

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) (Civil) No(s). 77/2026

AAKASH GOEL

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

Respondent(s)

Date : 02-02-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) : Ms. Mukta Gupta, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Vibhor Garg, Adv.
Mr. Anuj P. Agarwala, Adv.
Ms. Nitya Gupta, Adv.
M/S. Pba Legal, AOR

For Respondent(s) :

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. The petitioner is a public-spirited person, who, apart from having an outstanding academic background, is stated to be involved in several social activities for the benefit and welfare of the public at large.

2. The instant writ petition has been filed purportedly in public interest, *inter-alia*, raising certain issues with respect to the procedure contemplated to be followed for conducting the 2027 Census of India, especially for the caste enumeration to be undertaken therein. According to the petitioner, no guidelines, questionnaire, or notified transparent framework has been placed in

public domain as to how the caste data is to be recorded, classified, or verified.

3. The petitioner has, further, alleged that the respondents have not disclosed any pre-determined criteria or standardised methodology for recording of caste identity, notwithstanding the acknowledgement that the caste enumeration to be undertaken now has extended beyond SC/ST categories, since OBCs are also being included in the Census exercise for the first time.

4. The conduction of the Census is regulated under the Census Act, 1948 and the 1990 Rules framed thereunder, which empower the respondents to determine the particulars and manner of census operations.

5. We have no reason to doubt that the respondent-authorities, with the aid and assistance of domain experts, must have evolved a robust mechanism in order to rule out any mistake, as those apprehended by the petitioner or several other like-minded persons.

6. Be that as it may, we find that the petitioner has flagged the relevant issues through a self-speaking legal notice dated 09.07.2025 addressed to the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India as well as the Directorate of Census Operations. We, thus, deem it appropriate to dispose of this writ petition with a direction to the respondent-authorities to consider the suggestions/issues raised by and on behalf of the petitioner in the above-mentioned legal notice.

7. The petitioner, if so advised, may also forward a copy of the instant writ petition to the respondent-authorities as a supplementary representation, and that may also be taken into account by the authorities. Ordered accordingly.

8. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand closed.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR