

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).10/2025

IN RE: DEFINITION OF ARAVALLI HILLS AND RANGES AND ANCILLARY ISSUES

Date : 21-01-2026 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. M.V. Mukunda, Adv.
Ms. Kanti, Adv.
Ms. Veda Singh, Adv.
Mr. Shreenivas Patil, Adv.

By Courts Motion, AOR

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, ASG
Ms. Shreya Jain, Adv.
Mr. Nithin Chaudhary, Adv.
Ms. Shivika Mehra, Adv.
Ms. Shagun Thakur, Adv.
Ms. Manisha Chava, Adv.

Mr. K.M. Nataraj, ASG
Ms. Sansriti Pathak, AAG
Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR

Mr. Sanjay Parikh, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Kritika, Adv.
Ms. Maulshree Pathak, AOR

Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AOR
Mr. Nimesh Bhatt, Adv.

Mr. Vivek Sharma, AOR
Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Adv.

Mr. B. K. Satija, A.A.G.
Mr. Rahul Khurana, Adv.
Mr. Samar Vijay Singh, AOR
Ms. Sabarni Som, Adv.
Mr. Aman Dev Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Gaj Singh, Adv.

Mr. Kapil Sibal, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Manisha Singh, Adv.
Mr. George Pothan Poothicote, Adv.
Mr. Danish Zubair Khan, AOR
Ms. Sumedha Ray, Adv.
Mr. Kanav Khatana, Adv.
Ms. Juhi Bhargava, Adv.
Ms. Ojeswita Singh, Adv.
Mr. Anurag Jain, Adv.
Ms. Jyoti Singh, Adv.
Ms. Swati Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Raju Ramachandran, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, AOR
Mr. Mohammad Afeef, Adv.
Ms. Tara Elizabeth Kurien, Adv.
Ms. Anchal Kanthed, Adv.
Ms. Shruti Narayan, Adv.
Ms. Nida Khan Salim, Adv.
Mr. O.P. Singh, Adv.

Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, AOR
Ms. Sadhana Madhawan, Adv.
Ms. Kavana Rao, Adv.
Mr. O.P. Singh, Adv.
Ms. Anchal Kanthed, Adv.
Ms. Tara Elizabeth Kurien, Adv.

Mr. Chander Uday Singh, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Ayushma Awasthi, AOR
Ms. Namrata Sarah Caleb, Adv.
Mr. Bidya Mohanty, Adv.
Ms. Katyayani Suhrud, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Kalaiyarasan, Adv.

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

1. In deference to the order dated 29.12.2025, Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, has entered appearance on behalf of the Union of India. Meanwhile, Mr. K.M. Nataraj, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, representing the State of Rajasthan and Mr. K. Parameshwar, learned *Amicus Curiae*, along with the Member of CEC, are also present.
2. We have impressed upon the learned *Amicus Curiae* and other

senior counsel/counsel assisting in the matter that with a view to enable this Court to take a holistic view on different issues, some of which have been tentatively formulated in our order dated 29.12.2025, they shall place on record a comprehensive note along with the proposed questions that would arise for consideration. Similarly, we have requested learned ASGs as well as learned *Amicus Curiae* to suggest the names of some eminent environmentalists, scientists, forest experts, including those with special expertise in ensuring regulated mining wherever it can be permitted in law, so that an Expert Body may be constituted to examine all these aspects and assist this Court.

3. It goes without saying that such an Expert Body will work under the direct control and supervision of this Court.

4. During the course of the hearing, Mr. Raju Ramchandran, learned senior counsel, and other counsel pointed out that illegal mining is still taking place at scattered places. Mr. K.M. Nataraj, learned ASG, representing the State of Rajasthan has ensured that all possible measures will be taken by the State forthwith to ensure that no illegal mining occurs, and that the law must take its own course against those indulging in such illegal activities.

5. The interim directions issued on 29.12.2025 shall continue to operate till further orders.

6. I.A. No. 18034/2026 is allowed to the extent that the applicant is permitted to assist the Court as an intervenor. The remaining applicants, if so advised, may contact the learned *Amicus Curiae* and provide their invaluable suggestions/opinions to enable him to include those suggestions/opinions in the comprehensive note

that he has been requested to place on record.

7. Post this matter on 26.02.2026.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR