

ITEM NO.7

COURT NO.1

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).40/2026

TUMBALAM GOOTY VENKATESH

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

FOR ADMISSION

Date : 22-01-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI

For Petitioner(s) Ms. G. Priyadharshni, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Shyam Bhandari, AOR
Mr. Satyam Pathak, Adv.
Ms. Anshita Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Jasleen Kaur, Adv.

For Respondent(s)

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

1. The instant Writ Petition has been filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, purportedly in public interest, seeking the following directions:

"a) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order, direction thereby declaring the inaction of Respondents to have directives/measures to control/manage crowd in political rallies and large public gatherings which leads to loss of number of valuable lives, as violative of article 21 of the Constitution of India.

b) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction directing the Union of India to frame appropriate national measures/directives, in the absence of a national policy and the lack of statutory SOPs, in order to prevent any incident(s) or

repeated stampedes at political rallies and large public gatherings across India.

c) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction in the similar nature to the Union of India to frame and implement comprehensive, binding Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines for crowd management and safety at political rallies, political roadshows, political meetings etc across India;

d) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction in the similar nature to the Union of India to frame and implement comprehensive, binding Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines for crowd management and safety at large public gatherings across India;

e) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction in the similar nature to the Election Commission of India to Implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for crowd management and safety at political rallies across India in its Model Code of Conduct.

f) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction in the similar nature to the Union of India to form a dedicated centralized digital platform for assessing and regulating the political rallies across India.

g) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction in the similar nature to the Union of India to establish a National Crowd Management and Safety Code, including provisions for real-time surveillance, risk audits, and application of modern technology at all major public events;"

2. It may be seen that the petitioner seeks indulgence of this Court to lay down mandatory guidelines to control and manage crowds in political rallies and other large public gatherings, where, in the past, some unfortunate incidents of stampedes, etc. have taken place. These directions have been sought on the premise that it is in the absence of a National Policy or a statutory Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that repeated incidents of stampede have taken place in the past. It is in this backdrop that, through prayer (d), the petitioner seeks a direction to the

Union of India to frame and implement comprehensive, binding SOPs and guidelines for crowd management and safety at large public gatherings across India.

3. Similar directions have been sought to be issued to the Election Commission of India, also for implementation of SOPs for crowd management and safety at political rallies across the country during the period of Model Code of Conduct.

4. The petitioner has also sought a direction for the formulation of a dedicated centralized digital platform for assessing and regulating the political rallies across India.

5. In addition, a direction to establish a National Crowd Management and Safety Code, including provisions for real-time surveillance, risk audits, and application of modern technology at all major public events, has also been sought.

6. We find that these issues have been effectively raised by the petitioner in a representation, which he has recently made on 18.12.2025, to the Union of India through the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, a copy of which has been appended with the Writ Petition as Annexure-P/20.

7. We have heard learned counsel for the petitioner and carefully perused the material placed on record.

8. The issue sought to be raised, in sum and substance, revolves around the responsibility of the Union/State to maintain law and order at public places and public events. The direction sought essentially being for formulation of a policy, the domain experts along with the law-and-order enforcing agencies are better suited to take the matter forward.

9. Since the petitioner has already approached the Ministry of Home Affairs, we deem it appropriate to dispose of this Writ Petition at this stage, without expressing any opinion on merits, to enable him to pursue his representation before the Union of India. He may also submit a copy of this Writ Petition in the shape of representation to the Election Commission of India and as a follow up to his existing representation to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Union of India. Ordered accordingly.

10. We leave it to the Competent Authority to consider the petitioner's suggestions and take an appropriate decision, if they deem it appropriate.

(SATISH KUMAR YADAV)
ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR