

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGSWrit Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1333/2026

M A BABY

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 319275/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 319608/2026 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, IA No. 319612/2026 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, IA No. 319611/2026 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and IA No. 319609/2026 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION)

WITH

CONMT.PET.(C) No. 844/2026 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 317566/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT and IA No. 318427/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

W.P.(Cr1.) No. 429/2026 (PIL-W)

W.P.(C) No. 1334/2026 (X)

W.P.(C) No. 1329/2026 (X)

Diary No(s). 64174/2026 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 322847/2026 - APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT/CONTEMNOR WITH AFFIDAVIT, IA No. 319521/2026 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION and IA No. 319523/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Diary No(s). 64371/2026 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 322033/2026 - APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT/CONTEMNOR WITH AFFIDAVIT and IA No. 320230/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT)

Diary No(s). 64328/2026 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 322043/2026 - APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT/CONTEMNOR WITH AFFIDAVIT and IA No. 320703/2026 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION)

with

Signature Not Verified

Item No. 23

Digital signed by
NITIN K. R. S.
Date: 2026.10.16
16:36:11 IST
Reason:Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1354/2026

(IA No. 321834/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 321835/2026 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON)

Item No. 24

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1353/2026

Item No. 25

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1351/2026

Item No. 26

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1364/2026

Item No. 27

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1361/2026

Item No. 28

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1363/2026

Item No. 29

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1348/2026

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Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1360/2026

Item No. 31

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1357/2026

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Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1366/2026

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Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s) . 434/2026

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Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s) . 437/2026

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Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s) . 417/2026

Item No. 36

CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) Diary No(s) . 63921/2026

Item No. 37

CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) Diary No(s) . 63943/2026

Item No. 38

CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) Diary No(s) . 63948/2026

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Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1336/2026

Item No. 40

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1335/2026

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Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s). 427/2026

(IA No. 319134/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 319156/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT and IA No. 319331/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

Item No. 42

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1338/2026

Item No. 43

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1365/2026

Item No. 44

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1359/2026

Item No. 45

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1356/2026

Item No. 46

Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s). 436/2026

Date : 15-10-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

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HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

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Ms. Mahima Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Surya Pratap Tyagi, Adv.
Mr. Vivek Kumar Pandey, Adv.
Ms. Jyoti Tiwary, Adv.
Mr. Krishnakant Dubey, Adv.
Ms. Jahnavi Verma, Adv.

Mr. Guru Krishna Kumar, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Dave, Sr. Adv.
Mr. T. Bhaskar Gautam, Adv.
Mr. Praneet Pranav, Adv.
Mr. Amit Sharma, Adv.
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Mr. Lakshya S. Pandey, Adv.
Ms. Astha Singh, Adv.
Ms. Isha Barshiliya, Adv.

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Mr. Vishwajeet Tyagi, Adv.

Mr. Anil Hooda, Adv.
Mr. Varun Mishra- 3516, AOR
Mr. Shafik Ahmed, Adv.
Mr. Sushant Mehra, Adv.
Mr. Ajay Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Anju, Adv.
Mr. Himanshu Tyagi, Adv.

Mr. Sadashiv- 2364, AOR
Ms. Vandana, Adv.
Mr. Sunil Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Ashish Kumar Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Manoj Pandey, Adv.

Mr. Barun Kumar Sinha, Adv.
Mrs. Pratibha Sinha, Adv.
Mr. Sneh Vardhan, Adv.
Mr. Vaibhav Singh, Adv.
Mr. Pankaj Kumar Shukla, Adv.
Mr. Rakesh Mudgal, Adv.

Mr. Chhail Bihari Singh, Adv.
Mr. Swaraj Maurya, Adv.
Mr. Ritu Raj, Adv.
Mrs. Kanika, Adv.
Mr. Anantha Narayana M.g.- 2160, AOR

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Mr. Saurabh Mishra, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sunil Dalal, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Rahul G. Tanwani, Adv.
Mr. Venkata Raghuvamsy D, Adv.
Mr. Alabhya Dhamija, Adv.
Ms. Divya Roy, Adv.
Mr. Saaketh Kasibhatla, Adv.
Mr. Vinay Krishna Kodali, Adv.
Mr. Kartik Brundavan, Adv.
Mr. Dharun Lakshman, Adv.
Mr. Subodh Patil, Adv.
Mr. Gautam Singh, Adv.
Mr. Praneet Pranav, Adv.
Mr. Ashish Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Nishant Kumar- 3203, AOR

Mr. Pawan Kumar Saxena, Adv.
Mr. Charan Dass, Adv.
Mr. Salik Ram, Adv.
Mr. Neeraj Srivastava, Adv.
Mr. Balajee D. Kotigiree, Adv.
Mr. Dhruva Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Ravi Kumar Mehta, Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Shankar Mishra, AOR

Mr. Piyush Beriwal, AOR
Mr. B.L. Shivhare, Adv.
Mr. Prateek Tanwar, Adv.
Mr. Ashok Kumar Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Vedansh, Adv.
Mr. Neeraj, Adv.
Ms. Ghazala Hashmi, Adv.
Ms. Prernaa Singh, Adv.
Ms. Sunita Saxena, Adv.
Mr. Amit Agarwal, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Saket, Adv.
Ms. Archana Sharma, Adv.

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Mr. V.P.S. Charak, Adv.
Ms. Ritu Reniwal, Adv.
Mr. Mahendra Kumawat, Adv.

Mr. Vinay Kumar Rai, Adv.
Ms. Modoyia Kayina, Adv.

Mrs. Rajshree Rai, Adv.
Mr. Saif Rizvi, Adv.
Mr. Shivam Tyagi, Adv.
Mr. Shreyaash Singh, Adv.
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Ms. Archana Saini, Adv.
Mr. Anil Agarwal, Adv.
Mr. Ashok Pratap Rai, Adv.
M/s. R&R Law Associates, AOR

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Mr. Vijay Joshi, Adv.
Mr. Prateek Tanwar, Adv.
Mr. Amit Acharya, Adv.
Mr. Sparsh, Adv.
Ms. Ruchita Srivastava, Adv.
Mr. Mohit Joshi, Adv.
Mr. Saurav Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Ajit Pathak, Adv.
Ms. Sheetal R., Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Gupta, Adv.

Mr. Umesh Kumar Shukla, Adv.
Mr. Shishupal Singh, Adv.

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mr. S.V. Raju, ASG
Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Annam Venkatesh, Adv.
Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.
Ms. Srishti Mishra, Adv.
Dr. N. Visakamurthy, AOR
Mr. A.K. Sharma, AOR

in Item 25

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mrs. Shubhra Parashar, Adv.
Mr. V.P.S. Charak, Adv.
Ms. Ritu Reniwal, Adv.
Mr. Mahendra Kumawat, Adv.

in Item 41

Mr. Suroor Mander, Adv.
Ms. Raghavi, Adv.
Ms. Aastha, Adv.
Ms. Tahini Bhushan, Adv.
Mr. Yashwant Singh, AOR

in Item 46

Mr. Shrey Ravi Dambhare- 3635, AOR

Mr. Pavan Narang, Sr. Adv.
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Mr. Prateek Tanwar, Adv.
Mr. Amit Acharya, Adv.
Mr. Sparsh Jain, Adv.

Ms. Ruchita Srivastava, Adv.
Mr. Mohit Joshi, Adv.
Mr. Saurav Kuamr, Adv.
Mr. Ajit Pathak, Adv.
Ms. Sheetal, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Piyush Beriwal, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

W.P.(Civil) No.1333/2026 & connected matters (Item 22), W.P.(Civil) No. 1354/2026 (Item 23), Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 1364/2026 (Item 26), Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 1363/2026 (Item 28), W.P.(Civil) No.1348/2026 (Item 29), Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 1357/2026 (Item 31), Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 1366/2026 (Item 32) W.P.(Criminal) No. 434/2026 (Item 33), W.P.(Criminal) No. 437/2026 (Item 34), W.P.(Criminal) No. 417/2026 (Item 35), Diary No.63921/2026 (Item 36), Diary No.63943/2026 (Item 37), Diary No.63948/2026 (Item 38), Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 1336/2026 (Item 39), W.P.(Civil) No.1338/2026 (Item 42), W.P.(Civil) No.1365/2026 (Item 43), W.P.(Civil) No.1359/2026 (Item 44) and W.P.(Criminal) No.436/2026 (Item 46)

1. Issue notice in all the fresh matters.
2. Dasti, in addition, is permitted.
3. Dr. N. Visakamurthy, learned AOR accepted notice on behalf of the Union of India.
4. Ms. Aarthi Rajan, learned counsel (+919810069078), is appointed as Nodal Counsel on behalf of the petitioners, and Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, learned counsel (+919919439598), is appointed as Nodal Counsel on behalf of the respondents. The Nodal Counsel shall segregate the cases into broad categories on or before 28.10.2026, so that a separate and comprehensive counter affidavit may be filed in respect of each group before the next date of hearing.
5. Meanwhile, as agreed to among the parties, all the Law Enforcement Agencies are directed to preserve the CCTV footage or any other digital evidence/material collected by them. Similarly,

such material, if collected by the private parties, they shall be at liberty to file the same before this Court.

6. The Union of India is also directed to place on record the order/orders promulgated under Section 163 of the BNSS in New Delhi, apart from the order dated 23.08.2026.

7. List on 03.11.2026.

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1353/2026 (Item 24), Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1351/2026 (Item 25), Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1356/2026 (Item 45)

1. Issue notice in returnable on 27.10.2026.

2. Dasti, in addition, is permitted.

3. Tag with W.P. (Civil) No. 1246/2026.

4. In W.P. (C) No. 1351/2026 (Item 25), the petition on behalf of Petitioner No. 6 is entertained on a provisional basis, subject to his explaining his conduct.

5. Dr. N. Visakamurthy, learned AOR accepted notice on behalf of the Union of India.

6. Reply, if any, be filed by the next date of hearing.

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1361/2026 (Item 27)

1. Issue notice, returnable on 05.11.2026.

2. Dasti, in addition, is permitted.

3. Dr. N. Visakamurthy, learned AOR accepted notice on behalf of the Union of India.

4. Reply, if any, be filed within two weeks.

5. Ms. Indira Jaising, learned senior counsel for the petitioner,

agrees that during the course of the day, she will hand over the material collected by the Petitioner-Association in a sealed envelope for the purpose of consideration of this Court, besides the names of former Judges/former Police Officers or other social activists. The same will be duly considered by us at an appropriate stage.

6. Meanwhile, no coercive action shall be taken against the woman journalist, whose complaint with respect to the alleged molestation is pending consideration.

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1360/2026 (Item 30)

1. Issue notice, returnable on 03.11.2026.
2. Dasti, in addition, is permitted.
3. Dr. N. Visakamurthy, learned AOR accepted notice on behalf of the Union of India.
4. Reply, if any, be filed within two weeks.

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1335/2026 (Item 40)

1. Oral submissions were made with regard to the vires of Section 163 BNSS. However, as the *pari materia* provision of Section 144 CrPC has been upheld in *Babulal Parate v. State of Maharashtra*, (1961) 3 SCR 423, we are not inclined to entertain the same.
2. Accordingly, issue notice, returnable on 19.11.2026, only on the limited issue pertaining to the constitutionality of Section 172 BNSS.
3. Dasti, in addition, is permitted.
4. Dr. N. Visakamurthy, learned AOR accepted notice on behalf of the Union of India.
5. Reply, if any, be filed within two weeks.

W.P. (Criminal) No. 429/2026 (Item 22.2) and W.P.(Criminal)
No.427/2026 (Item 41)

1. These petitions challenging the vires of the order(s) issued under Section 163 of the BNSS are adjourned to 19.11.2026.

At the time of this order being uploaded, we were informed that Dr. Visakamurthy, learned Advocate-on-Record, who had accepted notice in these matters on behalf of the Union of India, has unfortunately passed away following a cardiac arrest. We take this opportunity to express our deepest condolences.

Accordingly, liberty is granted to the Union of India to name another Advocate-on-Record in this regard.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR

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 S

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1333/2026

M A BABY

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 319275/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 319608/2026 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, IA No. 319612/2026 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, IA No. 319611/2026 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and IA No. 319609/2026 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION)

WITH

CONMT.PET.(C) No. 844/2026 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 317566/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT and IA No. 318427/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

W.P.(Crl.) No. 429/2026 (PIL-W)

W.P.(C) No. 1334/2026 (X)

W.P.(C) No. 1329/2026 (X)

Diary No(s). 64174/2026 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 322847/2026 - APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT/CONTEMNOR WITH AFFIDAVIT, IA No. 319521/2026 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION and IA No. 319523/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Diary No(s). 64371/2026 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 322033/2026 - APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT/CONTEMNOR WITH AFFIDAVIT and IA No. 320230/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT)

Diary No(s). 64328/2026 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 322043/2026 - APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT/CONTEMNOR WITH AFFIDAVIT and IA No. 320703/2026 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION)

with

Item No. 23

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1354/2026

(IA No. 321834/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 321835/2026 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON)

Item No. 24

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1353/2026

Item No. 25

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1351/2026

Item No. 26

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1364/2026

Item No. 27

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1361/2026

Item No. 28

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1363/2026

Item No. 29

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1348/2026

Item No. 30

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1360/2026

Item No. 31

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1357/2026

Item No. 32

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1366/2026

Item No. 33

Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s) . 434/2026

Item No. 34

Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s) . 437/2026

Item No. 35

Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s) . 417/2026

Item No. 36

CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) Diary No(s) . 63921/2026

Item No. 37

CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) Diary No(s) . 63943/2026

Item No. 38

CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) Diary No(s) . 63948/2026

Item No. 39

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1336/2026

Item No. 40

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s) . 1335/2026

Item No. 41

Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s). 427/2026

(IA No. 319134/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 319156/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT and IA No. 319331/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

Item No. 42

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1338/2026

Item No. 43

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1365/2026

Item No. 44

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1359/2026

Item No. 45

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1356/2026

Item No. 46

Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s). 436/2026

Date : 15-10-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

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

For Petitioner(s) : Ms. Indira Jaising, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Aarthi Rajan- 2547, AOR
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Ms. Abhilasha Shrawat, Adv.
Mr. Kartik Malhotra, Adv.
Mr. Aman Rawat, Adv.
Ms. Manasigauri Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Ananya Kukreti, Adv.
Ms. Deveshi Chand, Adv.
Ms. Anika Pande, Adv.
Mr. Paras Nath Singh, Adv.
Mr. Sadeeq Ur Rahman, Adv.

in Item 22 Mr. Devvrat, Adv.
Ms. Yugandhra Pawar Jha, Adv.
Mr. Aljo Joseph, Adv.
Ms. Khushbu Sahu, Adv.
Ms. Nivedita Nair, Adv.
Dr. Meenakshi Kalra, Adv.
Mr. Anas Tanwir- 2963, AOR

Dr. Maneka Guruswamy, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Chand Qureshi- 3063, AOR
Mr. Shailendra Mani Tripathi In Person, Adv.
Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Pradeep Kumar Yadav, Adv.
Ms. Pooja Shilpkar, Adv.

Mr. Priyendu Raghav Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Vishal Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Tayyab Khan Salmani, Adv.
Mr. Harish Lodhi, Adv.
Mr. Mujahid Ahmad, Adv.
Mr. Imran Siddiqui, Adv.
Mr. Gaurav Yadava, Adv.
Ms. Davinder Pal Kaur, Adv.
Mr. Shahzad Naqvi, Adv.
Mr. Anand S Jondhale, Adv.
Mr. Amarjeet Kumar Singh, Adv.
Mr. Aarif Ali, Adv.
Mr. Shahid Ali Siddique, Adv.
Mr. Shah Alam, Adv.

Mr. Kapil Sibal, Sr. Adv.
Mr. N Hariharan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. P.V. Dinesh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Subhash Chandran K.r- 3704, AOR
Mr. Anirudh K.p, Adv.
Ms. Aparajita Jamwal, Adv.
Mr. Sidharth Kaushik, Adv.
Ms. Sumedha Sarkar, Adv.
Mr. Nikhil Pahwa, Adv.
Mr. Kabir, Adv.
Ms. Punya Rekha Angara, Adv.
Mr. Aman Akhtar, Adv.
Mr. Amartya Kanjilal, Adv.
Ms. Vasundhara Raj Tyagi, Adv.
Mr. Apoorv Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Anna Oommen, Adv.
Mr. Fidal Tom, Adv.
Ms. Anushka Singh, Adv.
M/s Krs Associates, Adv.

Ms. Nitya Ramakrishnan, Sr. Adv.
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Ms. Akriti Chaubey- 2742, AOR
Mr. Shantanu Singh, Adv.
Mr. Ishit Patel,, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Krishna, Adv.
Mr. Darshan Sejwal,, Adv.
Mr. Abhay Nair, Adv.

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Ms. Mahima Chauhan, Adv.
Ms. Aastha Bhardwaj, Adv.
Ms. Raghavi Shukla, Adv.
Mr. Shourya Dasgupta, Adv.
Mr. Harshit Anand, Adv.

Mr. Nazrul Islam, Adv.
Mr. Dheeraj Kumar, Adv.

Ms. Arundhati Katju, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Ritika Meena, Adv.
Ms. Spriha Pachauri, Adv.
Ms. Abiha Zaidi- 3474, AOR
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Mr. Ronit Rampuriya, Adv.
Mr. Aryan Sarawgi, Adv.
Ms. Divyangi Gupta, Adv.

Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Chander Uday Singh, Sr. Adv.
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Mr. S. Santanam Swaminadhan, Adv.
Ms. Abhilasha Shrawat, Adv.
Mr. Kartik Malhotra, Adv.
Mr. Aman Rawat, Adv.
Ms. Manasigauri Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Ananya Kukreti, Adv.
Mr. Utkarsh Jaishwal, Adv.

Mr. Pradeep Kumar Rai, Sr. Adv.
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Mr. Reepak Kansal, Adv.
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Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Nachiketa Joshi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. P.H. Parekh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Pijush Kanti Roy, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ravi Shankar Jandhyala, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Varun Mudgal, Adv.
Ms. Divya Garg, Adv.
Mr. Umesh Babu Chaurasia, Adv.
Ms. Kumud Lata Das, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Vats, Adv.
Ms. Ruma Pathak, Adv.
Dr. Jasmin Kurian Giri, Adv.
Ms. Samta Pushkarna Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Gautam Kumar, Adv.

Ms. Pragya Baghel, Adv.
Ms. T. Geetha, Adv.

in Item 23

Petitioner-in-person

in Item 24

Mr. Vivek K. Tankha, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Chaitanya Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Varun Tankha, Adv.
Mr. Inder Dev Singh- 4351, AOR
Mr. Siddhartha, Adv.
Mr. Shantanu, Adv.
Ms. Anannya Jain, Adv.
Mr. Varun Chopra, Adv.

in Item 25

Mr. Kapil Sibal, Sr. Adv.
Dr. Abhishek Singhvi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. R.S. Cheema (vc), Sr. Adv.
Mr. Salman Khursheed, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Narender Hooda, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Prashanto Chandra Sen, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Prasanna S.- 2919, AOR
Ms. Tarannum Cheema, Adv.
Mr. Kanishka Singh, Adv.
Mr. Muhammad Khan, Adv.
Ms. Aparajita Jamwal, Adv.
Mr. Sumedha Sarkar, Adv.
Mr. Rishabh Parikh, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Kaushik, Adv.
Mr. Nikhil Pahwa, Adv.
Mr. Kabir Singh, Adv.
Mr. Amit Bhandari, Adv.
Mr. Uday Bhatia, Adv.
Ms. Injila Muslim Zaidi, Adv.
Mr. Maamidi Ashish Reddy, Adv.
Mr. Prasanna B, Adv.
Ms. Ishita Tulsyan, Adv.
Mr. Omar Hoda, Adv.
Mr. Namrah Nasir, Adv.
Ms. Eesha Bakshi, Adv.
Ms. Ayesha Khan, Adv.
Mr. Aviral Jain, Adv.
Mr. Surya Kiran, Adv.
Mr. Abhinav Chakravarty, Adv.
Mr. Prajjwal Singh, Adv.
Mr. Nikhil Bhalla, Adv.
Mr. Sumit Kumar Siddharth, Adv.
Mr. Anuroop Chakravarti, Adv.
Mr. Nida Khan Salim, Adv.
Mr. Shivendra Dwivedi, Adv.
Mr. Aryan Shankar, Adv.
Mr. Kamran Khan, Adv.
Ms. Namrah Nasir, Adv.

in Item 26

Mr. Chander Uday Singh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Avi Singh, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Aarthi Rajan- 2547, AOR
Mr. S. Santanam Swaminadhan, Adv.
Ms. Abhilasha Shrawat, Adv.
Mr. Kartik Malhotra, Adv.

Mr. Aman Rawat, Adv.
Ms. Manasigauri Agrawal, Adv.
Ms. Ananya Kukreti, Adv.
Mr. Utkarsh Jaishwal, Adv.

in Item 27

Ms. Indira Jaising, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Aarthi Rajan- 2547, AOR
Mr. S. Santanam Swaminadhan, Adv.
Ms. Abhilasha Shrawat, Adv.
Mr. Kartik Malhotra, Adv.
Mr. Aman Rawat, Adv.
Ms. Manasigauri Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Ananya Kukreti, Adv.
Ms. Deveshi Chand, Adv.
Ms. Anika Pande, Adv.
Mr. Paras Nath Singh, Adv.
Mr. Sadeeq Ur Rahman, Adv.

in Item 28

Mr. Gopal Jha- 2306, AOR
Mr. Gautham Bhaskar, Adv.
Ms. Jyoti Tiwari, Adv.
Mr. Kumar Ranjan, Adv.
Mr. Sawan Datta, Adv.
Mr. Ashutosh Jha, Adv.

in Item 29

Mr. C U Singh, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Pyoli- 2257, AOR
Mr. Animesh Rajoriya, Adv.
Mr. Harshit Manwani, Adv.
Mr. Vaibhav Rajsingh Rathore, Adv.
Mr. Nikhil Singh, Adv.
Ms. Anushka Singh, Adv.
Ms. Anushka Rathore, Adv.

in Item 30

Mr. Gaurav Bhatia, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Pawanshree Agarwal, Adv.
Mr. Utkarsh Jaiswal- 3696, AOR
Mr. Neelmani Guha, Adv.
Mr. Aaryan Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Aditi Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Shubh Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Vikas Tiwari, Adv.
Mr. Prasanjay J Sahani, Adv.
Ms. Kiran Pandey, Adv.

in Item 31

Ms. Mukta Gupta, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Nandita Rao, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Lakshay Saini, Adv.
Mr. Tushar Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Hemant Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Akanksha Mehra- 2944, AOR
Mr. Amish Kumar, Adv.
Mr. B. Vittal, Adv.

Mr. Lakhvinder Singh, Adv.
Ms. Kavya Arora, Adv.
Mr. Nirbhay Saxena, Adv.
Mr. Manuj Gautam, Adv.
Mr. Ujjwal Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Vipin Singh Bansal, Adv.
Mr. Mohit Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Saroj, Adv.
Ms. Swaty Singh (in Person), Adv.

in Item 32

Mr. C U Singh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. P V Dinesh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Shashank Singh- 3052, AOR
Ms. Anne Mathew, Adv.
Mr. Adil Sharfuddin, Adv.
Ms. Prapti Shrivastava, Adv.
Ms. Sweety Gautam, Adv.
Mr. Deepanshu Jha, Adv.
Mr. Varun Singh, Adv.

in item 33

Ms. Arundhati Katju, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Subhash Chandran K.r- 3704, AOR
Mr. Anirudh K.p, Adv.
Ms. Ritika Meena, Adv.
Ms. Spriha Panchauri, Adv.
Ms. Nehmat Sethi, Adv.
Mr. Chirag Basu, Adv.
Mr. Fidel Tom, Adv.
Ms. Anna Oommen, Adv.
Ms. Anushka Singh, Adv.
M/s Krs Associates, Adv.

in item 34

Ms. Meenakshi Arora, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Stephin George, Adv.
Mr. Vivek Ram Bhat, Adv.
Mr. Savyasachi Narayanan, Adv.
Mr. Nanakey Kalra, Adv.
Mr. Rishabh Choraria- 4250, AOR
Mr. Swastik Sant, Adv.
Ms. Harshita Singhal, Adv.

in Item 34

Mr. Narendra Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Aakanksha Tiwari, Adv.
Ms. Preeti Chauhan, Adv.
Mrs. Priyanka Dwivedi, Adv.
Mr. Tilak Raj Pasi, Adv.
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Ms. Preeti Sirohi, Adv.

Mr. Parimal Kumar Sarkar, Adv.
Mr. Daleep Singh, Adv.
Ms. Nazish Fatima, Adv.
Mrs. Monika, Adv.
Mr. Shiv Sagar Tiwari- 1165, AOR

in Item 36

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in Item 37

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in Item 38

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Mr. Naman Sherstra, Adv.
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Mr. Prakash Sharma, Adv.
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Mr. Anuj Saxena, AOR

in Item 39

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Ms. Sneha Bhargava, Adv.
Mr. Devesh Khandelwal, Adv.
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Mr. Manu Padalia, Adv.
Ms. Manisha Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Satatya Anand, Adv.
Mr. Amber Chaturvedi, Adv.
Ms. Shubhi Shukla, Adv.

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in Item 42

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in item 43

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in Item 44

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in Item 45

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in Item 46

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Mr. A.K. Sharma, AOR

in Item 25

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Ms. Ritu Reniwal, Adv.
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in Item 41

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Ms. Aastha, Adv.
Ms. Tahini Bhushan, Adv.
Mr. Yashwant Singh, AOR

in Item 46

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Mr. Piyush Beriwal, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

W.P.(Civil) No.1333/2026 & connected matters (Item 22), W.P.(Civil) No. 1354/2026 (Item 23), W.P.(Civil) No.1348/2026 Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1364/2026 (Item 26), Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1363/2026 (Item 28), (Item 29), Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1357/2026 (Item 31), Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1366/2026 (Item 32) W.P.(Criminal) No. 434/2026 (Item 33), W.P.(Criminal) No. 437/2026 (Item 34), W.P.(Criminal) No. 417/2026 (Item 35), Diary No.63921/2026 (Item 36), Diary No.63943/2026 (Item 37), Diary No.63948/2026 (Item 38), Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1336/2026 (Item 39), W.P.(Civil) No.1338/2026 (Item 42), W.P.(Civil) No.1365/2026 (Item 43), W.P.(Civil) No.1359/2026 (Item 44) and W.P.(Criminal) No.436/2026 (Item 46)

1. Issue notice in all the fresh matters.
2. Dasti, in addition, is permitted.
3. Dr. N. Visakamurthy, learned AOR accepted notice on behalf of the Union of India.
4. Ms. Aarthi Rajan, learned counsel (+919810069078), is appointed as Nodal Counsel on behalf of the petitioners, and Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, learned counsel (+919919439598), is appointed as Nodal Counsel on behalf of the respondents. The Nodal Counsel shall segregate the cases into broad categories on or before 28.10.2026, so that a separate and comprehensive counter affidavit may be filed in respect of each group before the next date of hearing.
5. Meanwhile, as agreed to among the parties, all the Law Enforcement Agencies are directed to preserve the CCTV footage or any other digital evidence/material collected by them. Similarly,

such material, if collected by the private parties, they shall be at liberty to file the same before this Court.

6. The Union of India is also directed to place on record the order/orders promulgated under Section 163 of the BNSS in New Delhi, apart from the order dated 23.08.2026.

7. List on 03.11.2026.

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1353/2026 (Item 24), Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1351/2026 (Item 25), Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1356/2026 (Item 45)

1. Issue notice in returnable on 27.10.2026.

2. Dasti, in addition, is permitted.

3. Tag with W.P. (Civil) No. 1246/2026.

4. In W.P. (C) No. 1351/2026 (Item 25), the petition on behalf of Petitioner No. 6 is entertained on a provisional basis, subject to his explaining his conduct.

5. Dr. N. Visakamurthy, learned AOR accepted notice on behalf of the Union of India.

6. Reply, if any, be filed by the next date of hearing.

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1361/2026 (Item 27)

1. Issue notice, returnable on 05.11.2026.

2. Dasti, in addition, is permitted.

3. Dr. N. Visakamurthy, learned AOR accepted notice on behalf of the Union of India.

4. Reply, if any, be filed within two weeks.

5. Ms. Indira Jaising, learned senior counsel for the petitioner,

agrees that during the course of the day, she will hand over the material collected by the Petitioner-Association in a sealed envelope for the purpose of consideration of this Court, besides the names of former Judges/former Police Officers or other social activists. The same will be duly considered by us at an appropriate stage.

6. Meanwhile, no coercive action shall be taken against the woman journalist, whose complaint with respect to the alleged molestation is pending consideration.

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1360/2026 (Item 30)

1. Issue notice, returnable on 03.11.2026.
2. Dasti, in addition, is permitted.
3. Dr. N. Visakamurthy, learned AOR accepted notice on behalf of the Union of India.
4. Reply, if any, be filed within two weeks.

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1335/2026 (Item 40)

1. Oral submissions were made with regard to the vires of Section 163 BNSS. However, as the *pari materia* provision of Section 144 CrPC has been upheld in *Babulal Parate v. State of Maharashtra*, (1961) 3 SCR 423, we are not inclined to entertain the same.
2. Accordingly, issue notice, returnable on 19.11.2026, only on the limited issue pertaining to the constitutionality of Section 172 BNSS.
3. Dasti, in addition, is permitted.
4. Dr. N. Visakamurthy, learned AOR accepted notice on behalf of the Union of India.
5. Reply, if any, be filed within two weeks.

W.P. (Criminal) No. 429/2026 (Item 22.2) and W.P.(Criminal)
No.427/2026 (Item 41)

1. These petitions challenging the vires of the order(s) issued under Section 163 of the BNSS are adjourned to 19.11.2026.

At the time of this order being uploaded, we were informed that Dr. Visakamurthy, learned Advocate-on-Record, who had accepted notice in these matters on behalf of the Union of India, has unfortunately passed away following a cardiac arrest. We take this opportunity to express our deepest condolences.

Accordingly, liberty is granted to the Union of India to name another Advocate-on-Record in this regard.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR