

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) (Criminal) No(s). 280/2026

SHAILENDRA MANI TRIPATHI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

[ONLY IA NOS. 262385/2026, 263264/2026, 263265/2026, 263271/2026, 263272/2026, 263290/2026, 263292/2026, 263294/2026 AND 263312/2026 IN W.P.(C) No. 917/2026 ARE LISTED UNDER THIS ITEM]

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 917/2026 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 263292/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 263272/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 263265/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 262385/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 263312/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 263294/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 263290/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 263271/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT and IA No. 263264/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

Date : 01-09-2026 These petitions were called on for hearing today.

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

For Petitioner(s) :Ms. Vrinda Grover, Adv.
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Ms. Sushmita Pandey, Adv.

Ms. Shabnam, Adv.
Mr. Firoz Khan, Advm

Mr. Manish Kumar, AOR

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Mr. Manish Kumar, AOR

Mr. Divyansh Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Kumar Saurav, Adv.

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Mr. Kartikeya Rastogi, DAG
Ms. Inderdeep Kaur Raina, Adv.

Upon hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

IA Nos. 263264/2026, 263271/2026, 263290/2026 and 263294/2026

1. Applications for impleadment are allowed. The applicants are impleaded as party respondents in W.P.(Civil) No.917/2026.

IA Nos. 262385/2026, 263265/2026, 263272/2026, 263292/2026 and 263312/2026 in W.P.(C) No. 917/2026

2. These applications have been moved by: (i) the Delhi Police, (ii) the State of Bihar, (iii) the State of West Bengal, (iv) the State of Assam, and (v) the State of Maharashtra, *inter-alia*, seeking to invoke the powers of this Court under Article 142 of the Constitution of India and quash the FIRs registered in the period between 20.07.2026 - 25.07.2026 during the students' protest initiated in the backdrop of the irregularities in the NEET-UG examination, 2026. The full description of such FIRs is given in paragraph 2 of the respective applications. Notably, in paragraph 4 of the application moved by the Delhi Police, further permission has been sought to register one fresh FIR with respect to 2873 individuals, who are said to have serious criminal antecedents as per the National Crime Records Bureau database.

3. For the sake of convenience, the details of FIRs proposed to be quashed are reproduced hereunder:

DELHI POLICE

S. No.	FIR No.	Date	Police station
1.	93/26	21.07.26	Barakhamba road
2.	74/26	21.07.26	Kartavya Path
3.	67/26	21.07.26	P. Street
4.	68/26	21.07.26	Parliament Street
5.	120/26	21.07.26	Mandir Marg
6.	207/26	21.07.26	Connaught Place
7.	208/26	21.07.26	Connaught Place
8.	209/26	21.07.26	Connaught Place
9.	210/26	22.07.26	Connaught Place
10.	69/26	22.07.26	Pt.Street
11.	70/26	22.07.26	Pt.Street
12.	211/26	25.07.26	Connaught Place
13.	76/26	26.07.26	Pt.Street

BIHAR

S. No.	FIR No.	Date	Police station
1.	475/2026	25/07/2026	Aurangabad Town
2.	332/2026	23/07/2026	Begusarai Town
3.	333/2026	23/07/2026	Begusarai Town
4.	172/2026	25/07/2026	Tilka Manjhi
5.	428/2026	23/07/2026	Laheriasarai
6.	402/2026	20/07/2026	Civil Lines
7.	719/2026	25/07/2026	Gopalganj Town
8.	721/2026	26/07/2026	Gopalganj Town
9.	720/2026	26/07/2026	Gopalganj Town
10.	347/2026	24/07/2026	Jamui
11.	735/2026	24/07/2026	Jehanabad
12.	834/2026	23/07/2026	Katihar Town

13.	833/2026	23/07/2026	Katihar Town
14.	460/2026	25/07/2026	Bahadurgunj
15.	142/2026	27/07/2026	Kotwali
16.	404/2026	24/07/2026	Muzaffarpur Town
17.	429/2026	23/07/2026	Bihar Sharif
18.	389/2026	22/07/2026	Gandhi Maidan
19.	732/2026	21/07/2026	Jehanabad
20.	391/2026	22/07/2026	Gandhi Maidan
21.	392/2026	22/07/2026	Gandhi Maidan
22.	394/2026	23/07/2026	Gandhi Maidan
23.	401/2026	25/07/2026	Gandhi Maidan
24.	402/2026	25/07/2026	Gandhi Maidan
25.	403/2026	25/07/2026	Gandhi Maidan
26.	404/2026	25/07/2026	Gandhi Maidan

27.	530/2026	22/07/2026	Kotwali
28.	531/2026	22/07/2026	Kotwali
29.	532/2026	22/07/2026	Kotwali
30.	533/2026	22/07/2026	Kotwali
31.	534/2026	22/07/2026	Kotwali
32.	535/2026	22/07/2026	Kotwali
33.	536/2026	22/07/2026	Kotwali
34.	537/2026	22/07/2026	Kotwali
35.	538/2026	22/07/2026	Kotwali
36.	539/2026	23/07/2026	Kotwali
37.	540/2026	23/07/2026	Kotwali
38.	541/2026	23/07/2026	Kotwali
39.	542/2026	23/07/2026	Kotwali
40.	545/2026	25/07/2026	Kotwali

41.	632/2026	22/07/2026	Shastri Nagar
42.	156/2026	22/07/2026	Sachiwalay
43.	157/2026	22/07/2026	Sachiwalay
44.	158/2026	22/07/2026	Sachiwalay
45.	159/2026	23/07/2026	Sachiwalay
46.	400/2026	25/07/2026	Gandhi Maidan
47.	528/2026	22/07/2026	Kotwali
48.	529/2026	22/07/2026	Kotwali
49.	332/2026	25/07/2026	Kehat
50.	881/2026	25/07/2026	Sadar
51.	882/2026	25/07/2026	Sadar
52.	634/2026	25/07/2026	Nagar Town
53.	635/2026	25/07/2026	Nagar Town
54.	637/2026	25/07/2026	Nagar Town

55.	638/2026	25/07/2026	Nagar Town
56.	639/2026	25/07/2026	Nagar Town
57.	602/2026	25/07/2026	Bhagwan Bazar
58.	377/2026	25/07/2026	Dumra
59.	379/2026	26/07/2026	Dumra
60.	162/2026	26/07/2026	Punora
61.	163/2026	27/07/2026	Punora
62.	717/2026	25/07/2026	Siwan Town
63.	718/2026	25/07/2026	Siwan Town
64.	719/2026	25/07/2026	Siwan Town
65.	721/2026	25/07/2026	Siwan Town
66.	722/2026	26/07/2026	Siwan Town
67.	723/2026	26/07/2026	Siwan Town
68.	357/2026	24/07/2026	Lalganj

69.	420/2026	25/07/2026	Bettiah
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WEST BENGAL

S. No.	FIR No.	Date	Police station
1	234/2026	25/07/2026	Entally
2	151/2026	24/07/2026	Hare Street
3	152/2026	24/07/2026	Hare Street
4	153/2026	25/07/2026	Hare Street
5	154/2026	25/07/2026	Hare Street
6	155/2026	25/07/2026	Hare Street
7	156/2026	25/07/2026	Hare Street
8	157/2026	25/07/2026	Hare Street

ASSAM

S. No.	FIR No.	Date	Police station
14.	149/2026	23/07/2026	Laluk

15.	551/2026	23/07/2026	Nagaon
16.	537/2026	23/07/2026	Dispur
17.	541/2026	24/07/2026	Dispur
18.	71/2026	22/07/2026	Pathsala

MAHARASHTRA

S. No.	FIR No.	Date	Police station
1.	258/2026	09/07/2026	Ganesh Peth
2.	348/2026	22/07/2026	Sadar
3.	349/2026	22/07/2026	Sadar
4.	350/2026	22/07/2026	Sadar
5.	280/2026	22/07/2026	Ganesh Peth
6.	470/2026	25/07/2026	Sitabuldi
7.	347/2026	23/07/2026	Wadi
8.	467/2026	24/07/2026	Sitabuldi
9.	472/2026	25/07/2026	Sitabuldi

10.	473/2026	25/07/2026	Sitabuldi
11.	212/2026	18/07/2026	Azad Maidan
12.	372/2026	20/07/2026	Shivaji Park
13.	373/2026	20/07/2026	Shivaji Park
14.	374/2026	20/07/2026	Shivaji Park
15.	392/2026	25/07/2026	Shivaji Park
16.	396/2026	26/07/2026	Shivaji Park
17.	377/2026	20/07/2026	Shivaji Park
18.	378/2026	21/07/2026	Shivaji Park
19.	379/2026	21/07/2026	Shivaji Park
20.	380/2026	21/07/2026	Shivaji Park
21.	381/2026	21/07/2026	Shivaji Park
22.	382/2026	21/07/2026	Shivaji Park
23.	385/2026	21/07/2026	Shivaji Park
24.	386/2026	22/07/2026	Shivaji Park
25.	389/2026	24/07/2026	Shivaji Park
26.	950/2026	23/07/2026	Chembur

27.	387/2026	22/07/2026	Shivaji Park
28.	463/2026	23/07/2026	Jalgaon
29.	678/2026	22/07/2026	Buldhana
30.	679/2026	22/07/2026	Buldhana
31.	208/2026	20/07/2026	Deccan
32.	212/2026	22/07/2026	Deccan
33.	115/2026	23/07/2026	Ambi
34.	612/2026	23/07/2026	Ramtek

4. It is a matter of record that protests were held between 20.07.2026 and 25.07.2026 in Delhi and in different areas of the applicant-States as well as other parts of the country in which thousands of young students participated. As a sequel to these protests, 13 FIRs, details whereof have been reproduced above, came to be filed by the Delhi Police in different police stations. Similarly, several FIRs, as reproduced above, were also filed in different police stations across the applicant-States.

5. As a gesture of goodwill and to ensure that the subject FIRs do not cause any prejudice to the young students who participated in the peaceful protests, and also as an acknowledgement of the fact that mere participation in the protests is not taken as an offence under the penal laws, the Central Government and the

applicant-States have taken a conscious decision not to pursue the above-enumerated FIRs registered against the protesters.

6. A further commitment has been made that if any other FIR is found to have been registered with regard to the same incident(s), as mentioned in the subject FIRs, the Delhi Police or the applicant-States shall not oppose the affected party seeking similar relief from this Court, namely, the quashing of such FIRs. Learned Solicitor General, on instructions, has further submitted that no fresh FIR *qua* the incidents of protests between 20/07/2026 and 25/07/2026 shall be registered in Delhi or in any other part of the country.

7. As already noted, the Delhi Police has, in its application, carved out an exception with respect to 2873 individuals allegedly having serious criminal antecedents as per the National Crime Records Bureau database and who were *prima facie* reported to be present at the protest site. It is averred that an investigation is required to ascertain the commission of offences relating to (i) bodily harm or (ii) destruction of public property. Accordingly, the Delhi Police has sought leave of this Court to register a fresh FIR only against these 2873 individuals and that too, in conformity with the observations made by this Court in its order dated 03/08/2026, wherein it was clarified that no protection could be afforded to persons having criminal antecedents of 'grave and heinous offences'.

8. It is in this backdrop that the applicants, namely, the Delhi Police and the four States, have sought the invocation of the powers of this Court under Article 142 of the Constitution to quash

the subject FIRs, as per the details given in paragraph 3, reproduced above.

9. During the course of hearing, the learned Solicitor General of India has fairly stated that there may be more FIRs in the States and Union Territories other than the applicant-States pertaining to the same incidents of protests. He has submitted that it may be advisable to put an end to those FIRs too. He has accordingly sought appropriate directions from this Court for the closure of those FIRs as well.

10. As regards the grant of compensation to the families of the victim students, who committed suicide in connection with the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) UG examination, 2026, learned Solicitor General of India states that the students who committed suicide would be situated in different parts of the Country. Accordingly, there has to be a pan-India policy, acceptable to the respective State Governments, for payment of compensation to the families of such unfortunate students who committed suicide in connection with NEET-UG examination, 2026. He further states that the Central Government shall formulate a policy/arrangement in consultation with the State Governments for payment of compensation to the families of the students who committed suicide in connection with NEET-UG examination, 2026 within 90 days and shall arrange to make the payment thereafter.

11. Meanwhile, Mr. Saurav Das, Co-convenor of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), who is also present in Court, has made the following statement:

"As Co-convenor of the Cockroach Janta Party, I want to state that in view of the positive assurances of the Government of India and the judicial sanctity bestowed upon them today, and in view of the Order being passed by this Hon'ble Court, the CJP deems it appropriate to withdraw the call for the march on 5th September and looks forward to the compliance of today's order.

I also thank the Court for this decision and the learned counsels on both sides, Ms. Vrinda Grover and the Solicitor General for their efforts."

12. We have heard learned Solicitor General of India as well as learned senior counsel/counsel for the parties and taken note of the statement made by the Co-convenor of the CJP. In light of the commitment made before us by all stakeholders involved, including the Union of India, some of the State Governments and the Co-convenor of the CJP, and most importantly, keeping in view the future prospects of the young protesters, who bonafidely came to participate in a peaceful protest to raise their voice in favour of certain demands, we find it a fit case to invoke our powers under Article 142 of the Constitution in order to do complete justice between the parties.

13. Consequently, these applications are allowed in terms of the following directions:

(i) All the FIRs, the description whereof is reproduced in paragraph 3 above, are hereby quashed along with any proceedings arising therefrom.

(ii) If there is any other FIR registered with respect to the same incidents of protests between 20.07.2026 and 25.07.2026 in any of the States/Union Territories, including non-applicant States/Union

Territories, which has not been formally brought to our notice, the same shall not be pursued or investigated, and such FIRs shall be taken to have been closed for all intents and purposes.

(iii) No State/Union Territory shall register any fresh FIR in relation to the incident of protests between 20.07.2026 and 25.07.2026, save and except as permitted hereinbelow.

(iv) The Central Government/Delhi Police shall be at liberty to register a fresh FIR with respect to the 2873 individuals as described in paragraph 4 of its application. Needless to say that such FIR shall be registered without prejudice to the rights of the affected parties to take lawful recourse in accordance with law.

(v) The Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories, is directed to formulate the policy/make arrangement on a pan-India basis for payment of compensation to the families of the students who unfortunately committed suicide in connection with the NEET-UG examination, 2026 within 90 days and shall arrange to make the payment without any delay. Such a policy or arrangement may then also be adopted by all the State Governments and the Union Territories as a regular mechanism of compensatory measures.

14. In light of the aforesaid directions, we direct that both sides shall honour the statements and commitments made before this Court. We make it clear that invocation of the extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution is subject to the condition that both sides shall abide by the terms/understanding of mutual settlement.

15. Since these directions are being issued in the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case, the same shall not be taken as a binding precedent.

16. Before parting, we place on record our appreciation for the Union of India, the applicant-States, the counsel appearing for the Petitioner(s), and the leaders of the CJP for their constructive and cooperative approach, which has ensured that the best interests of the young students remain at the forefront and that their future is duly protected and secured.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR