

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 406/2013

IN RE :INHUMAN CONDITIONS IN 1382 PRISONS

Date : 17-03-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKRAM NATH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP MEHTA

By Post

Amicus Curie Mr. Gaurav Agrawal, Sr. Adv.

For Petitioner(s) : --

For Respondent(s) :

Mr. R Venkataramani, Attorney General (NP)
Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G. (NP)
Mr. Ashok Panigrahi, Sr. Adv.
Mrs. Suhashini Sen, Adv.
Mr. B K Satija, Adv.
Mr. Ishaan Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Kartikay Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Kumar Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Chitvan Singhal, Adv.
Mr. Raman Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Singh, Adv.
Ms. Ameyavikrama Thanvi, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

Mr. K. M. Nataraj, A.S.G.
Mrs. Indira Bhakar, Adv.
Mrs. Mrinal Elkar Mazumdar, Adv.
Mr. Piyush Beriwal, Adv.
Mr. Harish Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Shashwat Parihar, Adv.
Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.
Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.
Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.

Mr. Atulesh Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Mukul Singh, Adv.
Mr. Santosh Ramdurg, Adv.
Mr. Yogesh Vats, Adv.
Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Mr. Anand Grover, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Prashant Alai, Adv.
Mr. Kunal Mimani, AOR

Mr. Amit Anand Tiwari, Sr. A.A.G.
Mr. Sabarish Subramanian, AOR
Ms. Devyani Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Vishnu Unnikrishnan, Adv.
Ms. Tanvi Anand, Adv.
Ms. Saushria Havelia, Adv.

Mr. Mahfooz Ahsan Nazki, AOR

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

Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR
Ms. Pragati Neekhara, AOR

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

Mr. Surjendu Sankar Das, AOR
Ms. Yooviak Toor, Adv.
Mr. Venkat Mani Tripathi, Adv.

Mr. B.k. Satija, A.A.G.
Mr. Samar Vijay Singh, AOR
Ms. Sabarni Som, Adv.
Mr. Gaj Singh, Adv.
Mr. Keshav Mittal, Adv.
Mr. Prateek Parasher, Adv.
Mr. Ashutosh Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Mahabir Singh, Adv.
Mr. Kirtikar Sukul, Adv.

Mr. Pashupathi Nath Razdan, AOR
Ms. Maitreyee Jagat Joshi, Adv.
Mr. Astik Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Akanksha Tomar, Adv.

Mr. V. N. Raghupathy, AOR

Mr. C. K. Sasi, AOR
Dr. Kk Geetha, Adv.
Ms. Meena K Poullose, Adv.

Mr. Rudraditya Khare, D.A.G.
Ms. Mrinal Gopal Elker, AOR
Mr. Saurabh Singh, Adv.

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

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

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
Mr. T.k. Nayak, Adv.
Ms. Marbiang Khongwir, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
Mr. Upendra Mishra, Adv.
Mr. P.S. Negi, Adv.

Mr. Siddhesh Shirish Kotwal, AOR

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

Ms. Samprikta Ghosal, Adv.
Mr. Karan Sharma, AOR

Mr. Sandeep Kumar Jha, AOR

Mr. Bhavani S. Patnaik Adv.
Mr. Hitesh Kumar Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Amit Kumar Chawla, Adv.
Mr. Akhileshwar Jha, Adv.
Mr. Anupam Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Manoj Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Raghvendra Kumar, AOR

Mr. Siddharth Sangal, AOR

Mr. Pradeep Misra, AOR
Mr. Daleep Dhyani, Adv.
Mr. Suraj Singh, Adv.

Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR

Ms. Devina Sehgal, AOR
Mr. Yatharth Kansal, Adv.

Ms. Pallavi Langar, AOR

Mr. Sanchit Garga, AOR
Mr. Kunal Rana, Adv.
Mr. Shashwat Jaiswal, Adv.
Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Adv.
Ms. Diksha Arora, Adv.
Ms. Aarohi Garg, Adv.
Mr. Sandeep Kumar Jha, AOR

Ms. Disha Singh , AOR
Ms. Eliza Bar, Adv.

Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR

Mr. Samir Ali Khan, AOR
Mr. Pranjal Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Rohit Bansal, AOR
Mr. Kartikeya Rastogi, D.A.G.
Mr. Inderdeep Kaur Raina, Adv.
Ms. Tamanna Kavdia, Adv.

Mr. Chandra Prakash, AOR

Ms. Rashmi Nandakumar, AOR
Ms. Yashmita Pandey, Adv.

Mr. Sudarshan Lamba, AOR
Ms. Suhashini Sen, Adv.
Mr. Kamendra Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Ishaan Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Sarthak Karol, Adv.
Ms. Ameyvikrama Thanvi, Adv.
Mr. Rajbahadur Yadav, Aor, Adv.
Mr. Arun Kumar Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Salvador Santosh Rebello, AOR
Mr. Raghav Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Moulishree Pathak, Adv.

Mr. Anubhav Attrey, Adv.

Mr. Rajendra Sahu, AOR

Ms. Hema Sahu, Adv.

Mr. Rishabh Sahu, Adv.

Mr. Narinder Kumar Verma, Adv.

Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.

Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR

Mr. Anando Mukherjee, AOR

Mr. Shwetank Singh, Adv.

Ms. Riya Dhingra, Adv.

Mr. Utkarsh Anand, Adv.

Mr. Shantanu Sagar, AOR

Mr. Anil Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Gunjesh Ranjan, Adv.

Mrs. Divya Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Prakash Kumar Mangalam, Adv.

Mr. Manoneet Dwivedi, Adv.

Mr. Abhishek Kumar Gupta, Adv.

Ms. Anshala Verma, Adv.

Mr. Pranshu Dwivedi, Adv.

Mr. Aravindh S., AOR

Ms. Jyotika Sharma, Adv.

Mr. S.santhosh, Adv.

Mr. Sudarshan Singh Rawat, AOR

Mr. Shibashish Misra, AOR

Mr. Anuj Bhandari, AOR

Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR

Mr. Rahul Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Aakash Thakur, Adv.

Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR

Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AOR

Ms. Prerna Singh, Adv.

Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Durgesh Ramchandra Gupta, AOR

Mr. Prashant Kumar Umrao, AOR

Mr. Prashant Singh, AOR

Mr. Pritam Singh, Adv.
Mr. Ram Narayan Mohanty, Adv.
Mr. Umesh Kumar Shukla, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. We have heard the submissions advanced by Mr. Gaurav Agrawal learned *amicus curiae*. He has drawn the attention of this Court to the fact that the statistics presently placed on record by the States and Union Territories pertain to the year 2023. Having regard to the nature of the issues involved and the necessity of an informed adjudicatory exercise, we are of the considered view that the availability of updated contemporaneous data is indispensable for the effective consideration of the present proceedings.

2. Accordingly, we deem it appropriate to direct all States and Union Territories to place on record updated and comprehensive statistics relating to all prisons situated within their respective jurisdictions. Such data shall, *inter alia*, include jail-wise capacity of each prison, total number of prisoners lodged therein, percentage of overcrowding in each jail, steps proposed to address overcrowding, details of women jails, facilities provided to women prisoners and children accompanying them (including educational and medical facilities), as well as the sanctioned strength of personnel, existing vacancies, and other related aspects.

3. In furtherance thereof, all States/Union Territories are directed to furnish the requisite information under the following heads: -

- A. Complete particulars indicating the sanctioned capacity of each prison and the total number of prisoners (undertrials as well as convicts) lodged therein, as on 1st March, 2026, along with jail-wise details reflecting the extent of occupancy;
- B. Details of the steps undertaken or proposed to be undertaken for decongestion and reduction of overcrowding in prisons, including compliance with the directions issued by this Court in the present proceedings, notwithstanding the steps directed to be taken as per the judgment dated 26th February, 2026 in *Suhas Chakma v. Union of India & Ors.*;
- C. The number of women jails situated within its jurisdiction and the facilities available therein, including comprehensive details of the measures undertaken to ensure the education and overall welfare of children residing with women prisoners, *inter alia*, the availability of paediatric care, teachers and counsellors, and the manner and mode in which educational

facilities are being imparted to such children;
and

- D. The sanctioned strength of prison staff, the existing vacancies, and the steps taken or proposed to fill such vacancies, together with all ancillary aspects relating to prison administration.

4. The aforesaid exercise shall be completed within a period of two months from today. The States/Union Territories shall file comprehensive affidavits, duly sworn by the Home Secretary, detailing the aforesaid particulars on or before 18th May, 2026.

5. The Registry shall forward copies of the affidavits received from the States/Union Territories to the learned *amicus curiae*. The learned *amicus curiae* shall, thereafter, prepare a comprehensive note detailing the statistics and information provided by the States/Union Territories within a period of one week.

6. List on 26th May, 2026.

(NEETU KHAJURIA)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR-CUM-PS

(RANJANA SHAILEY)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR