

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). 1112/2025

SHAHEEN MALIK

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 320840/2025 - APPLICATION FOR TAKING ON RECORD, IA No. 25639/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 134891/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 76169/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 75612/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 66897/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 189257/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 138634/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 13309/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 135749/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 135304/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 148795/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION and IA No. 26427/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

Date : 31-08-2026 This matter was 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. Sija Nair, Adv.
Mr. Anuj Kapoor, AOR
Ms. Madijah Shahjar, Adv.
Ms. Huda Naaz, Adv.
Mr. Arnav Abhishek, Adv.
Mr. Saurabh Kirpal, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Rajat Choudhary, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mrs. Archana Pathak Dave, A.S.G.
Ms. Vanshaja Shukla, Adv.
Ms. Mili Baxi, Adv.
Mr. Anmol Chandan, Adv.
Mr. Aman Mehta, Adv.
Dr. N. Visakamurthy, AOR

Ms. Pallavi Langar, AOR
Mr. Sujeet Kumar Chaubey, Adv.
Ms. Anushka Raghunath, Adv.

Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR
Mr. Aryan Srivastava, Adv.

Mr. Krishna Rastogi, Adv.
Ms. Yachna Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Gunjan Rishi, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Soni, AOR
Mr. Rajat, Adv.

Mr. Binay Kumar, AOR
Mr. Utkarsh Kumar Singh, Adv.
Ms. Shreya Singh, Adv.

Mr. Kunal Chatterji, AOR
Ms. Maitrayee Banerjee, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Bansal, Adv.
Mr. Varij Nayan Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Mrigank Prabhakar, AOR
Ms. Sakshi Banga, Adv.
Ms. Yerradoddi Charvi Reddy, Adv.

Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.
Mr. Saurabh Rajpal, Adv.
Ms. Shalini Singh, Adv.
Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR

Ms. Nidhi Mittal, AOR

Ms. Vandana Sehgal, AOR
Mr. Mohit Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Anando Mukherjee, AOR
Mr. Shwetank Singh, Adv.

Mr. Prasanna S., AOR
Ms. Injila Muslim Zaidi, Adv.
Mr. Maamidi Ashish Reddy, Adv.
Mr. Prasanna B, Adv.
Ms. Ishita Tulsyan, Adv.

Mr. Gaurav Dhama, Adv.
Ms. Abha Sharma, AOR

Mr. Amit Sharma, AOR

Mr. Sharan Dev Singh Thakur, AAG
Ms. Ruchira Goel, AOR
Mr. Sharanya, Adv.
Ms. Krithi Ballal, Adv.
Mr. Satwik Misra, Adv.

Mr. Abhikalp Pratap Singh, AOR
Ms. Aagam Kaur, Adv.

Ms. Kashish Jain, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Garg, Adv.

Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.
Ms. Shalini Singh, Adv.
Mr. Saurabh Rajpal, AOR

Mr. Mukul Kumar, AOR

Mr. Shovan Mishra, AOR
Ms. Bipasa Tripathy, Adv.
Mr. Shlok Luthra, Adv.

Mr. Sabarish Subramanian, AOR
Mr. Karthik S.D., AOR
Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR

Ms. Manisha Ambwani, AOR

Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR
Mr. Suddhant Saroha, Adv.
Mr. Sidhant Awasthy, Adv.
Mr. Shravil Budkulia, Adv.
Mr. Kanishk Bhatt, Adv.

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

Ms. Radhika Gautam, AOR

Mr. B. Shravanth Shanker, AOR
Ms. Grahita Agarwal, Adv.
Mr. I.V. Sai Nikhil, Adv.
Ms. Prerna Robin, Adv.
Mr. Shivam Kunal, Adv.
Mr. B. Yeshwanth Raj, Adv.
Mr. Shreyas Jayasimha, Adv.

Mr. Mridul Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Anuradha Arputham, AOR

Mr. Sudarshan Singh Rawat, AOR
Ms. Anubha Dhulia, Adv.
Mr. Sunny Sachin Rawat, Adv.

Mr. Divyakant Lahoti, AOR
Mr. Kartik Lahoti, Adv.
Ms. Akanksha Soni, Adv.
Ms. Shubheksha Dwivedi, Adv.
Ms. Vindhya Mehra, Adv.
Ms. Praveena Bisht, Adv.

Mr. Siddharth Tripathi, Adv.
Ms. Shreya Gokel, Adv.

Mr. Manish Kumar, AOR
Mr. Divyansh Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Kumar Saurav, Adv.

Mr. Rajesh Gulab Inamdar, AOR
Mr. Shashwat Anand, Adv.
Mr. Bln Sanjit, Adv.
Ms. Rakshita Singh, Adv.
Ms. Sonal Priya, Adv.
Mr. Ritik Grover, Adv.

Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR
Mr. Karun Shamra, Adv.
Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv.
Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.

Mr. Prakash Ranjan Nayak, AOR
Mr. Aviral Saxena, AOR
Ms. Patil Rekha Chandra Gouda, AOR

Ms. K. V. Bharathi Upadhyaya, AOR
Ms. Pritama, Adv.
Ms. Shaivani Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Bipin Vinayak Chandan, Adv.
Mr. Sufyan Hasan, Adv.
Mr. Gousali K R, Adv.
Ms. Hema Malik, Adv.

Mr. Ahanthem Henry, Adv.
Mr. Ahanthem Rohen Singh, Adv.
Mr. Mohan Singh, Adv.
Mr. Aniket Rajput, Adv.
Ms. Khoisnam Nirmala Devi, Adv.
Mr. Yeshu Mehta, Adv.
Mr. Tanay Hegde, Adv.
Mr. Ravi Kumar Bodhani, Adv.
Mr. Kumar Mihir, AOR

Mr. Kunal Mimani, AOR

Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR

Mr. Sanjai Kumar Pathak, AOR
Mrs. Shashi Pathak, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Tripathi, Adv.

Mr. Lokesh Sinhal, Sr. A.A.G.

Mr. Samar Vijay Singh, AOR
Ms. Sabarni Som, Adv.
Mr. Aman Dev Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Nikunj Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Ankur, Adv.
Mr. Rajesh Pratap, Adv.
Ms. Koel Mukherjee, Adv.

Mr. Uddyam Mukherjee, AOR
Mr. Swapnil Pattanayak, Adv.
Ms. Kratika Kushwaha, Adv.

Mr. Ravi Raghunath, AOR
Mr. Namanjeet Singh Bhatia, Adv.

Mr. Kamlendra Mishra, AOR
Mr. Vinod Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Rajeev Kumar Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Ashiwan Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Aditi Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Parth Awasthi, Adv.
Mr. Pashupathi Nath Razdan, AOR

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
Mr. T.K. Nayak, Adv.
Mr. Vikas Bansal, Adv.
Mr. Z.H. Isaac Haiding, Adv.
Mr. Daniel Stone Lyngdoh, Adv.
Ms. Marbiang Khongwir, Adv.
Mr. Upendra Mishra, Adv.

Ms. Disha Singh , AOR
Ms. Eliza Barr, Adv.
Ms. Akansha, Adv.
Ms. Anjali Saxena, Adv.
Mr. Govind Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Singh Rajawat, Adv.

Mr. Ambhoj Kumar Sinha, AOR
Ms. Neeti Bhardwaj, Adv.

Mr. Aravindh S., AOR
Ms. Anika Bansal, Adv.

Mr. Avneesh Arputham, AOR
Mr. Ankit Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Nimish Gupta, Adv.

Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AOR
Ms. Neha Singh, Adv.

Mr. Pavan Kumar, AOR
Mrs. Neelam, Adv.
Mr. Nayeem Hasan Raza, Adv.
Mr. Akhlesh K Soni, Adv.
Mr. Sandeep Ratra, Adv.

Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, AOR
Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv.
Ms. Chubalemla Chang, Adv.
Mr. Prang Newmai, Adv.
Ms. Yanmi Phazang, Adv.

Ms. Deepanwita Priyanka, AOR
Mr. Satyalipsu Ray, Adv.

Mr. Vaibhav Srivastava, A.A.G.
Ms. Sugandha Anand, AOR

Mr. P. I. Jose, AOR

Mr. Vikrant Singh Bais, D.A.G.
Mr. Vinayak Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Yashvardhan Shah, Adv.
Mr. Ravinder Kumar Yadav, AOR

Mr. Sahil Bhalaik, AOR
Mr. Tushar Giri, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Anil Khanna, Adv.
Mr. Ritik Arora, Adv.
Mr. Shivam Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Mihir Joshi, Adv.

Mr. Sravan Kumar Karanam, AOR

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.
Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.
Mr. Mukesh K Verma, Adv.
Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.
Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Aman Mehta, Adv.
Mr. Yogesh Vats, Adv.
Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Ms. Anubha Agrawal, AOR

Mr. Rudraditya Khare, D.A.G.
Ms. Mrinal Gopal Elker, AOR
Mr. Srajan Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Prashant Shrikant Kenjale, AOR
Mr. B Dhananjay, Adv.

Mr. Sudhir Kumar Saxena, Sr. Adv. (A.C.)
Mr. Aviral Saxena, AOR
Mr. Abhinav Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Shashank Kumar Srivastava, Adv.
Mr. Kumar Aditya Singh, Adv.

Ms. Rupali Francesca Samuel, AOR
Mr. K. V. Vinaya, Adv.

Mr. Rajat, Adv.
Mohd. Shadique, Adv.
Mr. Khan Ahmad Darvesh, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Soni, Adv.

Ms. Anushka Deshmukh, Adv.
Mr. Dinesh Kumar Mudgal, Adv.
Mr. Anupam Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Hitesh Kumar Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Akhileshwar Jha, Adv.
Mr. Krishna Kumar Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Ravi Raghunath, AOR
Mr. Namanjeet Singh Bhatia, Adv.
Ms. Anoushka Naveen, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

IA No.135967/2026

1. This application has been filed by Dr. Navpreet Kaur - Co-founder of Laxmi Foundation to intervene and assist this Court in these proceedings.
2. Learned counsel for the applicant states that he may be permitted to withdraw this application as he has filed a separate I.A. (vide E-filing No.EA-SCIN01-19205-2026) seeking impleadment of another NGO - Navya Centre for Justice and Social Change, through its founder (Dr. Navpreet Kaur).
3. In view of the above submission, the application is dismissed as withdrawn.

Main Matter

4. While issuing notice, this Court had directed the Registrar General of all the High Courts to furnish the details of pending trials in the cases of acid attack victims in their respective jurisdictions. It was thereafter noted in our order dated 27.01.2026 that 17 High Courts had sent their responses, the details whereof were also mentioned in the said order.

5. While directing the High Courts to expedite the conclusion of trials in the acid attack cases, this Court also directed the State Governments and the concerned authorities to consider and formulate appropriate rehabilitation measures for victims of acid attacks. Consequently, the State Legal Services Authorities were directed to submit a report with respect to the rehabilitation schemes implemented by them for the grant of compensation, rehabilitation and medical aid to the victims of acid attack.

6. In addition, the States and Union Territories were directed to furnish information with respect to (i) the reported incidents of acid attacks in year-wise format; (ii) whether the charge-sheets in those cases were filed; and (iii) the number of cases still pending at the trial stage or at the appellate stage.

7. Another important direction issued was to furnish brief particulars of each of the victims of the acid attacks with reference to their academic qualifications, current employment status, marital status, and the medical treatment needed by them, including the expenditure incurred thereon by such victims.

8. On 09.03.2026, the reports received from various State

Governments and the High Courts were taken note of. Similarly, the reports sent by the State Legal Services Authorities regarding the victim compensation schemes and rehabilitation schemes were also briefly referred to, whereupon a show cause notice was issued to the State Governments and Union Territories as to why a scheme for rehabilitation through employment in Government or Government-controlled sectors for victims of acid attacks should not be directed to be formulated. The State Governments were further directed to consider a proposal to pay an honorarium equivalent to a subsistence allowance to victims of acid attacks.

9. Some of the States have filed compliance affidavits from time to time. We request learned counsel for both sides, along with the learned *Amicus Curiae*, to collate the information regarding the above issues from the compliance affidavits filed by the State Governments and the High Courts in a tabulated form, specifically pointing out as to whether the State Governments have introduced any rehabilitation scheme which, *inter-alia*, ensures social security for the victims of acid attacks. Such schemes may be widened to include free education at all levels, employment prospects, free treatment, honorarium during the period of unemployment, etc.

10. Since it is not discernible from the compliance affidavit(s) as to whether such schemes are in force, we direct all the State Governments and the Union Territories to specifically formulate a scheme in this regard and place the same on record within six weeks.

11. The Union of India may also consider the desirability of

circulating a model scheme, along with a provision of necessary assistance to the State Governments, to give effect to the above-proposed scheme.

12. The other challenge highlighted before this Court pertains to the retail sale of the acid in the market. We are informed that some guidelines were laid down in the year 2013, which have more or less become obsolete and are not being followed. That being so, we direct the Union of India to submit its response as to why a complete ban on the retail sale of acid should not be imposed, or in the alternative, why such sale should not be permitted in a very restricted manner. Let such response be filed within six weeks.

13. It is made clear that appropriate directions in this regard shall be issued by us on the next date of hearing.

14. The NGOs that have come forward to assist this Court may also submit their suggestions/recommendations, especially with respect to any additional material that ought to be introduced in the curriculum at the school and college levels for spreading awareness regarding preventative measures as well as the post-accident treatments which are required on an emergency basis. Let such suggestions also be placed on record within six weeks.

15. Post this matter for further consideration on 27.10.2026.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR