

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

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s).21058/2025

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 14-11-2025 in CRMA No.1999/2025 passed by the High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital]

ANITA KANDWAL

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF UTTARAKHAND & ANR.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 333891/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No. 333894/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 22-12-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
(VACATION BENCH)

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Aditya Singh, Adv.
Mr. Aakash Sirohi, AOR
Mr. Indra Lal, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :

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

1. The facts of this case *prima facie* show how private individuals have systematically grabbed thousands of acres of forest land. It seems that land measuring 2866 acres was notified as Government Forest Land. A part of this land was allegedly leased out to Pashulok Sewa Samiti, a society in Rishikesh. The society claims to have further allotted parcels of land to its members. There arose some dispute between society and its members, which apparently led to the passing of a compromise - rather collusive

decree. Meanwhile, the society came under liquidation and *vide* a deed of surrender, it surrendered 594 acres of land to the Forest Department on 23.10.1984. That order of surrendering the land or re-vesting of the forest land in the Government has attained finality, yet some private individuals, like the petitioner, are stated to have taken possession of the land in the year 2001. Similarly, the private respondent no.2 claims his ownership-cum-title based on the collusive decree between the society and its alleged members.

2. What seems shocking to us is that the State of Uttarakhand and its Authorities are sitting as silent spectator when the forest land is being systematically grabbed in front of their eyes.

3. Consequently, we propose to enlarge the scope of these proceedings *suo motu*.

4. Let notice be issued to the respondents.

5. The Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Uttarakhand, are directed to constitute an Enquiry Committee to examine all the facts and submit a report to this Court.

6. Meanwhile, all private individuals are restrained from alienating the land, encumber it or create any third-party rights. It goes without saying that no construction activity shall be allowed to take place either.

7. The vacant land (other than the residential houses) shall be taken into possession by the Forest Department and the Collector concerned.

8. A compliance report, to this effect, be submitted to this

Court before the next date of hearing.

9. Post the matter for further consideration on 05.01.2026.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR