

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

Miscellaneous Application No. 1979/2019 in W.P.(C) No. 436/2018

[Arising out of impugned judgment and order dated 15-02-2019 in W.P.(C) No. 436/2018 passed by the Supreme Court of India]

ANJALI BHARDWAJ & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 102425/2021 - ADDITION / DELETION / MODIFICATION PARTIES, IA No. 139361/2019 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, IA No. 107854/2020 - EARLY HEARING APPLICATION, IA No. 145229/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT, IA No. 56805/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 45966/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 296728/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 292208/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 146563/2021 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 1461/2020 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 126769/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 115933/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 134701/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 27-10-2025 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Prashant Bhushan, AOR
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Mr. Aman Dwivedi, Adv.

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Mr. Rahul Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Aakash Thakur, Adv.

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Mr. T.L.V. Ramachari, Adv.
Mr. T.N. Rama Rao, Adv.
Mr. Hitesh Kumar Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Akhileshwar Jha, Adv.
Mr. Dilip Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Santosh Kumar Jha, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. We have heard learned counsel for the petitioners as well as learned Additional Solicitor General of India.

2. As regard to the Central Information Commission, we are informed that the Search Committee has completed its exercise and the Selection Committee comprising: (i) the Prime Minister (Chairperson of the Committee); (ii) the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and, (iii) a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister, will consider the applicant(s) within a period of three weeks.

3. We have no reason to doubt that the Union of India shall follow the principles/guidelines laid down by this Court in the *Anjali Bhardwaj* case and shall finalise the selection process at the earliest.

4. Learned counsel for the State of Chhattisgarh points out that as a result of an interim order passed by the High Court in WPS No.3775/2025 and connected matters, the selection process for appointment of CIC/Information Commissioner has come to a standstill. Since the proceedings regarding appointments are being monitored by this Court, we request the High Court to take up and decide the matter finally within a period of four weeks. The Registrar General of the High Court shall send a compliance report.

5. We further find from the record that large-scale vacancies remain unfilled in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. These States are therefore directed to initiate the

selection process within a period of three weeks and submit a compliance report.

6. Similarly, States like Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Bihar, Karnataka and Maharashtra may be required to sanction more posts keeping in view the large-scale pendency of appeals/complaints under the Information Act in the States. Let these State Governments take an appropriate decision in this regard and apprise this Court.

7. All these State Governments are further directed to file their respective status reports with respect to the latest sanction strength, the posts filled up and the stage of the selection process, if any, already initiated.

8. The Chief Secretary, State of Jharkhand is directed to ensure that the pending selection process is completed in all respects within 45 days and a compliance affidavit be filed, failing which this Court shall be constrained to take appropriate action.

9. List on 17.11.2025.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR