

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (C) NO.202 OF 1995

IN RE : T.N. GODAVARMAN THIRUMULPAD

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

Item 1 - In Re: Kulwant Singh & Ors.

IA Nos. 1409 of 2026, 1413 of 2026 and 1416 of 2026

1. These applications have been moved by some small farmers/ agriculturists and landowners of different villages in District Una, Himachal Pradesh. The necessity to file these applications has arisen on account of an order passed by the High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 05.12.2025 in CWP No.9100 of 2025, which has been filed by the present applicants. That writ petition pertains to the grant of permission to fell Khair and other trees on their lands, for which they had applied to the Divisional Forest Officer. That request having been declined, they approached the High Court.
2. The instant applications have been filed to seek clarification of the order dated 12.12.1996 passed by this Court in the instant writ petition, whereby a ban has been imposed on, inter alia, the

felling of Khair trees in the State of Himachal Pradesh, notwithstanding whether it is a private or a public notified forest.

3. It seems that the parties before the High Court failed to bring two subsequent decisions of this Court to the notice of the High Court.

4. Vide judgement dated 16.02.2018 passed in I.A. No.3840/2014 filed by the State of Himachal Pradesh, this Court, keeping in view the recommendations made by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), permitted conditional felling of Khair trees in the following terms:

"9. ... we reiterate that the State shall be bound by all the conditions laid down by the CEC including the condition that no compartment of more than 20 hectares shall be felled at one go. In addition to the conditions laid down by the CEC, the following conditions shall be strictly complied with by the State of Himachal Pradesh:

1. The felling should be done directly by the Forest Department or by the Himachal Pradesh State Forest Corporation and the work of felling should not be handed over or given on contract to any private agency;

2. The Forest Department should ensure that videography of each beat where felling is to be done, is done separately at regular intervals to clearly indicate the condition and state of the forest before felling, during felling and after felling;

3. As far as Khair trees are concerned, the State shall ensure that at least 25% of mature Khair trees are retained as mother trees and these should be marked and numbered as trees not to be felled, which should be clearly reflected in the videography. The trees to be felled can be marked by a separate colour. The number, size and girth of the trees should be clearly spelt out;

4. As far as Chil Pine and Sal trees are concerned, the State shall ensure that at least 40 mature trees are retained per hectare

and the other conditions will be the same as applicable to Khair trees;

5. In addition to the conditions laid down in the Working Plan and those laid down by the CEC, the State of Himachal Pradesh shall ensure that adequate funds are made available and re-afforestation is done either simultaneously or if it is not possible, immediately after felling is complete in each block of 20 hectares.

6. It should also be ensured that these forest areas are kept free from grazing and are protected;

7. The State should also ensure that sufficient number of healthy saplings are planted so that there is proper regeneration of the forest.

8. This entire programme of experimental silviculture felling shall be done under the supervision and guidance of a two-Member Committee headed by Shri V.P. Mohan, IFS (Retd.), former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Himachal Pradesh. The second member of this Committee shall be nominated by the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The second Member shall be a Professor of Silviculture."

[Emphasis Supplied]

5. Subsequently, I.A. No.87648/2020 was filed by the State of Himachal Pradesh, seeking approval of Working Plans for felling of Khair trees. Thereafter, the State also filed I.A. No. 132905/2022, wherein blanket permission to fell Khair trees on private land was sought, which would be achieved by moving the same to the list of excluded species under the Himachal Pradesh Land Preservation Act, 1978. Both these applications were disposed of by this Court vide order dated 10.05.2023. This Court refrained from granting any blanket permission to indiscriminately fell Khair trees on private land. However, the cutting of Khair trees as per the Working Plan was approved, and the State was granted liberty to

prepare a plan for the regulation of Khair tree cultivation with compensatory measures, and to file an application thereafter. The relevant portion of the order dated 10.05.2023 is reproduced below:

"IA.NO.87648/2020 (Item no.1)

1. This is an application filed by the State of Himachal Pradesh with the following prayer clause (a):-

"(a) Allow the State of Himachal Pradesh to carry out silviculture felling of Khair (Acacia catechu) trees in the forests areas of the State in accordance with the approved Working Plans;"

2. The CEC has examined the issue at hand and filed its Report No.15/2023 dated 14.03.2023. The CEC has approved the working plan, as prepared by the State of Himachal Pradesh.

3. In that view of the matter, we are inclined to allow the application.

4. The permission is granted subject to the State Government complying with all the conditions recommended in the Report of the CEC. The application is, accordingly, allowed in terms of prayer clause (a).

IA.132905/2022 (Item no.1)

1. By way of this application the State of Himachal Pradesh seeks permission to remove Khair trees from private land and put the said species in the list of exempted species under Himachal Pradesh Land Preservation Act, 1978.

2. Learned Amicus Curiae has reservations about such a blanket exemption.

3. Learned Advocate General for the State of Himachal Pradesh states that the Khair tree is a specialized nature of tree which grows for a period of six years, even after cutting the trunk.

4. He, therefore, submits that taking into consideration the nature of the species, the request made on behalf of State of Himachal Pradesh is reasonable.

5. However, on suggestion of the Court, the learned Advocate General states that the State is willing to re-examine the said issue so that instead of blanket exemption been allowed for felling of the said trees, a plan could be worked out, wherein felling of the said trees could be regulated with certain compensatory measures.

6. *Learned Advocate General states that the said exercise would require a period of about eight weeks.*

7. *As such, the said I.A. stands disposed of with liberty to the State Government to file a fresh application after the plans are finalized."*

[Emphasis supplied]

6. It may, thus, be seen on a cumulative reading of the orders dated 16.02.2018 and 10.05.2023 that: (i) This Court has already granted permission for the removal of dry, fallen, fungus infected diseased and rotten Khair trees standing on the private land through paragraphs 3 and 4 of the order dated 16.02.2018, although subject to the conditions mentioned therein; (ii) so long as the State Forest Department and the Himachal Pradesh State Forest Development Corporation, as well as the land owners, are willing to comply with the conditions imposed by this Court, there is no impediment for the removal of Khair trees of the nature mentioned in clause (ii) of the prayer in I.A. No. 1413/2026, and no separate permission is, thus, required to be granted; (iii) however, the prayer made by the State of Himachal Pradesh to accord permission for *en bloc* removal/felling of Khair trees from private land has not been accepted by this Court, though a proper plan for that purpose has been permitted to be prepared and thereafter be presented to this Court for approval. The instant applications, therefore, stand disposed of in the above terms, with the clarification that this may not be considered as permission for *en bloc* removal of Khair trees from private lands.

7. Learned *amicus curiae* has informed us that such like applications are being filed repeatedly by the landowners/farmers of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and other hilly

areas.

8. Since repeated applications are being filed by the affected persons in these States and Union Territories, we direct the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administration to constitute Committees on the lines of paragraph 9(8.) of the order dated 16.02.2018 and submit a compliance report within two weeks, along with proposals to implement appropriate regulations in this regard.

Item 2 - In Re: Mohit Kumar

IA Nos 324676 of 2025, 324677 of 2025 & 334531 of 2025

9. These applications have been filed seeking certain directions, which are purportedly in public interest. The averments made therein are vague and evasive, and having heard learned counsel for the applicant and perused the material placed on record, we are of the considered opinion that no effective directions can be issued based upon such cryptic averments. There is no necessity for us to make any further comment on the matter except to say that general directions to regulate wood-based industries have already been comprehensively issued by this Court vide order dated 05.10.2015. We dispose of these applications with liberty to the applicant to approach the jurisdictional High Courts by way of proper petitions, not being contempt petitions, and seek redressal of his grievances. We request the Hon'ble Chief Justices of the High Courts to place such petition(s) before the respective Environment Benches.

10. The Registry is, further, directed not to entertain any

application with respect to the alleged non-compliance of the order dated 05.10.2015 regarding regulation of wood-based industries.

Item 3 - In Re: Dr. R.P Balwan, IFS (Retd.) & Ors

IA Nos.244339 of 2025 and 244340 of 2025, CEC Report No.05/2026

11. Let these applications be listed along with Suo-Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No.10 of 2025 on 26.02.2026.

Item 4 - In Re: Rajaji Tigar Reserve, Uttarakhand

Contempt Petition(C) No.319/2021, CEC Report No.01/2024, IA No. 66719/2021, IA No.140286/2023, IA No.197410/2023, IA No.197412/2023

Item 4(a) - CEC Report No.30/2022, IA No.52187/2023, IA No.197351/2024, IA No.2665/2024, CEC Report No.28/2024, IA No.271988/2025, IA No.336381/2025, IA No.25296/2026 in W.P. (C) No.202/1995

12. This Contempt Petition and other applications pertain to upgradation of the 11 km long Laldhang-Chillarkhal Road, which lies in the buffer zone for Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand. This Court, vide order dated 11.01.2023, had imposed an interim stay from any work being conducted on the said road. IA No.271988/2025 has been moved by the State of Uttarakhand, praying for vacation of the said interim order and consequential permission to continue road-work. IA No.336381/2025 and IA No.25296/2026 have been filed by private persons seeking a similar prayer.

13. The total stretch of road measures approximately 11.5 km, out of which, the controversy that survives is with respect to the central stretch of 4.7 km from Chamaria bend to Sigadi Sot. It seems that the State Government had initially proposed to construct this road not only with the objective of providing access to the

connecting villages, but also for its commercial utilisation, as is revealed from the proposal to allow plying of 150 heavy vehicles comprising dumpers, trucks, and other commercial vehicles. The issue, however, need not detain us for long.

14. The expert bodies, namely, (i) the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife; (ii) the National Tiger Conservation Authority; and (iii) the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Union of India; and (iv) the Central Empowered Committee constituted by this Court, respectively, have examined the proposal(s). We have gone through their reports and recommendations.

15. Although, the State Government initially filed a counter affidavit opposing some of the recommendations made by the expert bodies, we do not find any merit in the objections submitted by the State Government against the restrictions recommended to be imposed by different expert bodies. Learned counsel/senior counsel representing the State has also fairly conceded that the recommendations of the expert bodies shall be strictly adhered to.

16. Consequently, permission is granted to the State Government to undertake works on the subject road for the purpose of providing better access and facilities, including basic amenities, to the residents of the villages located in remote areas, who were sought to be connected through this road.

17. While perusing the reports and recommendations of the expert bodies, it has come to our attention that the proposal of the State Government for permitting 150 commercial vehicles per day to ply on

the renovated road has been accepted by the CEC, despite the fact of availability of an alternative road for commercial vehicles being on record. Learned State counsel also, during the course of hearing, fairly acknowledges that an alternative road is available for plying commercial vehicles, though the alternate route would be longer than the subject road.

18. Keeping in mind our duty to protect forest ecology in the Tiger Reserve buffer zone and balancing the interests of the local residents of the various beneficiary villages connected through this road, we deem it appropriate to direct that no commercial vehicle shall be permitted to ply on the subject road, and such vehicles shall instead operate only from the alternative road available for them.

19. The measures that will be taken to prevent the use of the road by commercial vehicles will be placed on record before this Court, with an advance copy circulated to the CEC. The CEC will examine such measures in consultation with the learned *amicus curiae* and place its report before this Court.

20. Subject to the conditions hereinabove, the interlocutory applications are partly allowed. The Contempt Petition, along with pending interlocutory applications, if any, also stands disposed of.

Item No.5 - In Re: Debadityo Sinha

IA No.185063/2025, IA No.185065/202, IA No.185066/2025, IA No.275143/2025

21. Learned senior counsel for the project proponent seeks and is granted two weeks' time to file the reply to the application(s). Similarly, counter affidavits shall also be filed by the State of Uttar Pradesh.

22. Post on 23.02.2026 at 2 p.m.

ITEM NO.6

Contempt Petition(C) No.938/2021 in C.A. Nos.12234-12235/2018

23. This contempt petition has been initiated by the Goa Foundation alleging, *inter alia*, the breach and violation of order dated 04.02.2015, which this Court had passed in C.A. Nos.12234-12235/2015. That order reads as follows:

*"Treat this appeal as an Interlocutory Application in Writ Petition (C) No.202 of 1995, T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs. Union of India & Ors., and list it before the Green Bench on 27.02.2015.*

*In the meanwhile, we direct that the respondents herein will not issue any 'No Objection Certificate(s)' for the conversion of any plot that has natural vegetation with tree canopy density in excess of 0.1 and an area above one hectare."*

24. It is a matter of fact that no prior permission from this Court was obtained before the felling of 2670 trees. It is in this factual backdrop that, on 14.02.2024 and again on 17.05.2024, when this contempt petition came up for hearing, a fair and candid stand was taken on behalf of the State of Goa that the trees had been felled without prior permission of this Court. Accordingly, details of the remedial measures undertaken by the State and the project proponent were sought. This Court also took notice of the fact that the project had been shifted to another site, and the land which

was originally allocated for the project was now available for compensatory afforestation. It was directed that replantation activity be initiated on the original site without delay, apart from the compensatory afforestation already in progress on a separate plot admeasuring 12.5 hectares. A sum of Rs. 22 crores was recorded to have been deposited with the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority ("CAMPA") as part of the CAMPA fund. The matter was taken up thereafter from time to time.

25. Meanwhile, two reports have been sent by the Executive Committee of the CAMPA for the State of Goa regarding the inspection of 17.23 hectares of compensatory afforestation plantation, raised in Sandod village, Collem range, North Goa and the re-verification of replantation carried out by the project proponent at Codar, Usgao, Sangod, Colvale, Navelim, and Surla villages, respectively.

26. On the first issue, the CAMPA has made certain observations regarding the area of plantation and the manner of plantation carried out. The report concluded that the compensatory plantation on 17.23 hectares in Sangod village has been successfully carried out by the Department in a methodical and scientific manner.

27. In the context of the second issue, namely, the verification of replantation, the CAMPA Executive Committee visited the site on 24.09.2024 and 28.09.2024 to verify the plantation carried out by the project proponent in the above-mentioned villages. The Committee, upon inspection, found that a total of 9,119 saplings were found to be surviving at various sites, indicating an average

survival rate of 73.46%.

28. To fill this gap, i.e., for casualty replacement, it has been recommended that the user agency/project proponent be directed to make fresh plantation during every monsoon season for at least 5 years, starting from 2024-2025, to meet the deficit caused by the approximate 27% mortality rate.

29. The Committee has further noted that the plantation site in Colvale is right below a high-tension transmission line. At such locations, it is suggested that suitable species of dwarf/shorter varieties, as per the Union Ministry's recommendations, be planted. A further recommendation has been made for watering the plants through drip irrigation systems.

30. As per the report, the casualty replacement needs to be carried out in a time-bound manner by the user agency/project proponent, at its own cost, to ensure survival of the plants. The maintenance of all plantation sites shall also be carried out by the user agency at its own expense for the next five years, commencing in 2024-2025.

31. We have considered the arguments made by learned senior counsel/counsel for the parties, including, most importantly, the submissions forwarded by the learned *amicus curiae*.

32. In light of the recommendations made by the CAMPA Executive Committee and in continuation of the orders passed by this Court from time to time, we deem it appropriate to dispose of this Contempt Proceeding, at this stage, with the following directions:

(i) The user agency, namely, M/s. Goa Tamnar Transmission

Project Limited will ensure that fresh plantation in lieu of the 27% casualty is undertaken, strictly in accordance with the recommendations made by the CAMPA Executive Committee. This action of casualty replacement may be done in/after every monsoon, as per the scheme of plantation approved by CAMPA;

(ii) The entire expenditure of 27% casualty replacement, for the watering of the entire plantation, and also for other miscellaneous expenses incurred to ensure that all the plants remain healthy, shall be borne by the user agency. Any objection, delay, or reluctance shown by the user agency towards meeting such costs shall be deemed to be grounds for revival of the instant contempt proceedings against its functionaries;

(iii) The CAMPA is directed to formulate a plan for ensuring the healthy growth of the saplings that have survived (approximately 73% of the total plantation). While the user agency was to bear the cost for maintenance of the saplings only till 2024-25, in light of the facts of the instant case, the user agency is directed to bear the expenditure incurred to maintain these plants for the period of another five years, namely, till 2029-30;

(iv) The fresh replacement saplings planted to address the 27% casualty, as well as those which are planted for subsequent casualty replacement, shall also be maintained for a period of 10 years from the date of plantation at the cost of the user agency; and

(v) The CAMPA shall act as the Monitoring-cum-Supervisory Authority to ensure that eventually there is zero mortality and all the plants duly survive and grow. If, for any unforeseen

circumstances, any requirement for the treatment of the saplings, fire prevention during the dry season, or any other requirement arises, all such arrangements shall also be made by the user agency.

33. Ordered accordingly.

34. In the event of any non-cooperation or refusal to comply with the directions issued herein, the contempt petitioner, the CAMPA, or the State/Union of India shall be at liberty to seek appropriate directions.

.....CJI.  
(SURYA KANT)

.....J.  
(JOYMALYA BAGCHI)

.....J.  
(VIPUL M. PANCHOLI)

NEW DELHI;  
FEBRUARY 12, 2026

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). 202/1995

IN RE : T.N. GODAVARMAN THIRUMULPAD

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA &amp; ORS.

Respondent(s)

(INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATION FOR 12.02.2026 "ONLY" [1] I.A. NOS. 1409 OF 2026 [Application for Impleadment as party Respondents on behalf of 'Kulwant Singh & Ors.' filed by Ms. Anisha Upadhyay, Advocate] WITH I.A. NOS. 1413 & 1416 OF 2026 [Applications for Directions and Exemption from filing O.T. on behalf of 'Kulwant Singh & Ors.' filed by Ms. Anisha Upadhyay, Advocate]] IN RE : KULWANT SINGH & ORS. AND [2] I.A. Nos. 324676 & 324677 OF 2025 [Applications for Directions and Exemption from filing O.T. on behalf of 'Mohit Kumar' filed by Mr. Ajit Sharma, Advocate] WITH I.A. NO. 334531 OF 2025 [Applications for Impleadment as party Petitioner filed on behalf of 'Mohit Kumar' filed by Mr. Ajit Sharma, Advocate] IN RE : MOHIT KUMAR AND [3] IN RE: ARAVALLI ZOO SAFARI PROJECT, HARYANA I. A. NOS. 244339 & 244340 OF 2025 [Applications for Intervention & Directions filed by Ms. Shibani Ghosh, Advocate] WITH I. A. NO. 321305 OF 20225 (Application for permission to file Additional Affidavit filed by Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, Advocate for the State of Haryana) IN RE: DR. R.P. BALWAN, IFS (RETD.) & ORS. AND [4] IN RE : RAJAJI TIGER RESERVE, UTTARAKHAND CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 319 OF 2021 IN I. A. NO. 90182 OF 2019 (DISPOSED OF) (Application for Directions) WITH I. A. NO. 66719 OF 2021 (Application for Exemption from filing Notorized Affidavit) AND I. A. NO. 140286 OF 2023 (Application for Condonation of delay in filing Counter Affidavit) WITH I. A. NOS. 197410 AND 197412 OF 2023 (Applications for permission to file Additional documents and Exemption from filing O.T.) AND [4(a)] I. A. NO. 186910 OF 2022 (CEC Report No. 30 of 2022 - Report of CEC in Appln. No. 1557/2022 filed before it by Gaurav Kumar Bansal) WITH I.A. NO. 52187 OF 2023 (Application for Exemption from filing O.T.) WITH I.A. NOS. 197351 OF 2023 AND 2665 OF 2024 (Applications for permission to file Affidavit) WITH I. A. NO. 283720 OF 20224 (CEC Report No. 28 of 2024 - Report of CEC in I.A. No. 186910/2022) WITH I. A. NO. 271988 OF 20225 (Application on behalf of 'State of Uttarakhand' for Vacation of Interim order dated 11.01.2023 and for Directions filed by Mr. Abhishek Atrey, Advocate in I.A. No. 186910/2022) IN RE : GAURAV KUMAR BANSAL WITH I. A. NO. 336381 OF 20225 (Application for Intervention on behalf of 'Anupam Kumar Bisht', Applicant filed by Mr. Manish Raghav, Advocate in I.A. No. 186910/2022) IN RE : ANUPAM KUMAR BISHT WITH I. A. NO. 25296 OF 2026 (Application for Intervention on behalf of 'Anil Baluni, Member of Parliament (Garhwal-Lok Sabha)', Applicant filed by Mr. Sunny Kadiyan, Advocate in I.A. No. 186910/2022) IN

RE: ANIL BALUNI, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (GARHWAL-LOK SABHA) AND [5] I.A. NOS. 185063 & 185065 OF 2025 [Applications for Directions & O.T. filed by Ms. Shibani Ghosh, Advocate] WITH I. A. NO. 185066 OF 2025 [Application for Intervention filed by Ms. Shibani Ghosh, Advocate] WITH I. A. NO. 233149 OF 2025 [Application for permission to place on record Additional facts and documents in I.A. No. 185063/2025 filed by Ms. Shibani Ghosh, Advocate] WITH I. A. NO. 275143 OF 2025 [Application for Directions in I.A. No. 185063/2025 filed by Ms. Shibani Ghosh, Advocate] IN RE: DEBADITYO SINHA AND [6] CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 938 OF 2021 IN CIVIL APPEAL NOS. 12234-12235 OF 2018 IN WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 202 OF 1995 (Under Article 32 of the Constitution of India) "ONLY" ARE LISTED IN W.P. (C) No. 202 OF 1995 "ONLY" ON 12.02.2026 AND THE NAMES OF "ONLY" THE FOLLOWING ADVOCATES MAY BE TREATED TO HAVE BEEN SHOWN AGAINST THESE I.As. MR. HARISH N. SALVE, SR. ADV. [A.C.], MR. A.D.N. RAO, SR. ADVOCATE [A.C.], MS. APARAJITA SINGH, SR. ADVOCATE [A.C.], MR. SIDDHARTHA CHOWDHURY, ADVOCATE [A.C.] MR. K. PARAMESHWAR, SR. ADVOCATE [A.C.] MR. G.S. MAKKER, ADVOCATE MR. S.N. TERDAL, ADVOCATE DR. N. VISAKAMURTHY, ADVOCATE FOR S. NO. [1] MR. K. PARAMESHWAR, SR. ADVOCATE (A.C.), MS. ANISHA UPADHYAY FOR S. NO. [2] MR. K. PARAMESHWAR SR. ADVOCATE (A.C.), MR. AJIT SHARMA FOR S. NO. [3] MR. K. PARAMESHWAR (A.C.), MS. SHIBANI GHOSH, MR. AKSHAY AMRITANSHU (STATE OF HARYANA) FOR S. NO. [4 & 4(a)] MR. K. PARAMESHWAR (A.C.), MR. GAURAV KR. BANSAL (P-I-P), DR. ABHISHEK ATREY (STATE OF UTTARAKHAND), MR. ATUL SHARMA (STATE OF UTTARAKHAND), MR. MANISH RAGHAV, MR. SUNNY KADIYAN FOR S. NO. [5] MR. K. PARAMESHWAR, SR. ADVOCATE (A.C.), MS. SHIBANI GHOSH, M/S. TRUST LEGAL FOR S. NO. [6] MR. K. PARAMESHWAR (A.C.), MS. SRISHTI AGNIHOTRI, MR. SYED JAFAR ALAM)

WITH

CONMT.PET.(C) No. 319/2021 in W.P.(C) No. 202/1995 (PIL-W) IN I.A. NO. 90182 OF 2019, IA No. 140286/2023 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING COUNTER AFFIDAVIT, IA No. 66719/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT, IA No. 197412/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 197410/2023 - PERMISSION TO PLACE ADDITIONAL FACTS AND GROUNDS)

CONMT.PET.(C) No. 938/2021 in C.A. No. 12234-12235/2018 (XVII) (IA No. 115589/2024 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

Date : 12-02-2026 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

Mr. K. Parameshwar, Sr. Adv. (A.C.)  
Mr. Mukunda, Adv.  
Ms. Raji Gururaj, Adv.  
Ms. Kanti, Adv.

Mr. Shreenivas Patil, Adv.  
Ms. Veda Singh, Adv.  
Mr. Prasad Hegde, Adv.  
Mr. Sai Kaushal, Adv.

For Petitioner(s): Mr. Sanjay Parikh, Sr. Adv.  
Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, AOR  
Ms. Tara Elizabeth Kurien, Adv.  
Ms. Kritika, Adv.  
Mr. D.p.singh, Adv.  
Ms. Anchal Kanthed, Adv.

Petitioner-in-person  
By Courts Motion, AOR  
Mr. Chanchal Kumar Ganguli, AOR  
M/S. Plr Chambers And Co., AOR  
Mr. Syed Mehdi Imam, AOR  
Mr. T. Harish Kumar, AOR  
M/S. Mitter & Mitter Co., AOR  
M/S. Lawyer S Knit & Co, AOR

For Respondent(s): Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.  
Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR  
Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Adv.  
Ms. Suhashini Sen, Adv.  
Mr. Raghav Sharma, Adv.  
Mr. Gaurang Bhushan, Adv.  
Mr. Baij Nath Patel, Adv.  
Mr. Rohan Gupta, Adv.

Mr. Gaichangpou Gangmei, AOR

Mr. Raj Kishor Choudhary, AOR  
Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, Adv.  
Mr. Vikram Patralekh, Adv.  
Ms. Shalini Tripathi, Adv.  
Mr. Himanshu Gupta Is, Adv.  
Mr. Shivam Yadav, Adv.  
Mr. Waseem Akhtar Khan, Adv.  
Ms. Pratibha Singh, Adv.

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

Mr. Ashok Mathur, AOR  
Ms. Shardha Zutshi, Adv.

M/S. Parekh & Co., AOR  
M/S. K J John And Co, AOR  
Mr. V. Balachandran, AOR  
Mr. S. C. Birla, AOR

Mr. Ajit Pudussery, AOR  
Mr. T. Mahipal, AOR  
Mr. Umesh Bhagwat, AOR  
Mrs. M. Qamaruddin, AOR  
Mr. H. S. Parihar, AOR  
Ms. Baby Krishnan, AOR  
Mr. P. R. Ramasesh, AOR

Ms. Adviteeya, Adv.  
Mr. Rakesh K. Sharma, AOR

Mr. P. N. Gupta, AOR  
Mr. Sarad Kumar Singhania, AOR  
Mr. E. C. Agrawala, AOR  
Mr. Kuldip Singh, AOR  
Ms. Bina Madhavan, AOR  
Ms. Pratibha Jain, AOR  
Mr. Rajat Joseph, AOR  
Mr. Gopal Prasad, AOR  
Ms. Jyoti Mendiratta, AOR  
Mr. S.. Udaya Kumar Sagar, AOR  
Mr. Ranjan Mukherjee, AOR  
Ms. Sharmila Upadhyay, AOR

Mr. Tejaswi Kumar Pradhan, AOR  
Mr. Pranab Samantaray, Adv.  
Mr. Manoranjan Paikaray, Adv.  
Mr. Pradeep Kar, Adv.

M/S. Arputham Aruna And Co, AOR  
Mrs. Nandini Gore, AOR  
Mr. Raj Kumar Mehta, AOR  
Ms. Madhu Moolchandani, AOR  
Mrs. B. Sunita Rao, AOR  
Mr. Rajeev Singh, AOR  
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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

Item 1 - In Re: Kulwant Singh & Ors.

IA Nos. 1409 of 2026, 1413 of 2026 and 1416 of 2026

1. The applications stand disposed of in terms of the signed order.

Item 2 - In Re: Mohit Kumar

IA Nos 324676 of 2025, 324677 of 2025 & 334531 of 2025

2. The applications stand disposed of in terms of the signed order.

Item 3 - In Re: Dr. R.P Balwan, IFS (Retd.) & Ors

IA Nos.244339 of 2025 and 244340 of 2025, CEC Report No.05/2026

3. Let these applications be listed along with Suo-Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No.10 of 2025 on 26.02.2026.

Item 4 - In Re: Rajaji Tigar Reserve, Uttarakhand

Contempt Petition(C) No.319/2021, CEC Report No.01/2024, IA No. 66719/2021, IA No.140286/2023, IA No.197410/2023, IA No.197412/2023

Item 4(a) - CEC Report No.30/2022, IA No.52187/2023, IA No.197351/2024, IA No.2665/2024, CEC Report No.28/2024, IA No.271988/2025, IA No.336381/2025, IA No.25296/2026 in W.P. (C) No.202/1995

4. The interlocutory applications are partly allowed and the Contempt Petition, along with pending interlocutory applications, if any, stands disposed of in terms of the signed order.

Item No.5 - In Re: Debadityo Sinha

IA No.185063/2025, IA No.185065/202, IA No.185066/2025, IA No.275143/2025

5. Post on 23.02.2026 at 2 p.m.

ITEM NO.6

Contempt Petition(C) No.938/2021 in C.A. Nos.12234-12235/2018

6. The Contempt Proceeding, along with pending interlocutory applications, if any, stands disposed of in terms of the signed order.

(NITIN TALREJA)  
AR-cum-PS

(ARJUN BISHT)  
AR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR