S. GOVERDHAN REDDY
REGISTRAR GENERAL

HYDERABAD
Dt:12.05.2026

ROC.NO.1211/SO/2026

To
All the Unit Heads in the State of Telangana.

Sir/Madam,

Sub:- High Court for the State of Telangana – Communication dated 05.05.2026 of the Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India - Forwarded certified copy of the order dt. 04.05.2026 in Suo Moto Writ Petition (Criminal) No(s). 2 of 2026, on the file of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, New Delhi – Certain directions issued - Forwarding the same for compliance - Reg.

Ref:- Letter from the Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India along with certified copy of order dt. 04.05.2026 in Suo Moto Writ Petition (Criminal) No(s). 2 of 2026 received in the Registry on 11.05.2026.

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Adverting to the subject and reference cited, I am to inform that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India while delivering the Order dt. 04.05.2026 in Suo Moto Writ Petition (Criminal) No(s). 2 of 2026, IN RE: Condition being imposed while granting bail by High Court of Orissa and District courts in the state of Odisha and Ancillary issues, observed certain issues and directed the Registry at Para No. 12, to circulate a copy of the above said order to every Judicial Officers in the state, for compliance.

SESSIONS BRANCH 12 MAY 2026 6065 HYDERABAD

Therefore, while enclosing a copy of the order dt. 04.05.2026 in Suo Moto Writ Petition (Criminal) No(s). 2 of 2026, I am requesting you to comply with the directions laid down in the said order and also circulate the said order among all the Judicial Officers in your unit, for necessary compliance.

Yours sincerely,

REGISTRAR GENERAL

Dis.no:2662/SJ/Adm/Hyd/2026
dt:13.05.2026.

Communicate to all the Judicial officers.

12/05/26

(21)

out today
Speed Post

All Communications Should be Addressed to Registrar by Designation and not by Name.
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D. No. **27052/2026** /SEC-X
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
5th May, 2026

FROM : ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

TO :

1. The Registrar General,
Andhra Pradesh High Court,
Amravati, Andhra Pradesh

2. The Registrar General,
Gauhati High Court,
Guwahati, Assam

1211/26

3. The Registrar General,
Patna High Court,
Patna, Bihar

4. The Registrar General,
Punjab and Haryana High Court,
Chandigarh, Chandigarh

5. The Registrar General,
Chhattisgarh High Court,
Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh

6. The Registrar General,
Bombay High Court,
Mumbai, Maharashtra

7. The Registrar General,
Delhi High Court,
Sher Shah Suri Road, New Delhi

8. The Registrar General,
Gujarat High Court,
Ahmedabad, Gujarat

9. The Registrar General,
Himachal Pradesh High Court,
Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

Registrar General
11 MAY 2026
SD

10. The Registrar General,
Jammu and Kashmir High Court,
Srinagar, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

11. The Registrar General,
Jharkhand High Court,
Ranchi, Jharkhand

12. The Registrar General,
Karnataka High Court,
Bangalore, Karnataka

13. The Registrar General,
Kerala High Court,
Kochi, Kerala

14. The Registrar General,
Madhya Pradesh High Court,
Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

15. The Registrar General,
Manipur High Court,
Imphal, Manipur

16. The Registrar General,
Meghalaya High Court,
Shillong, Meghalaya

17. The Registrar General,
Orissa High Court,
Cuttack, Odisha

18. The Registrar General,
Madras High Court,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu

19. The Registrar General,
Rajasthan High Court,
Jaipur, Rajasthan

20. The Registrar General,
Sikkim High Court,
Gangtok, Sikkim

21. The Registrar General,
Telangana High Court,
Hyderabad, Telangana

22. The Registrar General,
Tripura High Court,
Agartala, Tripura

23. The Registrar General,
Allahabad High Court,
Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

24. The Registrar General,
Uttaranchal High Court,
Nainital, Uttaranchal

25. The Registrar General,
Calcutta High Court,
Kolkata, West Bengal

SMW (Crl.) 2 of 2026
(UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)

IN RE CONDITION BEING IMPOSED WHILE GRANTING BAIL BY HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AND DISTRICT COURTS IN THE STATE OF ODISHA AND ANCILLARY ISSUES

Sir,

Please find enclosed herewith a certified copy of this Hon'ble Court's Signed Order dated **04.05.2026** passed in the matter above mentioned, for necessary action, if any.

Yours faithfully,

5/5/26
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Copy to :-
By Court's Motion
New Delhi. Delhi

5/5/26
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Certified to be true copy
Assistant Registrar (Judl.)
.....6.4.7...2026
Supreme Court of India

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) No(s). 2/2026

IN RE: CONDITION BEING IMPOSED WHILE GRANTING BAIL BY HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AND DISTRICT COURTS IN THE STATE OF ODISHA AND ANCILLARY ISSUES

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ORDER

1. The instant controversy originates from prolonged protests that began in 2023 by expropriated landowners and settlers whose lands have been or are proposed to be acquired by the Vedanta Group for a bauxite mining project in the Rayagada and Kalahandi districts of Odisha. These protests, largely led by members of Adivasi and Dalit communities, are alleged to have intermittently turned violent. It is further alleged that some protestors engaged in anti-mining demonstrations and attacked Vedanta officials using axes and bows. This escalation led to the criminalisation of the protests, resulting in the registration of multiple FIRs against the demonstrators.

2. We are, however, in the present case not concerned with the legality of the land acquisition or the veracity of the FIRs registered. The relevant development is that forty such individuals were arrested, and while some were subsequently granted bail by the Trial Courts as well as the High Court of Orissa (in short, "Odisha High Court"), the relief of bail was granted subject to a range of conditions. Notably, these conditions included an unprecedented and rather odious requirement that the accused person(s) must undertake the cleaning of Police Stations for a period of two months or so.

3. For instance, the Odisha High Court, in BLAPL No. 2340/2025 in

Kumeswar Naik @ Kumbewar Naik v. State of Odisha, while granting bail to the petitioner therein, who was accused of offences under Sections 191(2), 191(3), 285, 333, 126(2), 121(2), 132, 109(1), 351(3), 125(a), 326(g), 324(5), 74 and 190 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), read with Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984 and Section 7 of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1932, imposed the aforesaid peculiar conditions and observed as follows:

> *"7. Considering the submissions made on" behalf of both the parties, this Court without going into the merits of the case, directs the court in seisin over the matter to release the present Petitioner on bail in the aforesaid case on some stringent terms and conditions with further conditions that:-*
>
> *xxxxx*
>
> *iv. The Petitioner shall clean the premises of the Kasipur Police Station in the morning hour (between 6.00 A.M to 9.00 AM) for two months from the date of his actual release. In the aforesaid case. The I.I.C of the Kasipur Police Station shall provide the cleaning articles like broom, phenyl and other items to the Petitioner so that he can clean the said premises."*
>
> [Emphasis supplied]

4. Another similar order was passed by the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Rayagada in BA No. 230 of 2025, in *Laxman Naik v. State of Odisha*, for offences under Sections 191(2), 191(3), 285, 333, 126(2), 121(2), 132, 109(1), 351(3), 125(a), 326(g), 324(5), 74 and 190 of the BNS, read with Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984 and Section 7 of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1932, wherein, the Sessions Court, following the Odisha High Court's order, passed the similar conditions to the following effect:

> *"Let the petitioner namely Laxman Naik be released on bail on furnishing bail bond of Rs.50,000/- (Fifty Thousand) with two solvent sureties each of the like amount to the satisfaction of learned JMFC, Kashipur with further conditions that-*

xxxx

iv. He shall clean the premises of the Kashipur Police Station in the morning hour (between 6 am to 9 am) for two months from the date of his actual release in the aforesaid case. The IIC. Kashipur PS shall provide the cleaning articles like broom, phenyl and other items to the petitioner so that he can clean the said premises."
[Emphasis supplied]

5. There are statedly at least six more such orders that have been passed by Trial Courts in Odisha during the period between May 2025 and January 2026, imposing similar unpalatable conditions. It has been widely reported that such conditions reflect an underlying, *albeit* unarticulated, bias of the Odisha State Judiciary, premised on the perception that the accused individuals, belonging to marginalised Adivasi communities and, therefore, it may be justified to subject then to such burdensome requirements. This unfortunate condition, in fact, is founded upon the presumption of guilt of the accused, as in a way, a nature of sentence has been awarded to them.

6. There thus seems to be some force in the reportage and, as rightly submitted by the learned Advocate General, State of Odisha and some of the counsel, who are representing the other accused in similar matters that no such conditions are being imposed by the state judiciary while granting bail to the accused, including those from the privileged sections of the society. Assuming that such conditions were imposed inadvertently or without any premeditated bias, the nature of the condition is so abhorrent, degrading, and unknown to law that it carries the potential to cast a serious aspersion, suggesting that the Odisha Judiciary is afflicted by a caste-based bias.

7. In a country as deeply diverse as ours, constitutional philosophy is anchored in the promise of equality and dignity

for all. The most invaluable gift that the people of India gave unto themselves through the Constitution was the vision of a casteless society founded upon the principle of substantive equality. Article 17 unequivocally dismantles the practice of untouchability and the barriers of caste, while Articles 14, 15 and 16 collectively advance this vision by guaranteeing equality before the law and enabling affirmative measures to ensure equal opportunity in every sphere of life.

8. The Judiciary, as the sentinel on the *qui vive*, is entrusted with the solemn duty of safeguarding these constitutional guarantees and is expected to zealously protect those who are most vulnerable to their violation. Over the course of seventy-five years of constitutional journey, the judiciary has transformed the principle of equality into a potent instrument in the hands of citizens, ensuring that even the might of the State cannot transgress fundamental rights with impunity.

9. This is the institution that has truly fashioned the sheet anchor of equality through its constitutional jurisprudence. In *E.P. Royappa v. State of Tamil Nadu*,[1] this Court enunciated the foundational principle that equality is antithetical to arbitrariness. Similarly, in *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India*,[2] this Court laid down that the procedure established by law must be just, fair, and reasonable, thereby infusing substantive due process into the constitutional framework. There have been a plethora of decisions that have given further colour to Article 14, furthering its dynamic and expansive nature.

10. While we need not burden this order with numerous precedents, which are already in the public domain, we are however deeply

1 AIR 1974 SC 555.
2 1978 AIR 597.

disappointed and disheartened, and express our strongest disapproval of the manner in which the Odisha state judiciary has, in effect, regressed to a colonial mindset by imposing such onerous, degrading, and humiliating conditions, which are *ex facie* violative of human rights. Such conditions, far from advancing the cause of justice, strike at the dignity of the accused and proceed on the premise of their guilt, which is totally impermissible in law.

11. We, accordingly, declare such conditions, as reproduced in paragraphs 3 and 4 or any other similarly worded conditions imposed by the state judiciary while granting bail, null and void. We deem it appropriate to issue an omnibus direction to all courts across the State of Odisha to forthwith delete such or similar offending conditions from bail orders and to refrain from substituting them with any analogous requirements. The accused persons shall continue to remain on bail, unencumbered by these impermissible conditions, and shall be deemed to have been relieved of the same. Ordered accordingly.

12. Given these extenuating circumstances, we are of the considered view that no other State Judiciary also ought to be exposed to or replicate such caste-coloured and oppressive conditions, which have the potential to generate serious social friction. We therefore deem it appropriate to direct the Registry of this Court to circulate a copy of this order to all High Courts across the country through their Registrar Generals. Each High Court shall, in turn, ensure that a copy of this order is served on every judicial officer within its jurisdiction, accompanied by a clear communication that such conditions shall not be imposed while granting bail under any circumstances.

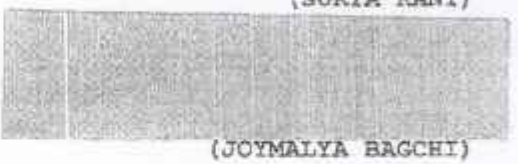
13. The Registrar General of the Odisha High Court is directed to file a compliance report in accordance with the directions issued hereinabove within a period of four weeks.

14. The petition stands disposed of accordingly.

15. List on 11.05.2026 for compliance only.

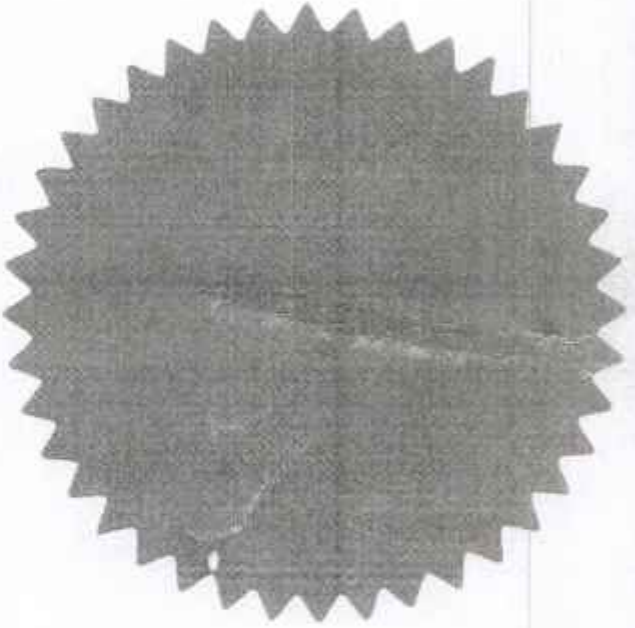


(SURYA KANT)



(JOYMALYA BAGCHI)

NEW DELHI;
MAY 04, 2026.



SEALED IN MY PRESENCE