

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) (CRIMINAL) NO(S).43/2024

GURIA SWAYAM SEVI SANSTHAN

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

RESPONDENT(S)

(IA NO. 24987/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 14-10-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN

For Petitioner(s) : Ms. Aparna Bhat, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Rajkumari Banju, AOR
Ms. Karishma Maria, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, Adv.
Mr. Vishnu Shankar Jain, Adv.
Mr. Saurabh Pandey, Adv.
Ms. Mani Munjal, Adv.
Ms. Aastha Singh, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

Mr. Ajay Kumar Mishra,
Sr. Advocate General Up, Adv.
Mr. Garvesh Kabra, AOR
Mrs. Pooja Kabra, Adv.
Mr. Ankur Agnihotri, Adv.
Mr. Deepesh Kumar Makker, Adv.

Mr. Aditya Vaibhav Singh Ga, Adv.
Mr. Sarad Kumar Singhanian, AOR
Mr. Gautam Singh, Adv.

Mr. Divyank Panwar, Adv.
Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR

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

We have heard learned senior counsel for the petitioner and learned Additional Solicitor General appearing for the respondent(s)-Union of India.

Learned Additional Solicitor General has submitted a note on a common portal for missing children which is called tracking of children in distress/missing children coming under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Central Government (TrackChild Portal). She also brought to our notice Trackchild and Khoya-Paya portal which have been integrated into the Mission Vatsalya portal, which is already in existence under the Ministry of Women and Child. She submitted that as many as fourteen different stakeholders are participating in the Mission Vatsalya portal which reads as under:

1. Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU)
2. District Crime Record Bureau (DCRB)
3. Criminal Investigation Department.
4. State Crime Record Bureau
5. Railway Protection Force (RPF)
6. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
7. District Child Protection Units (DCPU)
8. Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)
9. District Magistrates
10. Anti Human Trafficking Units
11. Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs)
12. Child Care Institutions (CCIs)

13. State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)

14. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

Further, any citizen who accosts a missing child or a parent or guardian, who wants to give a complaint regarding a missing child can access the portal. However, there is a difficulty with regard to dissemination of information to the concerned stakeholders and other relevant persons concerned with the missing child.

In the circumstances, we direct the respondent(s)- Union of India to communicate to each of the States and the Union Territories to make available details of a designated/dedicated Nodal Officer, who is in-charge of the missing children, along with the name, designation and telephone number so that the said details could be uploaded on the Mission Vatsalya portal. Once any complaint regarding a missing children is received on the said portal, there would be simultaneous dissemination of information to the nodal officers, who could in-turn take steps for tracing of the missing child, investigation of the perpetrators such as kidnappers and for registering further complaints in the matter and taking all other necessary steps.

Learned Additional Solicitor General submitted that the Ministry of Women and Child, Central Government, would request for details from the States and Union Territories and the same would be uploaded on the Mission Vatsalaya Portal, if some time is granted.

It is expected that the dedicated Nodal Officer to be appointed by the States/Union Territory, would in turn establish the network of Nodal Officers in all the Districts of the States as well as in different zones of the Union Territories for the purpose of dissemination as well as collection of information.

For the aforesaid purpose and in order to grant time, matter is adjourned to 18.11.2025.

In the interregnum, the aforesaid stakeholders could also have an online consultation with regard to the problems which arise in tracing and recovery of missing children as well as child trafficking.

A copy of this order shall be communicated by the first respondent-Union of India to all the concerned Secretaries, Department of Women and Child of each of the States as well as Union Territories.

(B. LAKSHMI MANIKYA VALLI)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(DIVYA BABBAR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)