

Email no. 3031, Date - 18.09.2026



Through e-mail

From,

Manjeet Singh Sheoran, HJS
Registrar General
High Court of Judicature,
at Allahabad

To,

All the District & Sessions Judges/ Chairmen
District Legal Services Authorities
State of Uttar Pradesh

Letter No. 12125 /Admin G-II Dated 18/09/2026
Sub: Regarding compliance of the judgments/orders dated 22.05.2026 and 05.08.2026
passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court in Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.)
No. 11263 of 2025, G. Ganesh Vs. State of Tamilnadu & Ors.

Madam/Sir,

During the course of hearing of aforesaid case, Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide order dated 22.05.2026 (pdf copy enclosed), has issued various directions concerning registration and investigation of cases relating to missing persons, kidnapping, abduction and human trafficking, as well as measures for prompt recovery and restoration of missing persons, particularly children. Accordingly, Hon'ble Apex Court has issued following directions, in the matter:-

"....The concerned District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) where the person is found or rescued, shall discharge their statutory obligations with due diligence and utmost priority. The Juvenile Justice Committees of the High Courts are requested to monitor compliance in this regard. We also direct that all agencies, including the District Legal Services Authorities and similar institutions, shall fully cooperate and coordinate with the concerned authorities in this exercise."

In this regard, I am directed by this Hon'ble Court to send the pdf copies of the orders dated 22.05.2026 and 05.08.2026 passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court to your goodself for ensuring compliance of the directions issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court at the end of the District Legal Services Authority of your district.

Encl. As above

With Regards,

Yours faithfully,

17-9-26
Registrar General

Circulate amongst all District
Seen. Secretary, DLSA to ensure
strict compliance. upload this
letter on District Court's website
also.

DJS
18/9/26

ITEM NO.301

COURT NO.10

SECTION II-C

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

PETITION FOR SPECIAL LEAVE TO APPEAL (CRL.) NO.11263/2025

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 05-03-2025 in CRLRC No.373/2025 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Madras]

G. GANESH

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF TAMIL NADU & ORS.

RESPONDENT(S)

IA No. 180112/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

IA No. 180113/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 72070/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

IA No. 88992/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

Date : 05-08-2026 This matter was called for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Ms. Mukta Gupta, Sr. Adv.
Mr. S.D. Sanjay, Sr. Adv.
Mr. H.S. Phoolka, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Aparna Bhat, Sr. Adv.
Dr. P.M. Nair, IPS (Retd.)
Mr. Veerender Mishra, IPS

AOR FOR COMMITTEE: Mr. Anuj P. Agarwala, Adv.
Ms. Nitya Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Akshat Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Divyam Aggarwal, Adv.
For PBA Legal LLP

For Petitioner(s) : Ms. Aarthi Rajan, AoR
Mr. Arvind Srevatsa, Adv.
Mr. S. Santanam Swaminadhan, Adv.
Ms. Abhilasha Shrawat, Adv.

10/8

Mr. Kartik Malhotra, Adv.
Mr. Aman Rawat, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Sabarish Subramanian, AoR

Ms. Archana Pathak Dave, A.S.G.
Dr. N. Visakamurthy, AoR
Mr. Khushal Kolwar, Adv.
Mr. Shubham Prakash Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Akshat Agarwal, Adv.
Ms. Disha Thakkar, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AoR
Ms. Prerna Singh, Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.

Ms. Eliza Barr, Adv.
Ms. Akansha, AoR
Ms. Anjali Saxena, Adv.
Mr. Govind Sharma, Adv.

Ms. Disha Singh, AoR
Ms. Eliza Barr, Adv.
Ms. Akansha, Adv.
Ms. Anjali Saxena, Adv.
Mr. Govind Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Singh Rajawat, Adv.

Mr. Ankit Roy, AoR
Ms. Mrinalini Ramesh, Adv.

Mr. Manish Kumar, AoR
Mr. Divyansh Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Kumar Saurav, Adv.

Mr. Vinayak Sharma, Standing Counsel
Mr. Ravinder Kumar Yadav, AoR
Mr. Yashwardhan Shah, Adv.
Ms. Kritika Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Subodh S. Patil, AoR

Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AoR
Ms. Neha Singh, Adv.
Ms. Apoorva Anand, Adv.

Mr. Shekhar Raj Sharma, A.A.G.
Mr. Samar Vijay Singh, AoR
Ms. Nidhi Narwal, Adv.
Mr. Aman Dev Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Sabarni Som, Adv.
Ms. Srishti Jain, Adv.
Mr. Deepak Chopra, Adv.
Ms. Archana Sonthalia, Adv.
Ms. Monica Gopichand Haseja, Adv.

Mr. Anukirat Singh Baweja, Adv.
Ms. Rashmi Agnihotry, Adv.
Mr. Anukirat Singh, Adv.
Mr. Sankalp Malik, Adv.
Mr. Ayush Panwar, Adv.
Ms. Neelam Singh, AoR
Mr. Bhupender Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Sameer Singh, Adv.
Mr. Swagat Nanda, Adv.

Ms. Pallavi Langar, AoR

Mr. Sanchit Garga, AoR
Mr. Kunal Rana, Adv.
Mr. Shashwat Jaiswal, Adv.
Ms. Diksha Arora, Adv.
Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Adv.
Mr. Naveen Sharma, AoR
Mr. Harshad V. Hameed, AoR

Ms. Manisha T. Karia, A.A.G.
Mr. Harmeet Singh Ruprah, AoR
Mr. Aditya Vaibhav Singh Ga, Adv.
Mr. Karan Singh, Adv.

Mr. Milind Sathe, Advocate General
Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AoR
Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.
Mr. Bharat Bagla, Adv.
Mr. Sourav Singh, Adv.
Ms. Chitransha Singh Sikarwar, Adv.

Mr. Lenin Singh Hijam, Adv. General/Sr. Adv.
Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AoR
Mr. Karun Shamra, Adv.
Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv.
Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AoR
 Mr. Z.H. Isaac Haiding, Adv.
 Mr. T.K. Nayak, Adv.
 Mr. Daniel Stone Lyngdoh, Adv.
 Ms. Marbiang Khongwir, Adv

Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, AoR
 Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv.
 Ms. Chubalemla Chang, Adv.
 Mr. Prang Newmai, Adv.
 Ms. Yanmi Phazang, Adv.

Mr. Himanshu Shekhar Tripathi, AoR
 Mr. Sourav Raj Choudhary, Adv.

Mr. Maninderjit Singh Bedi, Sr. Adv/Adv. General
 Mr. Rajat Bhardwaj, A.A.G.
 Mr. Karan Sharma, AoR

Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.
 Mr. Saurabh Rajpal, Adv.
 Mr. Kritin Sardana, Adv.
 Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AoR

Mr. Basava Prabhu S Patil,
 Adv. Gen.for State Of Sikkim, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AoR
 Ms. Yachna Sharma, Adv.
 Ms. Arushi Chopra, Adv.
 Mr. Samarth Kashyap, Adv.
 Mr. Arijeet Shukla, Adv.

Ms. Devina Sehgal, AoR
 Mr. Yatharth Kansal, Adv.

Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AoR
 Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Adv.
 Mr. Deepayan Dutta, Adv.

Ms. Ruchira Goel, AoR
 Ms. Ritika Rao, Adv.

Mr. Sudarshan Singh Rawat, AoR
 Ms. Anubha Dhulia, Adv.
 Mr. Sunny Sachin Rawat, Adv.

Mr. Kunal Mimani, AoR

Mr. Uddyan Mukherjee, AoR

Mr. Swapnil Pattanayak, Adv.
Ms. Kratika Kushwaha, Adv.

Mr. Mukesh Kr. Verma, Adv.
Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.
Mr. Shashwat Parihar, Adv.
Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.
Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Yogesh Vats, Adv.
Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AoR
Ms. Archana Pahtak Dave, A.S.G.
Mr. Dr. N Vishakamurthy (AoR), Adv.
Mr. Khushal Kolwar, Adv.
Mr. Shubham Prakash Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Akshat Aggarwal, Adv.

Mr. Bhakti Vardhan Singh, AoR

Mr. Aravindh S., AoR
Mr. Akshay Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Aadithya Aravindh, Adv.

Mr. H.S. Phoolka, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Bhuwan Ribhu, Adv.
Ms. Prabhsahay Kaur,, Adv.
Ms. Rachna Tyagi, Adv.
Mr. Saksham Maheshwari, AoR
Ms. Shashi, Adv.
Ms. Taruna Panwar, Adv.
Ms. Surpreet Kaur, Adv.
Mr. Kartik Goyal, Adv.

Mr. Prashanto Chandra Sen, AAG/Sr. Adv.
Mr. S. Gowthaman, AoR
Ms. Rajalakshmi Singh, Adv.
Mr. Sayantan Chanda, Adv.
Mr. Abhisar Thakral, Adv.
Mr. Chinnaiah, Adv.
Mr. Akash Verma, Adv.

Ms. Arundhati katju, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Anuj Kapoor, AoR
Mr. Nandeesh Nanda, Adv.
Ms. Nehmat Sethi, Adv.

Mr. K.M. Nataraj, ASG
Mr. Sudarshan Lamba, AoR
Mr. Sharathh Nambiar, Adv.
Mr. Anuj Srinivasan Udupa, Adv.

Mr. Kartikeya Asthana, Adv.
Ms. Nikita Kapoor, Adv.

Mr. Anando Mukherjee, AoR
Mr. Shwetank Singh, Adv.
Mr. Utkarsh Anand, Adv.
(For State of Mizoram)

O R D E R

We have heard learned Senior Counsel(s)/Counsel(s) for the parties, especially the Committee constituted by this Court, headed by Ms. Mukta Gupta, learned Senior Counsel, and Mr. S.D. Sanjay, Convenor/Coordinator.

2. At the outset, we have been informed that in terms of the earlier order dated 22.05.2026, all the States were required to register an FIR upon receipt of any information regarding any missing person.

3. Today, we are shocked to learn that some of the States are under the impression that the expression "person" refers only to children and does not include adults. We find this to be a deliberate and *mala fide* bogey raised by such States. The language of our earlier order is clear and unambiguous. The expression "person" means every person, irrespective of age or gender. If any State/Union Territory has failed to comply with the order in its true letter and spirit, notice of contempt shall be issued to the concerned Chief Secretary and Director General of

Police. They shall remain personally present before this Court and file their respective show-cause affidavits explaining why they should not be proceeded against and punished for their deliberate defiance and non-compliance with the orders of this Court.

4. At this stage, we record that Mr. S.D. Sanjay, who was earlier representing the Union of India as the learned Additional Solicitor General and is now holding the office of the Advocate General for the State of Bihar, is requested to continue as the Convenor/Coordinator for the present exercise. Since he is no longer representing the Union of India, Ms. Archana Pathak Dave, learned Additional Solicitor General, shall represent the Union of India. Accordingly, she is also made a member of the Committee.

5. We have been informed that two Zonal Consultation Meetings have already been held and that the third meeting is scheduled to be held on 8th August, 2026. Three more meetings are proposed to be held thereafter, which would take about one month's time. It has also been submitted that all stakeholders and agencies concerned with, or in any manner connected to the issue in hand shall be invited to participate in such Consultation Meetings.

6. We have also been informed that substantial progress has been made in the exercise.

7. Mr. Divyam Aggarwal, learned counsel, who has been assisting the Committee as a Consultant, shall continue to assist the Committee in the said capacity.

8. We find that the Union Territory of Ladakh has not filed any response as reflected in the Office Report as well as according to the learned Consultant. Accordingly, a personally affirmed affidavit shall be filed by the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Union Territory of Ladakh explaining why appropriate action should not be taken against them for such non-compliance.

9. All the States/Union Territories, which have not filed their affidavits despite the earlier directions of this Court are, *prima facie*, in contempt. Accordingly, notice of contempt shall be issued to the Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police of the concerned States/Union Territories. They shall remain personally present before this Court and file their respective show-cause affidavits explaining why proceedings for contempt should not be initiated against them for their failure to comply with the specific directions issued by this Court.

10. Ms. Archana Pathak Dave, learned Additional Solicitor General, is requested to communicate the concern of this Court to the concerned agencies with regard to the integration of all the relevant portals across the country. The said exercise shall be completed within six

weeks.

11. As we find that members of the Bar are showing keen interest in assisting this Court in the matter, we request the Committee to receive and consider the suggestions made by all such learned Advocates.

12. List the matter on 05.10.2026 at 2.00 p.m.

Pooja
10/8/26
(POOJA SHARMA)
AR-CUM-PS

A
10/8

on leave-
(ANJALI PANWAR)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

ITEM NO.56

COURT NO.12

SECTION II-C

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

PETITION FOR SPECIAL LEAVE TO APPEAL (CRL.) NO.11263/2025

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 05-03-2025 in CRLRC No.373/2025 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Madras]

G. GANESH

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF TAMIL NADU & ORS.

RESPONDENT(S)

IA No.180112/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

IA No.180113/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No.72070/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

IA No.88992/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

Date : 22-05-2026 This matter was called for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ms. Mukta Gupta, Sr. Adv.
Mr. S.D. Sanjay, ASG
Mr. H.S. Phoolka, Sr. Adv.
Dr. P.M. Nair, IPS (Retd.)

AOR for Committee

Mr. Anuj P. Agarwala, Adv.
Ms. Nitya Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Akshat Agarwal, Adv.
Mr. Divyam Agarwal, Adv.
For M/s PBA Legal

Signature Not Verified

Digitally signed by
POOJA SHARMA
Date: 2026.05.22
16:47:45 IS
Reason:

Petitioner(s) : Ms. Aarthi Rajan, Aor
Mr. Arvind Srevatsa, Adv.
Mr. S. Santanam Swaminadhan, Adv.

Ms. Abhilasha Shrawat, Adv.
Mr. Kartik Malhotra, Adv.
Mr. Aman Rawat, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Sabarish Subramanian, AoR

Ms. Prerna Singh, Adv.
Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AoR
Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.
Ms. Vanshika Singh, Adv.

Ms. Disha Singh, AoR
Ms. Eliza Barr, Adv.
Ms. Akansha, Adv.
Ms. Anjali Saxena, Adv.

Mr. Ankit Roy, AoR
Ms. Mrinalini Ramesh, Adv.

Mr. Manish Kumar, AoR
Mr. Divyansh Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Kumar Saurav, Adv.

Mr. Vikrant Singh Bais, DAG
Mr. Vinayak Sharma, Standing Counsel, Adv.
Mr. Ravinder Kumar Yadav, AoR
Mr. Yashwardhan Shah, Adv.
Ms. Kritika Yadav, Adv.

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Ms. Nidhi Narwal, Adv.
Mr. Aman Dev Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Sabarni Som, Adv.
Ms. Srishti Jain, Adv.
Ms. Rekha, Adv.
Ms. Neeta Verma, Adv.
Mr. Tanuj Dixit, Adv.
Ms. Reba Jena Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Anukirat Singh Baweja, Adv.
Ms. Rashi Agnihotry, Adv.
Mr. Anukirat Singh, Adv.

Mr. Sankalp Malik, Adv.
Mr. Ayush Panwar, Adv.
Ms. Neelam Singh, AoR
Mr. Bhupender Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Sameer Singh, Adv.
Mr. Swagat Nanda, Adv.

Mr. Rajiv Shankar Dwivedi, Adv.
Ms. Pallavi Langar, AoR
Mr. Sujeet Kumar Chaubey, Adv.
Ms. Anushka Raghunath, Adv.

Mr. Naveen Sharma, AoR
Mrs. Swati Bhushan Sharma, Adv.
Mr. S.k. Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Payal Gola, Adv.

Mr. Harshad V. Hameed, AoR
Mr. Dileep Poolakkot, Adv.
Mrs. Ashly Harshad, Adv.
Mr. Anukirat Singh Baweja, Adv.
Mr. Muhammed Siddick, Adv.
Ms. Rashi Agnihotry, Adv.
Mr. Mahabir Singh, Adv.

Ms. Manisha T. Karia, AAG
Mr. Sarthak Raizada Ga, Adv.
Mr. Harmeet Singh Ruprah, AoR
Mr. Karan Singh, Adv.

Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AoR
Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.
Mr. Bharat Bagla, Adv.
Mr. Sourav Singh, Adv.
Ms. Chitransha Singh Sikarwar, Adv.

Mr. Lenin Singh Hiam, Adv. General, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AoR
Mr. Karun Shamra, Adv.
Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv.
Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.

Mr. Amit Kumar Sr. Adv., Advocate General
Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AoR
Mr. T.K. Nayak, Adv.
Mr. Z H Isaac Haiding, Adv.
Ms. Marbiang Khongwir, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Kumar, Adv.

Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, AoR
Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv.
Ms. Chubalemla Chang, Adv.
Mr. Prang Newmai, Adv.
Ms. Yanmi Phazang, Adv.

Mr. Himanshu Shekhar Tripathi, AoR
Mr. Anshuman Dwivedi, Adv.

Mr. Maninder Singh Bedi, Adv. Gen.
Mr. Rajat Bhardwaj, AAG
Mr. Karan Sharma, AoR

Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, AAG
Mr. Saurabh Rajpal, Adv.
Mr. Jayant Singh Chauhan, Adv.
Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AoR

Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AoR
Ms. Yachna Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Arushi Chopra, Adv.

Ms. Devina Sehgal, AoR
Mr. Yatharth Kansal, Adv.

Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AoR
Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Adv.
Mr. Deepayan Dutta, Adv.

Ms. Ruchira Goel, AoR

Mr. Sudarshan Singh Rawat, AoR

Mr. Kunal Mimani, AoR
Ms. Shraddha Chirania, Adv.

Mr. S.D. Sanjay, ASG
Mr. Divyam Aggarwal, Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kr. Verma, Adv.
Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.
Mr. Shashwat Parihar, Adv.
Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.
Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.
Mr. Yogesh Vats, Adv.
Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AoR
Mr. Satya Darshi Sanjay, ASG
Ms. Disha Thakkar, Adv.
Mr. Akshat Agrawal, Adv.

Mr. Khushal Kolwar, Adv.
Mr. Shubham Prakash Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AoR, Adv.

Mr. Aravindh S., AoR
Ms. Anika Bansal, Adv.

Mr. H.S. Phoolka, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Bhuwan Ribhu, Adv.
Ms. Prabhsahay Kaur, Adv.
Ms. Rachna Tyagi, Adv.
Mr. Saksham Maheshwari, AoR
Ms. Shashi, Adv.
Ms. Taruna Panwar, Adv.
Ms. Surabhi Katyal, Adv.
Ms. Surpreet Kaur, Adv.
Mr. Kartik Goyal, Adv.

O R D E R

Heard Mr. S.D. Sanjay, learned Additional Solicitor General (ASG), Convenor and Coordinator of the Committee constituted by this Court, Ms. Mukta Gupta, learned Senior Advocate, Mr. H.S. Phoolka, learned Senior Advocate and Dr.P.M. Nair, former IPS Officer.

2. Having regard to the fact that Ms. Aparna Bhat, learned Senior Counsel who is active in the field of issues relating to human trafficking, we add her as a Member of the team constituted by this Court. She is also present in Court and the Court has interacted with her.

3. We have been apprised that the Committee has already met five times and certain specific proposals have been deliberated and the same have been disclosed in the status

report filed by Mr. S.D. Sanjay, learned ASG, enclosing the minutes of all the five meetings. The same is taken on record.

4. Having discussed the matter at length, for the present, the following directions are issued:

(i) The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India is directed to set into place an all India grid connecting each and every police station in the country on one platform, which shall have a special portal dedicated to human trafficking, including missing children and women. At this stage, a suggestion has come that the portal would be more meaningful if linked with the portal of Mission Vatsalya and the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS). We find the suggestion to be useful. Accordingly, a direction is issued to come up with a module integrating all the three portals together.

(ii) All Police Stations are directed to immediately register an FIR the moment any information reaches them with regard to any person missing, without waiting for any preliminary enquiry or leaving it to the guardians or family members of the missing person to first search for him/her. We add a note of caution that if the

missing person is restored to his/her family within 24 hours, the head of the police force of the concerned district shall not forward a copy of the FIR to the jurisdictional Court, and the matter may stand closed at that level itself. However, this shall not mean that the police machinery would remain inactive. On the contrary, the police machinery shall be activated immediately, at its highest level, for tracing and locating the missing person, as such prompt action is worth the exercise even if the person is traced or returns within 24 hours, rather than waiting for the expiry of 24 hours before initiating action, by which time, it may already be too late. Needless to overemphasise, the initial few hours from the time any person goes missing are the "golden hours" during which the chances of safe recovery are at their maximum.

(iii) The FIR so registered shall mandatorily incorporate the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and any other applicable statutory provisions relating to kidnapping, abduction or trafficking of a person or child.

(iv) Immediately upon the investigating agency/police having sufficient reason to believe that the case relates to trafficking, and without

waiting for the expiry of the four months' period, the matter shall be transferred to the specialised unit, if constituted in the area, dealing with offences relating to human trafficking, kidnapping, abduction and allied offences.

(v) At his juncture, Dr. P.M. Nair has informed the Court that Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) have been constituted on paper throughout the country, but many of them are either non-functional on the ground or lack adequate powers, manpower and resources to effectively deal with such offences. Taking note of the seriousness and urgency of the matter, a mandamus is issued to the Union of India as well as to all States and Union Territories (UTs), through their respective Home Secretaries and Directors General of Police, to ensure that all AHTUs are made fully functional and operational within four weeks from today.

(vi) Learned counsel appearing for the States/UTs shall communicate the present order to the concerned authorities for strict and immediate implementation.

(vii) The moment any person, including a child, is recovered, it shall be ensured without any delay that the person is restored to his / her family in

accordance with law, subject to due verification that the person is being restored to the rightful guardian. Procedural formalities shall not be pleaded as a defence in the event of inordinate delay in restoration. However, in cases where it is found that the victim was trafficked with the involvement or connivance of the family or guardians, the victim shall not be restored to such family and immediate responsibility for care and protection shall vest in the State authorities, including the Child Welfare Committees (CWCs).

(viii) We endorse and direct that the moment any missing person is recovered or rescued, he or she shall immediately be taken for Aadhaar verification or for issuance of an Aadhaar Card, as the case may be. This direction is being issued in view of the fact that for the purpose of procuring an Aadhaar Card, finger prints and other biometric details are captured, and the moment any attempt is made by the same person to obtain another Aadhaar Card, the system would reveal whether such person already possesses one, thereby greatly facilitating identification and restoration of the person to his or her family. The verification of the Aadhaar Card may be carried out by any readily available

authorised agency so as to avoid any delay or loss of valuable time.

(ix) The concerned District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) where the person is found or rescued, shall discharge their statutory obligations with due diligence and utmost priority. The Juvenile Justice Committees of the High Courts are requested to monitor compliance in this regard. We also direct that all agencies, including the District Legal Services Authorities and similar institutions, shall fully cooperate and coordinate with the concerned authorities in this exercise.

(x) We further endorse and direct the authorities concerned to examine the feasibility of issuing Aadhaar Cards at the place of birth itself, subject to voluntary consent of the parents/ guardians.

5. Before concluding, we deem it appropriate to address an issue highlighted by the learned ASG concerning the appointment and functioning of Nodal Officers by the States and UTs pursuant to earlier orders of this Court. It has been brought to our notice that Nodal Officers are often appointed in a casual manner and on several occasions, they do not even attend the conferences or meetings convened in connection with the present

proceedings, nor do they respond appropriately. It has further been noticed that they frequently depute subordinate officers to represent them at such meetings or conferences. In many instances, Nodal Officers have also been changed at very short intervals, thereby affecting continuity and effective coordination.

6. Keeping the aforesaid concerns in mind, we direct all the Home Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the respective States and UTs to designate, for the present Committee, a Nodal Officer of proven integrity and competence, preferably possessing experience in matters of this nature. The said Nodal Officer shall be duty-bound to promptly respond to and extend all assistance sought in relation to the functioning of the Committee. Under no circumstances shall such officer delegate or pass on the said responsibility to any colleague or junior officer. The Nodal Officer shall further ensure that all steps taken, reports generated, or suggestions made by their respective States or UTs in relation to the issues pending before this Court are promptly communicated to Mr. S.D. Sanjay, learned ASG and Convenor of the Committee, as well as to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the Departments of Home of all the States or UTs, the Directors General of Police, and the Secretaries of the Women and Child Welfare Departments of the

respective States and UTs.

7. Before the next date of hearing, an updated status report, along with details of the action taken by the Union of India, the States, the UTs, and the concerned Departments, shall be placed on record by way of an affidavit personally affirmed by the respective Nodal Officers. A copy of the same shall also be forwarded through e-mail to the Coordinator of the Committee prior to its filing before this Court.

8. List on 05.08.2026 at 2.00 p.m.

(POOJA SHARMA)
AR-CUM-PS

(ANJALI PANWAR)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR