

ITEM NO.20

COURT NO.14

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

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 786/2025

PRADYOT DEB BURMAN

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 305410/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

Date : 18-03-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANMOHAN

For Petitioner(s) :

Mr. Gopal Shankarnaraynan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Arjun Aggarwal, AOR
Mr. Sahil Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Vishal Singh, Adv.
Mr. Aman Kumar, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mr. K.m.nataraj, A.S.G.
Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, Adv.
Ms. Sansriti Pathak, Adv.
Mr. Anuj Udupa, Adv.
Mr. Udit Dedhiya, Adv.
Ms. Tanvi Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR
Mr. Aman Mehta, Adv.

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR
Mr. Deepayan Dutta, Adv.

Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Adv.
Mr. Digvijay Dam, Adv.
Ms. Medha Pushkarna, Adv.

Mr. Prateek Kumar, AOR
Mr. Devansh Rai, Adv.
Ms. Teesha, Adv.
Ms. Sanjivani Pattjoshi, Adv.

Mr. R Venkataramani, Attorney General for India
Mr. Pawanshree Agrawal, AOR
Mr. Kunal Chatterjee, Adv.

Ms. Pallavi Langar, AOR
Mr. Bhaskar Debbarma, Adv.
Mr. Remolish Debbarma, Adv.
Mr. Sujeet Kumar Chaubey, Adv.

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

1. On 26.02.2026, we had passed the following order:

"1. On 11.02.2026, the following order was passed:

"1. In the reply affidavit of State of Tripura a notification dated 22.01.2026 has been placed as 'Annexure R2'. 2. As per the said notification, the earlier three notifications have been rescinded. As a consequence

thereof, the 123 new village committees which were to be constituted by reorganizing the existing village committees will no longer be constituted. In view of this development, the State Election Commission must indicate the time frame within which they can complete the exercise of the impending elections. The affidavit may also indicate the possibility of holding elections simultaneously for the District Council and Village Committees. 3. Mr. Ranjeet Kumar, who represents the State Election Commission, Tripura, prays for and is allowed two weeks' time to file an affidavit in light of the above observations. 4. List this matter on 26.02.2026."

2. Pursuant to the above order, a detailed affidavit has been filed on

behalf of the fourth respondent (State Election Commission).

3. In paragraph 14 of the affidavit, it is stated that the schedule for draft publication, claims and objections, and final publication of the electoral rolls has been issued on 18.02.2026, and final publication of the electoral rolls is scheduled on 13.03.2026.

4. It is stated that the schedule for holding District Council elections is expected to be declared by mid-March, 2026, so that polling, counting and all post election exercises are concluded by mid-April, 2026.

5. We deem it appropriate to accept the aforesaid proposal and request the State Election Commission to ensure that the aforesaid time-schedule is adhered to for holding District Council

elections.

6. Insofar as holding of Village Committees elections is concerned, it is stated in the affidavit that it is not possible to hold elections for the District Council and the Village Committees simultaneously.

7. In paragraph 13 of the affidavit, reasons have been disclosed as to why the same is not possible.

8. Upon consideration of the reasons disclosed in the affidavit, we are of the view that the holding of simultaneous elections may not be feasible. Therefore, we deem it appropriate to request the State Election Commission to fix a separate time schedule for conducting the Village Committees elections.

9. In the affidavit filed on behalf of

the State Election Commission, the time schedule for holding Village Committee elections is by September, 2026.

10. At this stage, we may observe that, before the High Court, the State Election Commission had given a time schedule for holding elections to Village Committees under the Tripura Tribunal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC). As per the said schedule, the tentative date of notification was 26.10.2022 and the day of poll was 28.11.2022.

11. In such circumstances, we do not find sufficient justification in the affidavit for deferring the elections to the Village Committees upto September, 2026.

12. We, therefore, require the State Election Commission to file an affidavit specifically disclosing as to

why the elections cannot be held prior to the onset of 2026 monsoon. Such affidavit shall be filed by 15.03.2026.

13. An endeavour shall also be made to consider and, if possible, provide a time schedule for holding the Village Committees elections in the month of May, 2026.

14. List this matter on 18.03.2026."

2. Pursuant to the above order, a compliance affidavit has been filed by respondent No. 4. In paragraph 16 of the affidavit, following time-schedule for completing the Village Committees Elections is proposed:

Sl. No.	Activity	Minimum Time period required after re-assessment (in Days)	Remarks
01	Preparation of Electoral Rolls by the Electoral Registration Officers including splitting up to Assembly Electoral Rolls, Data Entry and checking and printing of the draft electoral rolls.	10	It can be started immediately after the completion of the District Council Elections. Process may be completed by 30 th April, 2026
02	Finalization of Polling Stations	10	Needed for draft publication, claims & objections and disposal thereof. May be completed by 10 th May, 2026.
03	In consultation with the State Government and the TTAADC draft roll to be published and finalized after hearing of claims and objections	15	May be completed by 25 th May, 2026
04	After finalization of electoral rolls in consultation with the TTAADC and confirmation received from all the stakeholders regarding smooth	5	May be completed by end of May, 2026

	preparation, election schedule to be notified by the Commission		
05	Statutory period from making nomination after notification by the TTAADC regarding calling upon of village committee elections	08	
06	Scrutiny and Withdrawal of candidatures, etc	03	May be completed by last week of June, 2026
07	Statutory period for campaigning etc	15	
08	Day of Poll	01	
09	Repoll, if any & gap period for preparation	02	
10	Counting	01	
11	Election process to be completed by Notification	02	
	Total time required	72	

3. Mr. Gopal Shankarnaraynan, learned senior counsel, who appears for the petitioner, has invited our attention to subsequent paragraphs in the affidavit to canvass that the time-schedule provided in paragraph 16 is subject to multiple

variables and it is possible that the same may not be adhered to by the State Election.

4. In response, Mr. R Venkataramani, learned Attorney General has made a statement that the time-schedule provided in paragraph 16 of the affidavit shall be adhered to and all possible efforts shall be made to ensure that Village Committees Elections are completed within that time-schedule.

5. The aforesaid statement is accepted and taken on record.

6. It is expected that the State Election Commission shall adhere to the time-schedule provided herein above.

7. List this matter on 20.05.2026.

(CHETAN ARORA)

(SAPNA BANSAL)

