER, MR. VIJAY PANJWANI, MR. ANKIT GOEL, MR. KAMLENDRA MISHRA 1. MR. RAJEEV KUMAR DUBEY 2. MS. ANJU THOMAS 3. MR. ANUPAM KISHORE SINHA

Date : 23-02-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI

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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

IA No. 16582 of 2026

1. This application has been moved by Rajasthan Charmkala Kendra, which is a registered Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) engaged in the manufacture of footwear and leather products, seeking the withdrawal of IA Nos. 68382-68384/2025. Those applications were filed seeking this Court's permission to cut down and remove 79 trees to provide ingress/egress to the private property of the applicant-industry.

2. The CEC has submitted its Report No. 59/2025, according to which, the Range Officers of Agra Forest Division and Chambal Wildlife Division recorded that there was already an alternate route for ingress/egress into the property of the Petitioner. The

Officials of the Sur Sarovar Bird Sanctuary have also found that the applicant had trespassed into the forest area and defaced boundary marks in August 2023. A forest office offence report was issued against the applicant-industry, but the case has been subsequently compounded upon payment of Rs. 1 lakh by the applicant. That amount has been deposited vide receipt dated 24.01.2024, appended to the report as Annexure R-4. Accordingly, the CEC had recommended that the permission sought through IA Nos. 68382-68384/2025 be denied.

3. It is in this backdrop that the applicant, now, does not seek to press for permission of this Court to fell trees. It, on the other hand, seeks to withdraw this application. Since the alleged violation committed by the applicant has already been compounded by imposing the requisite penalty and no permission for felling of trees is being granted to the applicant by this Court, we see no impediment in permitting the applicant to withdraw its previous IAs. Consequently, IA No.16582/2026 is allowed, and IA Nos.68382-68384/2025 are dismissed as withdrawn.

4. This order, however, shall not cause prejudice to the action, if any, that may be taken in accordance with law based upon the CEC report.

IA Nos. 15396/2026 and 19589/2026

5. Issue notice.

6. Let a soft copy of the applications be supplied to the learned Amicus Curiae and also to the CEC, through the Member Secretary, who in turn, shall submit their status report.

7. Post these applications on 13.04.2026.

IA Nos.281016-281017/2024

8. The application for intervention is allowed for the purpose of these IAs. The applicant is allowed to assist in the matter.

9. This application has been moved by M/s Super Glass Work, a partnership firm operating a glass manufacturing unit at Firozabad. The applicant sought permission from the Taj Trapezium Zone ("TTZ") Authority in 2020 for relocating its industrial unit situated at Raniwala Compound to Plot No.AI-25, UDSIDC, Jalesar Road. The TTZ Authority rejected the application in view of the order dated 14.10.2024 passed by this Court, whereby setting up of new industries or expansion of existing industries without the leave of this Court was disallowed.

10. The instant application has been moved *inter-alia* pointing out that the above-stated interim order of this Court does not apply in the applicant's case, as it is neither a case of setting up a new industry nor of expansion of the existing industry. Rather, it involves the mere translocation of the existing industrial unit.

11. The CEC, in its Report No. 3 of 2026, has, *inter-alia*, pointed out that there is no reason to prevent the movement of the industry, and that the prayer for relocation of the industrial unit is in line with the orders of this Court. Along with the recommendation that such permission may be granted to the applicant, the CEC has been suggested that the relocation ought not to result in the enhancement of the production capacity and that the unit must continue to use natural gas and not shift

regressively to other fuel sources, like coal. It has also been stipulated that the new unit must not start operations till all industrial/manufacturing activity at the old location is stopped, and the applicant, as well as the authorities, must ensure that all applicable environmental guidelines are rigorously adhered to in the functioning of the new unit.

12. Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, learned senior counsel for the applicant, submits that, in the context of these conditions, it may be recorded that the industrial unit at the old location is lying closed since June 2025, awaiting the approval of this Court for the transfer of location.

13. Be that as it may, in light of the view taken by the CEC, we see no impediment in permitting the applicant, namely, M/s Super Glass Work, to relocate its industrial unit to the new site. Such relocation shall be subject to strict compliance with the conditions outlined by CEC in paragraph 20 of its Report No. 3/2026.

14. The applicant shall file a compliance affidavit within 4 weeks of shifting the location of the industry.

#### Main Writ Petition

15. It appears that there are multiple matters pending before this Court, which are captioned as "*M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*", three of which are listed before us today.

16. We find that these are a stark example of a common issue faced in this Court, whereby old writ petitions are kept pending through successive IAs on contemporary facts, giving an impression that the

old petition remains to be adjudicated on its merits.

17. Firstly, there is Writ Petition (Civil) No.13381/1984, i.e., the instant Writ Petition. This Court, vide various successive judgements and orders, has laid down the general principles for the protection of the environment and the prevention and curbing of pollution in the Taj Trapezium Zone. As such, the primary issue involved in the instant petition can be said to have been resolved. However, multiple Interlocutory Applications have been successively filed in the same Writ Petition. Due to these applications, the Writ Petition of 1984 keeps getting listed as if the said petition is still pending before this Court.

18. Secondly, also captioned as "*M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*", there is W.P. (Civil) No.4677/1985. In this matter too, while this Court is considering the different aspects of air pollution in Delhi-NCR, multiple IAs keep being filed from time to time, on a variety of matters, and that petition is also shown as alive and pending, presenting an image that the issues raised in 1985 are still pending adjudication.

19. Thirdly, similar is the case of W.P. (Civil) No.13029/1985, also titled "*M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*".

20. Considering this situation, the Registry is directed to list the instant Writ Petition, i.e., W.P. (C) No. 13381/1994, on 10.03.2026 only for the purpose of 'Consideration of Identification and Conversion of the Pending IAs for Effective Adjudication'.

21. The learned Solicitor General, learned ASG(s), learned Advocates General of the States, learned and learned senior counsel/counsel shall apprise this Court as to how these matters

should be re-captioned to give quietus to the old petition(s). Such an exercise shall be undertaken by them with an endeavour to identify the matters which can be effectively and conveniently referred to the jurisdictional High Courts for adjudication in terms of the judgement of this Court.

22. Similar directions are being issued in respect of the other petitions also, through separate even-dated orders passed by.

(NITIN TALREJA)  
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR