ITEM NOS.17 + 32 + 19 COURT NO.1 SECTION PIL-W

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). 7/2026

IN RE : VISION DOCUMENT FOR THE TAJ TRAPEZIUM ZONE

ONLY I. A. NOS. 15396/2026, 19589/2026 AND 15398/2026 (APPLICATIONS FOR IMPLEADMENT, SEEKING PERMISSION FOR FELLING/ CUTTING OF TREES AND EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)ALONGWITH CEC REPORT NO. 14 OF 2026, ONLY NAMES OF FOLLOWING ADVOCATES MAY BE TREATED TO HAVE BEEN SHOWN IN THE LIST: PETITIONER-IN-PERSON MS. LIZ MATHEW, SR. ADV. (A.C.) MR. SIDDHARTHA CHOWDHURY, ADV. (A.C.) MR. S GURU KRISHNA KUMAR, SR. ADV. (A.C.) MS. ANITHA SHENOY, SR. ADV. (A.C.) MS. AAKASHI LODHA, AOR MS. KESHVI ARYA, ADV. MR. AMRISH KUMAR, ADV. MR. M.K. MARORIA, ADV. MR. G.S. MAKKER, ADV. MR. VIJAY PANJWANI, ADV. MR. ANKIT GOEL, ADV. MR. KAMLENDRA MISHRA, ADV.(1) MR. ANUPAM KISHORE SINHA, ADV.

WITH

ITEM NO. 32
SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CIVIL) No(s). 8/2026
1) I.A. No. 99054/2024 AND 99055/2024 (APPLN FOR PERMISSION FOR FELLING OF TREES & O.T.) (2) I.A. No. 243178/2026 (APPLN FOR PERMISSION FOR FELLING OF TREES) (3) I.A. No. 292695/2026 (APPLN FOR PERMISSION FOR FELLING OF TREES) (4) I.A. Nos. 308372, 308373 AND 309440/2026 (APPLNS FOR IMPLEADMENT, ARGUE IN PERSON AND DIRECTIONS) (5) I.A. No. 344174/2026 (APPLN FOR PERMISSION TO FILE DIRECTIONS) (6) I.A. No. 351366 AND 352878/2026 (APPLNS FOR DIRECTIONS) (7) IA NOS. 237739/2024 (APPLICATION FOR IMPLEADMENT) AND 237765/2024 (APPLICATION FOR DIRECTIONS) FILED BY MR. AJIT SHARMA, ADVOCATE IN W.P.(C) No. 13381/1984 (D) (8) CEC REPORT NO. 4/2026 DATED 06.02.2026 ONLY NAMES OF THE FOLLOWING ADVOCATES MAY BE TREATED TO HAVE BEEN SHOWN IN THE LIST. PETITIONER-IN-PERSON MS. LIZ MATHEW, SR. ADV. (A.C.) MR. SIDDHARTHA CHOWDHURY, ADV. (A.C.) MR. S GURU KRISHNA KUMAR, SR. ADV. (A.C.) MS. ANITHA SHENOY, SR. ADV. (A.C.) MS. AAKASHI LODHA,AOR MS. KESHVI ARYA, ADV. MR. AMRISH KUMAR, ADV. MR. M.K. MARORIA, ADV. MR. G.S. MAKKER, ADV. MR. VIJAY PANJWANI, ADV. MR. ANKIT GOEL, ADV. MR. KAMLENDRA MISHRA, ADV. 1. MR. SHISHIR DEHSPANDE, ADV. 2. MR. AMRISH KUMAR, ADV. 3. MS. ARUNA GUPTA, ADV. 4. MR. NARENDRA KUMAR GOSWAMI, ADV. 5. MR. SHREEKANT NEELAPPA TERDAL, ADV. 6. MR. MAYANK AGGARWAL, ADV.

ITEM NO. 19
SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CIVIL) No(s). 9/2026

Signature Not Verified
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Date: 2026.11.26 16:35:28 IST
Reason:

Date : 19-11-2026 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) : By Courts Motion

For Respondent(s) : Mr. R. Venkatramani, Attorney General
Ms. Sakshi Kakkar, AOR
Mr. Shakti Singh, Adv.
Mr. Kartikey, Adv.

in Item 32 : Mr. Vivek Gupta- 1625, AOR
Mr. Ankit Verma, Adv.
Mr. Govind Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Kirtivardhan Singh, Adv.

Mr. Siddhartha Chowdhury- 1403, AOR

Mr. R. Venkataramani, Attorney General
Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mr. Kamlendra Mishra- 1367, AOR
Mr. Rajeev Kumar Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Ruchir Ranjan Rai, Adv.
Mr. Ashiwan Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Vaidruti Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Aditi Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Ajit Pudussery- 65, AOR
Mr. Ashutosh Bamezai, Adv.

Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Pinaki Misra, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Arjun Nanda- 3716, AOR
Mr. Sarthak Chaturvedi, Adv.
Ms. Sandali Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Vaibhav Maheshwari, Adv.
Ms. Pritee Singh, Adv.
Ms. Dimple Sirohi, Adv.
Ms. Geetanjali, Adv.

Mr. Mayank Aggarwal- 3576, AOR

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mr. Chitrangda Rashtaravara, Adv.
Mr. Albhaya Dhamija, Adv.
Ms. Poornima Singh, Adv.
Mr. Amrish Kumar- 2986, AOR
Dr. Arun Kumar Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Nishit Agrawal- 2631, AOR
Ms. Kanishka Mittal, Adv.

Ms. Deepti Rathi, Adv.

Mr. Sriram P.- 2550, AOR
Mr. Chetan Jadon, Adv.
Ms. Shivangi Rajawat, Adv.
Mr. Vansh Jadon, Adv.
Mr. Sriram Parakkat, Adv.
Ms. Komal Saini, Adv.

Mr. Sahil Tagotra, AOR
Ms. Shreya Kasera, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Pandey, Adv.

Ms. Sakshi Kakkar- 2481, AOR
Ms. Udita Singh- 2248, AOR
Ms. Udita Singh- 2248, AOR

Mr. Pankaj Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Rashmi Singh- 2132, AOR

Mr. Dr. Rajeev Sharma- 1941, AOR
Mr. Viresh Kumar Bhawra, Adv.
Mr. Rajneesh Tingal, Adv.
Mr. Prashant Sharma, Adv.

M/S. M. V. Kini & Associates- 1668, AOR
Ms. Aruna Gupta- 1640, AOR

Mr. Ajit Sharma, AOR
Mr. Aditya Vikram Singh, Adv.
Mr. Kanchan Kumar Singh, Adv.
Mr. Yuvrajsinh C. Solanki, Adv.
Mr. Anant Ram Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Lareb Habib A., Adv.
Ms. Shweta Jain, Adv.

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, ASG
Mr. Mayank Aggarwal, AOR
Mr. Pranav Sethi, Adv.
Mr. P.P. Rai, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Prajapati, Adv.

Ms. Aruna Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Ramesh Allanki, Adv.
Mr. Syed Ahmad Naqvi, Adv.
Ms. Mamatha Ralla, Adv.
Ms. Nandita Biswas, Adv.

Mr. R. Venkatramani, Attorney General
Ms. Sakshi Kakkar, AOR
Mr. Shakti Singh, Adv.
Mr. Kartikey, Adv.

Mr. Rachit Mittal, AOR
Mr. Parish Mishra, Adv.
Mr. BLN Sanjit, Adv.
Ms. Srishti Agrawaal, Adv.
Ms. Aayushi Kiran, Adv.
Mr. Shivansh Bansal, Adv.

in Item 19 **Mr. Pradeep Misra- 510, AOR**
Mr. Daleep Dhyani, Adv.
Ms. Disha Jham, Adv.
Mr. Anupam Misra, Adv.
Mr. Suraj Singh, Adv.
Ms. Jayanti Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Siddhartha Chowdhury- 1403, AOR
Ms. Rajkumari Banju- 2224, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

IA Nos.99054/2024 and 99055/2024

1. Pursuant to our order dated 03.09.2025 passed in these applications, a joint meeting of the TTZ Authority and CEC was convened. The TTZ Authority has consequently filed an affidavit dated 30.10.2026, stating, *inter alia*, that in the meeting held on 22.09.2026, attended by representatives of CEC and NEERI, permission was granted for the development of the IMC project in Villages Raipur and Rahankalan, Tehsil Etmadpur, District Agra, subject to thirteen conditions. These conditions have been reproduced in paragraph 5 of the Note submitted by the learned *Amicus Curiae*. During the course of the hearing, however, our attention was drawn to an email dated 06.11.2026 addressed to the TTZ Authority by Mr. A.K. Mohanty, Member, CEC, and Expert Member, TTZ Authority, expressing certain reservations regarding the decision purportedly taken in the aforesaid joint meeting. The reasons underlying these apprehensions have been duly incorporated

by the learned *Amicus Curiae* in paragraphs 9 to 12 of the report.

2. In these circumstances, we are of the view that a fresh joint meeting between the TTZ Authority and CEC is necessary to resolve the outstanding issues and arrive at a considered and coordinated decision. Let the meeting be held, and a joint report be submitted to this Court within three weeks.

3. Post on 17.12.2026.

IA Nos. 243178 of 2026 and 275202 of 2026

4. Let these applications be forwarded to the CEC for its consideration and appropriate recommendations.

IA Nos.292695/2026

5. Post on 05.01.2027.

IA No.344174/2026

6. The learned Additional Solicitor General of India, on instructions, informs us that the authorities concerned are willing to comply with the recommendations made by CEC in its Report No.63 of 2025. Learned *Amicus*, on instructions from the CEC, states that necessary permission for felling of trees may be accorded, subject to the condition that the authorities concerned shall give prior intimation to the Divisional Forest Officer, who shall ensure that felling of trees is undertaken under his direct supervision.

IA Nos.351366/2026 and 352878/2026

7. These applications have been filed by Powergrid Ghiror Transmission Limited (PGTL), seeking permission of this Court for

the installation of two Inter-State Transmission System lines meant to evacuate 3.5 GW of renewable energy from the the Rajasthan Renewable Energy Zone, Phase-IV. The CEC conducted site inspections on 30.07.2026 and again from 21-23.09.2026, with the Conservator of Forests, Agra and other officials of the forest department. Consequently, the CEC has submitted Report Nos. 30 and 31 of 2026, both dated 28.10.2026, recommending permission for: (i) felling of 83 trees and lopping/light pruning of 400 trees in connection with the 765 kV D/C Dausa–Ghiror transmission line; and (ii) felling of 187 trees and lopping/light pruning of 210 trees in connection with the 400 kV D/C Ghiror–Firozabad transmission line. The permission has been granted subject to the following conditions contained in paragraph 10 of CEC Report No. 30 of 2026 and paragraph 9 of CEC Report No. 31 of 2026:

> **"*30. Vide* Report No. 30 of 2026 dated 28.10.2026, CEC has recommended as follows in paragraph 10 of the Report:**
> **10. Considering the national importance of the proposed 765 kV D/C Dausa-Ghiror Transmission Line, an Inter-State Transmission System project intended to facilitate the evacuation of 3.5 GW of renewable energy from Rajasthan REZ Phase-IV, CEC after the site visits and careful examination of all relevant records, recommends that this Hon'ble Court may kindly consider granting permission for felling of 83 trees and lopping/light pruning of 400 trees falling within the TTZ in connection with the aforesaid transmission line, in place of the 297 trees originally proposed for felling and 1,735 trees originally proposed for lopping/pruning, subject to the following conditions:**
>
> **i) felling of the 83 trees, comprising 67 trees in Agra District and 16 trees in Firozabad District, shall be carried out strictly under the supervision of the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department, and the Applicant shall bear the prescribed cost of felling;**
>
> **ii) in addition to the Compensatory Afforestation over 33.758 hectares of degraded forest land in lieu of diversion of 16.003 hectares of forest land, the Applicant shall make**

available the land identified within the Ghiror Substation for compensatory plantation as specified in clause (iii) below. The land identified for such plantation shall be protected by chain-link fencing erected on a 2" high footwall, at the cost of the Applicant;

iii) compensatory plantation of at least 4,850 trees of indigenous species shall be undertaken by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department at the cost of the Applicant during the next rainy season. The Forest Department shall maintain proper records of the plantation and report to the CEC any violation of the stipulated conditions;

iv) before permission for felling of trees is granted under the Uttar Pradesh Protection of Trees Act, 1976, the Applicant shall deposit, in the designated savings bank account of a nationalised bank, the amounts assessed by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department towards compensatory plantation, including maintenance, replacement of casualties and fencing costs, as applicable, at the prevailing prescribed rates. The Applicant shall also ensure that the identified site is formally handed over to the Forest Department for undertaking the compensatory plantation.

v) PGTL shall ensure that compliance with each condition relating to tree felling is uploaded on the CEC's website as and when it is fulfilled.

vi) the Chairman, TTZ Authority shall take all necessary measures to ensure that no tree is felled within the TTZ in connection with the project without prior permission of this Hon'ble Court. In the event of any additional tree being felled or damaged, a penalty of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rs. One lakh only) per tree shall be recovered from the Applicant, in addition to any other penalties that may be imposed under the Uttar Pradesh Protection of Trees Act, 1976, or any other applicable law;

vii) the Regional office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at Lucknow shall monitor the implementation of the compensatory afforestation under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and compliance with all other applicable conditions stipulated in the forest-diversion approval during project implementation of the project.

***31. Vide* Report No. 31 of 2026 dated 28.10.2026, CEC has recommended as follows in paragraph 9 of the Report:**

9. Considering the national importance of the proposed 400 kV D/c Ghiror-Firozabad Transmission Line, an Inter-State Transmission System project intended to facilitate the evacuation of 3.5 GW of renewable energy from Rajasthan REZ Phase-IV, CEC after the site visits and careful examination of all relevant records, recommends that this Hon'ble Court

may kindly consider granting permission for felling of 187 trees, as against the 193 trees originally proposed for felling and the lopping/light pruning of 210 trees in District Firozabad within the TTZ in connection with the aforesaid transmission line, subject to the following conditions:

i) felling of the 187 trees in Firozabad District shall be carried out strictly under the supervision of the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department, and the Applicant shall bear the prescribed cost of felling;

ii) in addition to the Compensatory Afforestation over 45.61 hectares of degraded forest land in lieu of diversion of 22.8045 hectares of forest land, the Applicant shall make available the land identified within the Ghiror and Firozabad Substation for compensatory plantation as specified in clause (iii) below. The land identified for such plantation shall be protected by chain-link fencing erected on a 2" high footwall, at the cost of the Applicant;

iii) compensatory plantation of at least 4,030 trees of indigenous species shall be undertaken by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department at the cost of the Applicant during the next rainy season. The Forest Department shall maintain proper records of the plantation and report to the CEC any violation of the stipulated conditions;

iv) before permission for felling of trees is granted under the Uttar Pradesh Protection of Trees Act, 1976, the Applicant shall deposit, in the designated savings bank account of a nationalised bank, the amounts assessed by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department towards compensatory plantation, including maintenance, replacement of casualties and fencing costs, as applicable, at the prevailing prescribed rates. The Applicant shall also ensure that the identified site is formally handed over to the Forest Department for undertaking the compensatory plantation.

v) PGTL shall ensure that compliance with each condition relating to tree felling is uploaded on the CEC's website as and when it is fulfilled.

vi) the Chairman, TTZ Authority shall take all necessary measures to ensure that no tree is felled within the TTZ in connection with the project without prior permission of this Hon'ble Court. In the event of any additional tree being felled or damaged, a penalty of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rs. One lakh only) per tree shall be recovered from the Applicant, in addition to any other penalties that may be imposed under the Uttar Pradesh Protection of Trees Act, 1976, or any other applicable law;

vii) the Regional office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at Lucknow shall monitor the implementation of the compensatory afforestation under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and compliance with all other applicable conditions stipulated in the forest-diversion approval during project implementation of the project."

8. In view of the recommendations made by CEC and the submissions of the learned *Amicus Curiae*, we are inclined to allow these applications subject to the compliance with the above-stated conditions imposed by CEC. We, however, clarify that PGTL is permitted to undertake the plantation of trees during the ensuing rainy season. The felling of trees can be initiated once the applicant furnishes an undertaking that all conditions imposed by the CEC, including those relating to compensatory afforestation, shall be complied with. A compliance report shall be submitted to the CEC, which shall verify compliance with the stipulated conditions and, if considered necessary, submit a further report to this Court.

I.A. Nos. 237739/2024 and 237765/2024

9. These applications were filed by certain persons alleging, *inter alia*, that during the intervening night of 18-19.09.2024, more than 300 fully grown trees were felled using JCB machines at Dalmia Farm, Chhatikara Road, Vrindavan, District Mathura. It was alleged that the trees were felled without any prior permission from this Court or from the competent statutory authority under the Uttar Pradesh Protection of Trees Act, 1976. The incident also led to the registration of FIR No. 413/2024 under various provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The applicants accordingly sought

investigation from an independent agency to assess the number of trees felled and the extent of damage to the environment, to suggest appropriate restoration measures; compensatory plantation of 100 trees for every tree illegally felled, and to constitute a committee to monitor the implementation of the Urban Greening Guidelines, 2014 in Vrindavan. Pursuant to the directions issued by this Court, the CEC conducted a site inspection and submitted Report No. 29 of 2024, revealing that a total of 454 trees were felled. Of these, 422 trees stood on approximately 14.88 hectares of private land known as Dalmia Farm. While the other 32 stood on the adjoining roadside strip, which forms part of a protected forest. There were certain other findings as well recordings the use of JCB machines and chain saws to carry out felling of trees.

10. The CEC thereafter submitted another Report No. 35 of 2024, i.e., the final report, making the following recommendations:

a) **A penalty of a minimum of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rs. One lakh only) per tree felled and removed without the prior permission of this Hon'ble Court shall be imposed on the land owner. Hence for 454 trees felled and removed without the prior permission of this Hon'ble Court a minimum penalty of Rs.4,54,00,000/- (Rs Four Crores Fifty-four lakh only) shall be imposed on the land owners. The amount shall be deposited with the Forest Department for taking up new plantations at suitable places in TTZ.**

b) **The Forest Department shall also recover the requisite penalty due under the provisions of the UP Protection of Trees Act, 1976 for this illegal felling.**

c) **The Forest Department should take punitive action against the land owners for felling 32 trees that were standing in the Protected Forest as per the provisions under the Indian Forest Act 1972.**

d) **An entry path to the extant private land has been constructed through the protected forest. Hence Forest Department shall initiate action under the Forest**

Conservation Act 1980 for illegal breaking of land without prior permission of the Central Government.

e) **The area be restored by planting 422 trees on the private land and 32 trees in the protected forest area at the cost of the land owner.**

f) **The Forest Department shall plant and maintain 4540 saplings of Indigenous species (ten times the number of trees felled as per norms applicable for compensatory plantation in TTZ) and another 4540 as penal compensatory plantation (ten times the number of trees felled without the prior permission of this Hon'ble Court) i.e. a total of 9080 saplings at the cost of the land owners, at any nearby place to be provided by land owner which is suitable for plantation. This land shall also be declared as the Protected Forest by the State Government.**

g) **The entire timber illegally felled shall be confiscated by the Forest Department and disposed of as per the norms of the UP Forest Department.**

h) **The Mathura Vrindavan Development Authority should ensure that no construction of any sort takes place at that part of the extent site where the Forest Department will do the Plantation.**

i) **The Chairman, TTZ authority shall ensure compliance of all the conditions/penalties that may be imposed by this Hon'ble Court. The Chairman, TTZ authority shall intimate such compliance to the CEC on a quarterly basis till all conditions imposed by this Hon'ble Court are complied with.**

j) **This Hon'ble Court may consider imposing any other penalty for the contempt of this Hon'ble Court committed by the land owners by felling the trees without seeking prior permission of this Hon'ble Court.**

11. This Court, vide order dated 16.12.2024, relied upon the recommendations made by the CEC and issued contempt notice to Shankar Agarwal alias Shiv Shankar Agarwal, the alleged contemnor. Directions were also issued to the Forest Department to act on clauses (b), (c), (f) and (g) of the Report No. 35 of 2024 of CEC, and to close the entry path referred to in clause (d) of the said report. Certain other directions were also issued to the Forest

Department, including maintenance of status quo in all respects regarding the subject property. Notice was also issued to Mathura Vrindavan Development Authority to ensure compliance with the recommendations contained in the aforesaid CEC report.

12. This Court, *vide* order dated 25.03.2025 recorded that the alleged contemnor had admitted on affidavit that 454 trees had been felled without prior permission of this Court. Certain punitive directions were also issued.

13. It is not in dispute that in deference to those directions following compliances and developments have taken place: (i) penalty of Rs. 4.54 crores has been deposited vide DD No. 033038 dated 21.04.2025 with the Divisional Director, Social Forestry Division, Mathura. (ii) Complaint dated 13.12.2024 is pending before Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate-I (ACJM-I), Mathura, and a revision petition arising therefrom is pending before the Sessions Judge-III, Mathura. (iii) A separate complaint dated 24.12.2024 with respect to felling of 32 trees under the Indian Forest Act and unauthorized creation of an entry path through the protected forest, is also pending before ACJM-I, Mathura. (iv) For the restoration of 454 trees, a sum of Rs. 52,03,500/- has been deposited on 20.01.2026 for undertaking plantation in the upcoming rainy season. (v) In relation to the proposed plantation of 9,080 saplings, 9.46 hectares of land have already been registered in the name of the Forest Department on 06.01.2026. A further sum of Rs. 2,55,23,800/- has been deposited on 20.01.2026 towards plantation and maintenance for a period of ten years. (vi) The Timber

recovered at the site has been confiscated and auctioned through Uttar Pradesh Van Nigam. (vii) Mathura Vrindavan Development Authority *vide* letter dated 23.01.2026 has informed that the area is under constant vigilance, that no construction exists at the site and that no construction will be allowed either. Similarly, quarterly reports have also been filed. As regards to the question of further penalty, the matter has been left to the discretion of this Court.

14. In light of the aforesaid developments, we find that substantial compliance has been made with directions issued by this Court insofar as the contemnor is concerned. We are, however, of the view that the following additional directions are necessary:

(i) The land provided by the contemnor measuring 9.46 hectares, and now registered in the name of the Forest Department, shall be notified as forest land. Let the needful steps be taken in this regard within 8 weeks.

(ii) The Forest Department shall submit a compliance report regarding the plantation undertaken pursuant to the directions of this Court to the CEC. Upon receipt thereof, the CEC shall conduct a spot inspection to verify compliance and submit a further report to this Court.

(iii) The penalty amount of Rs.4.54 crore shall be utilized , in the first instance, towards plantation of trees as per the orders of this Court. Any unutilized amount shall be earmarked for the afforestation activities in the Mathura-Vrindavan area. In the

event the amount has already been utilized, a compliance report, indicating the details of such utilization, shall be filed.

15. The only issue that now survives for consideration is imposition of any further penalty upon the contemnor. We have considered the submissions made by the learned *Amicus Curiae* as well as learned counsel appearing for certain intervenors, who strongly urged that the contemnor deserves to be strictly dealt with and adequate punishment be imposed by way of imprisonment keeping in view the nature and manner in which the offence was committed.

16. On the other hand, Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, learned Senior Counsel representing the contemnor, points out that he has already remained in custody for more than thirty days. He further points out that a substantial penalty has already been imposed and duly deposited by the contemnor. In these circumstances, he urges this Court to take a lenient view.

17. Upon consideration of the rival submissions, it seems to us that no further incarceration of the contemnor is warranted. The ends of justice would be adequately met by imposing a lump-sum penalty of Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh only) on the contemnor. The contemnor is directed to deposit the aforesaid amount in the following manner:

(i) A sum of Rs. 20 lakhs shall be deposited with a government-owned and government-run institution engaged in the welfare of destitute persons and widows residing in Mathura-Vrindavan area.

(ii) A sum of Rs. 10 lakhs shall be deposited with a government-owned and government-run institution engaged in the welfare of persons with disabilities.

(iii) A sum of Rs. 10 lakh shall be deposited with a government-owned and government-run institution providing care and shelter to orphaned children.

(iv) A sum of Rs. 10 lakh shall be deposited with a government-owned and government-run institution for providing first-aid and medical assistance to pilgrims visiting the Mathura-Vrindavan area.

18. Let a compliance report in this regard be filed, failing which the contempt proceedings shall stand revived.

19. Upon deposit of the entire amount of Rs. 50 lakh with the institutions specified hereinabove and due compliance with these directions, the contempt proceedings shall stand dropped. The order directing maintenance of status quo in respect of the subject property shall also stand vacated.

20. This order shall have no bearing on the pending criminal complaints or any other proceedings arising out of the incident.

IA Nos.331428/2026 (in Suo Moto W.P. (Civil) No. 8/2026)

21. Let CEC submit a report within four weeks.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR