

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). 98/2026

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF RAJASTHAN & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 25302/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 25299/2026 - STAY APPLICATION)

Date : 02-02-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

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

For Petitioner(s) : Ms. Meenakshi Arora, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Lija Merin John, Adv.
Mr. Sanbha Rumnong, Adv.
Mr. Nankey Kalra, Adv.
Mr. Samuel David, Adv.
Ms. Niharika Ahluwalia, AOR

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mr. M.K. Maroria, AOR

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, AAG, Rajasthan
Mr. Madhav Sinhal, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. The typographical error pointed out by the learned senior counsel is permitted to be rectified.
2. Issue notice.
3. Mr. M.K. Maroria, learned AOR accepts notice on behalf of the Union of India.
4. Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, learned AAG, Rajasthan accepts notice on behalf of the State of Rajasthan.

5. The remaining respondent-States may be served through their Standing Counsel in this Court. In addition, copies of the Writ Petition paperbook may also be forwarded to the offices of the Advocate Generals of all the States.

6. Tag this petition with Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 428/2020, where some similar questions of law have been raised.

7. Counter affidavit be filed within four weeks from the date of service. The respondents may also file a common counter affidavit, which shall be circulated amongst all the counsel, including the counsel for the parties in the connected matters. Rejoinder affidavit, if any, be filed within one week thereafter.

8. Having regard to the nature and importance of the matters, this batch of petitions and appeals is ordered to be placed before a three-Judge Bench on 18.02.2026.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR