

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
(CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION)
WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 706 OF 2025
(UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA & ORS.

PETITIONERS

VERSUS

THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA & ORS.

RESPONDENTS

WITH

I.A. NO.175268 OF 2025

**APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN THE
ABOVE-MENTIONED WRIT PETITION FILED BEFORE THIS
HON'BLE COURT AS PARTY IN PERSONS**

I.A. NO.175269 OF 2025

**APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING OFFICIAL
TRANSLATION**

PAPER BOOK

(KINDLY SEE INDEX INSIDE)

**MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA & 3 ORS.:
PARTY-IN-PERSONS
MOB. NO. +91 9820535428**

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

<u>S.NO.</u>	<u>RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

INDEX

S. No.	Particulars of Documents	Page No. of part to which it belongs		Remarks
		Part I [Contents of Paper Book]	Part-II [Contents of file alone]	
[i]	[ii]	[iii]	[iv]	[v]
	E-Court Fee			
1	Listing Performa.	‘A1-A3’	‘A-A3’	
2	Cover page of Paper Book		A-4	
3	Index of Record of Proceedings		A-5	
4	Defect List		A-6	
5	Note Sheet		A-7	
6	Synopsis & List of Dates	B-F		
7	Writ Petition with Affidavit.	1-23		
8	<u>ANNEXURE P-1</u> A true copy of the order dated 28.03.2025 passed by this Hon’ble Court in Writ Petition (Civil) Diary No. 15529 of 2025.	24-25		
9	<u>ANNEXURE P-2</u> A true copy of the report dated 03.05.2025.	26-89		
10	<u>ANNEXURE P-3</u> A true copy of the Writ Petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India before the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India bearing Writ Petition (Civil) No. 534 of 2025 dated 13.05.2025.	90-115		
11	<u>ANNEXURE P- 4</u> A true copy of the order dated 21.05.2025 passed by this Hon’ble Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 534 of 2025.	116-117		
12	<u>ANNEXURE P-5</u> A true copy of the representation dated 26.05.2025 sent by the Petitioner No. 1	118-122		

	herein to the Hon'ble President of India, New Delhi without annexures.			
13	<u>I.A. NO. OF 2025</u> Application for permission to appear and argue the above-mentioned Writ Petition filed before this Hon'ble Court as Party in Person.	123-125		
14	<u>ANNEXURE A-1</u> A true copy of the Aadhar Card bearing No. 2979 5739 1137 of the Petitioner in Person No. 1.	126		
15	<u>ANNEXURE A-2</u> A true copy of the Aadhar Card bearing No. 9377 1660 6859 of the Petitioner in Person No. 2.	127		
16	<u>ANNEXURE A-3</u> A true copy of the Aadhar Card bearing No. 8120 9032 1274 of the Petitioner in Person No. 3.	128		
17	<u>ANNEXURE A-4</u> A true copy of the Aadhar Card bearing No. 5281 0154 7535 of the Petitioner in Person No. 4.	129		
18	<u>ANNEXURE A-5</u> A true copy of SPA executed in favour of Petitioner in Person No. 1 by Petitioner No. 2 to 4	130-132		
19	<u>I.A. NO. OF 2025</u> Application for exemption from filing official translation.	133-134		
20	Letter for Clarification	135-137		
21	Memo of Appearances		138	
22	F/M		139	
23	Copy of the Bar Council ID of the Petition in Person No. 1 herein.		140	

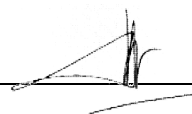
A-1**PROFORMA FOR FIRST LISTING**

SECTION		
The case pertains to (Please tick / check the correct box):		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Act: (Title)	Constitution of India
<input type="checkbox"/>	Section:	Under Article 32 of Constitution of India
<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Rule: (Title)	N.A.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rule No(s)	N.A.
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Act: (Title)	N.A.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Section:	N.A.
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Rule: (Title)	N.A.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rule No(s)	N.A.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Impugned Interim Order: (Date)	N.A.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Impugned Final Order / Decree: (Date)	N.A.
<input type="checkbox"/>	High Court: (Name)	N.A.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Names of Judges:	N.A.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribunal / Authority: (Name)	N.A.
1.	Nature of Matter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Civil <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal
2.	(a) Petitioner	MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA & ORS.
	(b) E-Mail Id:	mathewsinedumpara@gmail.com
	(c) Mobile Phone Number:	9820535428
3.	(a) Respondent:	SUPREME COURT OF INDIA & ORS.

A-2

	(b) E-Mail Id:	N. A.		
	(c) Mobile Phone Number:	N. A.		
4.	(a) Main Category Classification.	1800 Ordinary Civil Matters		
	(b) Sub Classification:	1807 Others		
5.	Not to be listed before:	N.A.		
6.	(a) Similar disposed of matter with citation, if any, & case details: No similar matter is disposed of by this Hon'ble Court.			
	(b) Similar pending matter with case details: No similar matter is pending before this Hon'ble Court.			
7.	Criminal Matters:	Not Applicable		
	(a) Whether accused / convict has surrendered: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
	(b) FIR No.	N.A.	Date:	N.A.
	(c) Police Station:	N.A.		
	(d) Sentence Awarded:	N.A.		
	(e) Period of sentence undergone including period of detention / custody undergone:	N.A.		
	(f) Whether any earlier case between the same parties is filed:	N.A.		
	(g) Particulars of the FIR and Case:	N.A.		
	(h) Whether any bail application was preferred earlier and decision thereupon:	N.A.		

A-3

8.	Land Acquisition Matters:	
	(a) Date of Section 4 Notification:	N.A.
	(b) Date of Section 6 Notification:	N.A.
	(c) Date of Section 17 Notification:	N.A.
9.	Tax Matters: State the tax effect:	
		N.A.
10.	Special Category (First Petitioner / Appellant Only):	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen > 65 Years <input type="checkbox"/> SC / ST <input type="checkbox"/> Woman /Child Disabled Legal Aid Case <input type="checkbox"/> In Custody <input type="checkbox"/>	
11.	Vehicle Number (in case of Motor Accident Claim Matters):	N.A.
12.	Whether there was is litigation on the same point of law, if yes, details thereof.	No
Place: New Delhi Dated: 16.07.2025		 MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA PETITIONER IN PERSON NO. 1 Mob. No. 9820535428 E-Mail: mathewsjnedumpara@gmail.com

B

SYNOPSIS

1. The instant, sadly, is the third petition which the Petitioners, citizens and lawyers, are constrained to institute to set the criminal law in motion, which is a statutory duty cast on the Delhi Police and the Central Government. The Central Government which is in charge of the Delhi Police, on it being reported that there has been an incident of huge volumes of currency notes, burned and partially burned, being found and clandestinely removed from the official residence of Justice Varma, a judge of the Delhi High Court, was duty bound to direct the Delhi Police to register an FIR. Its amounts to the a great failure in the discharge of its sovereign function, nay, duty to investigate crimes and secure punishment to those who violate the law.
2. Justice Varma's daughter called the fire force soon after the fire broke out. The fire force and the police reached the spot. To their utter shock, the firemen found currency notes in a large number of plastic sacks under fire. While they were carrying out the job of dousing the fire, which took over an hour, the police also reached. They informed the higher officials of the shocking incident of huge volumes of cash being found. They took a number of videos and photographs. The Private Secretary to the judge, Mr. Kalki, who reached the spot, asked the firemen and the police to leave the premises, telling them that since the fire has been doused, their presence is no longer required and that he would take care of the scene of the fire.

C

3. The presence of huge volumes of cash running into crores of rupees, that too at the official residence of a judge of the Delhi High Court, who decides commercial matters involving hundreds and thousands of crores, whose residence is secured 24/7 by CRPF, would lead to the irresistible conclusion that the money which happened to catch fire is illegal money and the judge and the bribe giver, both, have committed offences punishable under the Prevention of Corruption Act, PMLA, BNS and other laws, which render it obligatory on the part of the Police to register an FIR. The Police, instead of registering an FIR, reported the matter to the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, and the latter, in turn to the Chief Justice of India. The video which the firemen and the police took came to be circulated among those in power in Delhi and remained no secret. However, the world at large did not come to know of it till the Times of India broke the news on 21.3.2025.
4. What happened thereafter in the eyes of the citizens of this country has been an eyewash. The police were duty-bound to register an FIR, but could not because of K. Veeraswami. The then Chief Justice ought to have, on his own, granted permission, for he knew that it was the said judgment that stood in the way of an FIR being registered. Instead, a committee was constituted to do what the Police man's job is, namely, investigation. In asking the High Court judges to investigate another constitutional principle that High Court judges are not subordinates to Supreme Court judges, got violated. The Committee is nothing but an extra-constitutional authority. In reality, restraining the police

D

man from doing his job. It was in that background that W.P. (C) Diary No. 15529 of 2025 was filed seeking registration of an FIR. The said plea was not granted, instead, the Petitioners were asked to await the Committee's report. Since even after the committee had submitted its report, no FIR was registered, the Petitioners instituted yet another writ petition. Instead of directing the registration at least at this belated stage, the Petitioners were asked to approach their Excellencies, the President and the Prime Minister, observing that even the Court is not aware of the findings of the Committee, while in truth it was known to most that the Committee had indicted Justice Varma. The Petitioners preferred representations to Their Excellencies the President and the Prime Minister in no loss of time. To the Petitioner's knowledge, no FIR, till date, has been registered, and there has been no direction from the Government to do so. what is at stake is the concept of the rule of law, equality before law and equal protection of law. To the ordinary citizens of this country, it looks as though there are two sets of laws in this country, one for them and another for the elite, one which allows them to walk scot-free.

Hence, the instant petition.

LIST OF DATES AND EVENTS

1991	This Hon'ble Court in K. Veeraswami Versus Union of India, 1991 SCR (3) 189, was pleased to direct that no criminal case shall be registered under Section 154 of the CRPC against a
------	--

E

2010	<p>judge of the High Court, Chief Justice of a High Court or a judge of the Supreme Court, without the prior approval of the Chief Justice of India.</p> <p>The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill was introduced to establish a mechanism for investigating judicial misconduct. However, it lapsed without becoming law.</p>
14.3.2025	<p>A fire broke out at the official residence of Justice Yashwant Varma. Fire officials, while responding, discovered heaps of currency notes</p>
March 2025	<p>Widespread media coverage and public outcry followed. The Allahabad High Court Bar Association opposed Justice Varma's transfer to their court.</p>
24.3.2025	<p>The Petitioners filed Writ Petition (Civil) Diary No. 15529 of 2025, seeking the registration of an FIR</p>
28.3.2025	<p>This Hon'ble Court disposed the said petition observing that no intervention was called for 'at this stage'.</p>
15.05.2025	<p>W.P.(C) No. 534/ 2025 was instituted seeking the registration of an FIR.</p>
03.05.2025	<p>The 3-member committee submitted its report to the Chief Justice of India on the allegations against Justice Varma.</p>

F

21.05.2025	W.P.(C) No. 534/ 2025 was disposed of, directing the Petitioners to approach their Excellencies, the President and the Prime Minister
26.05.2025	Petitioners preferred representations to Their Excellencies, the President and the Prime Minister, and other dignitaries in furtherance of the judgment of the Supreme Court dated 21.05.2025
15.07.2025	No action till date has been taken in furtherance of the representations seeking registration of an FIR
16.07.2025	Hence, the present Writ Petition.

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
(CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION)**

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. OF 2023

(UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)

IN THE MATTER OF:

1. MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA
ADVOCATE
101, 1ST FLOOR, GUNDECHA CHAMBER,
NAGINDAS ROAD, FORT, MUMBAI,
MAHARASHTRA-400001. PETITIONER NO. 1
2. ROHINI AMIN
ADVOCATE
B-705, NIRMAN APARTMENTS, R.J. MARG,
PUMP HOUSE, ANDHERI EAST, MUMBAI,
MAHARASHTRA-400093. PETITIONER NO. 2
3. RAJESH VISHNU ADREKAR
ADVOCATE
401, D-14, YOGI VARDHAN CHS, YOGI
NAGAR ROAD, YOGI NAGAR, BORIVILI
WEST, MUMBAI,
MAHARASHTRA-400092. PETITIONER NO. 3
4. MANISHA NIMESH MEHTA
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
PRESIDENT IOF MSME ASSOCIATION
1905, ROSELLA, PANT NAGAR, GHATKOPAR,
MUMBAI,
MAHARASHTRA-400075. PETITIONER NO. 4

VERSUS

1. SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL
BHAGWAN DAS ROAS,
NEW DELHI-110001. RESPONDENT NO. 1
2. THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE,
HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF DELHI
REPRESENTED BY REGISTRAR GENERAL
DELHI HIGH COURT, SHER SHAH ROAD,
NEW DELHI-110003. RESPONDENT NO. 2
3. HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE YASHWANT VERMA
SITTING JUDGE
HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATRE AT ALLAHABAD
NYAYA MARG, CANTON, CANTONMENT,
PRAYAGRAJ, UTTAR PRADESH 211001 RESPONDENT NO. 3
4. UNION OF INDIA
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL OF AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
4TH FLOOR, A-WING, SHASTRI BHAWAN,
NEW DELHI-110001. RESPONDENT NO. 4
5. ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED)
THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR,
6TH FLOOR, LOK NAYAK BHAWAN,
KHAN MARKET, NEW DELHI. RESPONDENT NO. 5
6. STATION HOUSE OFFICER (SHO)
TULGAK ROAD POLICE STATION,
TULGAK ROAD, NEW DELHI- 110011. RESPONDENT NO. 6
7. COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,
DELHI POLICE HEADQUARTERS,
JAI SINGH ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001. RESPONDENT NO. 7
8. MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
THROUGHT ITS SECRETARY
NORTH BLOCK, CENTRAL SECRETARIAT,
NEW DELHI-110001. RESPONDENT NO. 8

9. FIRE DEPARTMENT, DELHI
THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR
DELHI FIRE SERVICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE
NEW DELHI-110001. RESPONDENT NO. 9
10. CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR
CGO COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD,
NEW DELHI-110003. RESPONDENT NO. 10
11. INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
THROUGH THE CHAIRMAN
CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES (CBDT),
NORTH BLOCK, NEW DELHI-110001. RESPONDENT NO. 11

WRIT PETITION FILED UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

TO
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF INDIA AND HIS COMPANION JUSTICES
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

HUMBLE PETITION OF THE
PETITIONERS IN PERSONS ABOVE NAMED

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

1. The instant, sadly, is the third petition which the Petitioners, citizens and lawyers, are constrained to institute to set the criminal law in motion, which is a statutory duty cast on the Delhi Police and the Central Government. The Central Government which is in charge of the Delhi Police, on it being reported that there has been an incident of huge volumes of currency notes, burned and partially burned, being found and clandestinely removed from the

official residence of Justice Varma, a judge of the Delhi High Court, was duty bound to direct the Delhi Police to register an FIR. It amounts to the a great failure in the discharge of its sovereign function, nay, duty to investigate crimes and secure punishment to those who violate the law.

2. Justice Varma's daughter called the fire force soon after the fire broke out. The fire force and the police reached the spot. To their utter shock, the firemen found currency notes in a large number of plastic sacks under fire. While they were carrying out the job of dousing the fire, which took over an hour, the police also reached. They informed the higher officials of the shocking incident of huge volumes of cash being found. They took a number of videos and photographs. The Private Secretary to the judge, Mr. Kalki, who reached the spot, asked the firemen and the police to leave the premises, telling them that since the fire has been doused, their presence is no longer required and that he would take care of the scene of the fire.
3. The presence of huge volumes of cash running into crores of rupees, that too at the official residence of a judge of the Delhi High Court, who decides commercial matters involving hundreds and thousands of crores, whose residence is secured 24/7 by CRPF, would lead to the irresistible conclusion that the money which happened to catch fire is illegal money and the judge and the bribe giver, both, have committed offences punishable under the Prevention of Corruption Act, PMLA, BNS and other laws, which render it obligatory on the part of the Police to register an FIR. The Police, instead of

registering an FIR, reported the matter to the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, and the latter, in turn to the Chief Justice of India. The video which the firemen and the police took came to be circulated among those in power in Delhi and remained no secret. However, the world at large did not come to know of it till the Times of India broke the news on 21.3.2025.

4. The Police were duty-bound to register an FIR and set the criminal law in motion, secure the place of occurrence and seize the currency notes that were found and start an investigation with all earnestness.
5. The Petitioners are made to understand that they could not because of the judgment of this Hon'ble Court in K. Veeraswami Vs. Union of India, 1991 SCR (3) 189, which unknown and unbelievable to the common man, prohibits the police from registering an FIR against judges of the High Court and Supreme Court without the prior permission of the Chief Justice of India. The then Chief Justice of India, to his credit, was pleased to direct the uploading of a video of the incident on the Supreme Court Website, where a fireman is heard saying "Mahatma Gandhi is on fire brother" . The said action on the part of the Chief Justice will be written in golden letters in the annals of history. The Hon'ble Chief Justice, however, did not on his own grant permission to the Police to register an FIR, knowing fully the impediment that K. Veerswami creates in the police discharging its statutory duty. That was a great error on his part because he knew for certain that what stood in the way

of the police in registering an FIR is the aforesaid judgment of this Court in K. Veeraswami case.

6. The Chief Justice instead constituted a committee consisting of three High Court judges. The said committee was constituted purportedly in exercise of the jurisdiction conferred on him by the resolution adopted by the full court of the Supreme Court titled 'Restatement of the values of judicial life'. The said resolution has no statutory force. The purpose of the resolution is not – and cannot – be to substitute the criminal laws of the land. The purpose of the resolution was to address grievances and complaints against judges in the discharge of their duties and conduct in judicial proceedings and in public life.
7. The judges of the High Courts are not subordinate to the Chief Justice of India/judges of the Supreme Court. They are subordinate to the Supreme Court only to the extent that an appeal will lie to the Supreme Court. The Chief Justice of India has no jurisdiction to ask the Chief Justice and judges of the High Courts to assume the role of a police man and investigate a crime. And nor do the High Court judges have the jurisdiction/authority, expertise or knowledge to undertake such a job. The Petitioners were aghast by the constitution of a committee by the Chief Justice and the investigation by a body which is incompetent and lacking in jurisdiction. The Petitioners felt it to be a complete miscarriage of justice. Nothing but a restraint on the police from exercising its statutory duty, nay, sovereign power to set the criminal law

in motion and secure punishment to those who commit crimes, no matter his status or position.

8. The Petitioners accordingly invoked the jurisdiction of this Court under Article 32 seeking a mandamus directing the police to register an FIR and to cause an effective and meaningful investigation into the incident, and assuming for mere argument sake that the Police required the prior permission of the Chief Justice of India, a direction to that effect, for “*be ye never so high, the law is above you*” is the core of Article 14. This Hon’ble Court, to the Petitioner’s dismay, was pleased to dispose of the said writ petition observing that the Hon’ble Chief Justice has constituted a committee and the committee has begun its job, and the Chief Justice will have many options once the committee submits its report. A true copy of the order dated 28.03.2025 passed by this Hon’ble Court in Writ Petition (Civil) Diary No. 15529 of 2025 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE P-1 (PAGES 24 TO 25)**.
9. The Petitioners in the said writ petition had sought a declaration that the observation in Paragraph 60 in K. Veeraswami that no FIR shall be registered against a judge of a High Court or Supreme Court without the permission of the Chief Justice of India, is nothing but legislation, a repeal of Section 154 of the Cr.P.C., and one rendered per incuriam and sub silentio and is therefore not binding as a precedent. The Petitioners also sought a declaration that the Committee is one without any statutory force. It has no jurisdiction to conduct an investigation, in reality, by substituting itself for the police. The Petitioners

also pointed out that the Committee is non est in law, and the Supreme Court, by an administrative order, cannot confer a jurisdiction on it where the Parliament has conferred none. The Petitioners pointed out that the constitution of a committee is extra constitutional and would do irreparable damage to the credibility of the institution of judiciary inasmuch as the common man will be forced to – that the judges when it comes to their own affairs set a different law than the one they apply to the common citizens, taking us back to the Dark Ages. The Court, however, did not consider, discuss or adjudicate upon the contentions raised as aforesaid.

10. The Petitioners came to know from the Press on 4th May 2025 that the 3-judge committee had submitted its report to the Chief Justice of India, that the Chief Justice had called for the say of Justice Varma and that the Chief Justice had referred the report to their Excellencies, the President of India and the Prime Minister. The fact that the Committee had indicted Justice Varma was an open secret, but the report was not available. The report was later available on social media. A true copy of the report dated 03.05.2025 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE P-2 (PAGES 26 TO 89)**.

11. The Petitioners felt that it the recourse to the constitution of a committee and the Chief Justice referring the matter to the President and Prime Minister in real terms is nothing but an obstruction to setting the criminal law in motion. So far as criminal investigation, every day's, nay, hour's delay would cause irreparable damage, for the intervention of Justice Varma's Private Secretary

has led to the scene of the incident not being secured, the material evidence not being seized. To the citizens of this country, the very constitution of the committee, the judges assuming to themselves the job of the police and embarking upon an investigation, the Chief Justice referring the matter to the Prime Minister and President, is all nothing but protecting the judge from the penal laws of the country, an obvious effort to divert public attention, delay and derail investigation. Nothing could be more unfortunate than that. Because the citizens of this country believe the courts to be the last resort. *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes* – ‘Who would watch the watchmen?’, is the question to which the citizens of the country seek an answer.

12. The Petitioners invoked the jurisdiction of this Court under Article 32 a second time, primarily seeking the very same reliefs, namely, a declaration that the Police is liable to register an FIR and set the criminal law in motion, that the observations in K. Veeraswami restraining the police from registering an FIR against judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court are rendered *per incuriam* and *sub silentio* which will bind either the Supreme Court or the police. The Petitioners also sought a copy of the report of the committee. The Supreme Court, however, by judgment dated 21.05.2025, was pleased to dispose of the writ petition observing that the Chief Justice of India has forwarded the report of the Committee which had indicted Justice Varma to their Excellencies the President and the Prime Minister. This Court was also pleased to observe that no mandamus can be granted since the Petitioners had

not approached the authorities for registration of an FIR. It also further observed that the Petitioners are at liberty to make a representation to their Excellencies, the President and the Prime Minister. A true copy of the Writ Petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India bearing Writ Petition (Civil) No. 534 of 2025 dated 13.05.2025 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE P-3 (PAGES 90 TO 115)**. As in the earlier writ petition, the Court did not examine the merits of the plea made by the Petitioner as aforesaid. A true copy of the order dated 21.05.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 534 of 2025 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE P-4 (PAGES 116 TO 117)**. The Petitioners made representations to their Excellencies, the President and the Prime Minister. A true copy of the representation dated 26.05.2025 sent by the Petitioner No. 1 herein to the Hon'ble President of India, New Delhi without annexures is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE P-5 (PAGES 118 TO 122)**. The representation to the Hon'ble Prime Minister is identical to that addressed to the President. The Petitioners, therefore, crave the leave of this court to produce the same across the bar, if deemed necessary.

13. The Petitioners have also made representations to the Hon'ble Ministers in charge of Home, Law and Parliamentary Affairs. The Petitioners have not received any communication from the office of any of the dignitaries except from that of the President.

14. The nation is in dire straits, a high-level committee constituted by the Chief Justice of India has found Justice Varma to be *prima facie* guilty of corruption allegedly involving over 50 crores of rupees. Social media is rife with rumours that others from the Delhi High Court are involved and that powerful men in Delhi are struggling to protect Justice Varma. A few - or rather, not so few - members of the elite class of lawyers and retired judges in Delhi have openly come out in support of Justice Varma, brazenly defending what is nothing short of manifest corruption, without even the pretense of a veil. They blame the then Chief Justice of India for forwarding the report of the committee to the President, which the Government/MPs may rely on as *prima facie* evidence of misconduct to initiate a motion for impeachment.
15. The powerful lobby of dynasties have since independence managed to control the bar and the bench by getting their kith and kin, and near and dear ones anointed as judges and senior advocates. They use PIL, not as a means to do justice to the underprivileged, but to subjugate the Parliament and the executive. PIL is a very curious mechanism whereunder the laws enacted by the Parliament and the policies of the Government, which represent the people, are substituted by the policies and will of a few elite in a proceedings entirely behind the people's back. The people of this country are not aware that PIL is no longer *pro bono* litigation meant for the poor, but an instrument of usurpation of power by the elite, where decisions are taken in proceedings which are not representative at all.

16. An FIR is yet to be registered, and the criminal law is yet to be set into motion, giving a worrisome impression that judges are above the law. Reports indicate that only part of the currency was burned and that the untouched portions were removed, allowing those involved in the crime to get away scot-free. The delay in registration of an FIR has caused enormous damage and has made a thorough and credible investigation, which is a constitutional imperative, extremely difficult.
17. The Petitioners now approach this Court for the registration of an FIR with concrete proof, which is nothing but the report of the in-house committee constituted by this Court itself. The report contains the statements of a large number of eyewitnesses, firemen and police who have deposed before the committee those large volumes of currency were kept at the residence of the judge, guarded 24/7 by the CRPF, that the money belonged to the judge/his family, and that they had surreptitiously removed the sacks of notes. The judge had no convincing explanation except for a mere denial that the money is not his, that there was a conspiracy to falsely implicate him.
18. The Committee's report states that, according to Justice Varma, he had kept "some" cash in the store room, but that some people had planted huge volumes of currency to falsely implicate him. He alleges a conspiracy to implicate him. If that were the case, he would have been the first person to come forward and lodge a complaint and would have been demanding registration of an FIR and investigation of the offence to bring out the culprits who had ventured to

falsely implicate him by planting crores and crores of rupees, that too in a high-security zone. It is difficult to fathom that Justice Varma would think that the people of this country could be fed such absurdity. Unfortunately for him, a fire broke out, but for which the world would not have known the scale of corruption in the judiciary.

19. Justice Varma is certainly entitled to the presumption of innocence. The burden to establish the offence against him is on the prosecution. These are fundamentals. The Petitioners have no quarrel about it. All that the Petitioners demand is that the incident be investigated thoroughly and impartially, the truth be brought out, and the culprits, however high they may be, be brought to justice.
20. The registration of an FIR has been delayed by 4 months. Further delay would mean irreparable damage to the very concept of the rule of law, equality before law and equal protection of law. The Petitioners have made representations to their Excellencies, the President and the Prime Minister in furtherance of the judgment of this Court dated 21.05.2025. No action till date has been taken. The failure to set the criminal law in motion, that too in an offence of such magnitude as in the instant case, is a failure on the part of the Central Government to discharge its legal and constitutional duties. To raise hue and cry, to borrow an expression from common law, where an offence has occurred, is the duty of every citizen. And where the government has failed to discharge its duty, a citizen aggrieved by the inaction on the part of the

Government has a right, nay, duty, to invoke the jurisdiction of this Court under Article 32 and to grant a writ in the nature of mandamus in such a situation is the duty of this Court.

21. Impeachment, which the Petitioners believe is a *fait accompli* in the light of the gravity of the offence and the undeniability of his involvement, will not be enough in itself. That is only the removal of an employee from his office, a pure civil consequence. What has happened is a grave crime against public justice. When it is a judge, the defender of justice who is himself the accused or culprit, then it is no ordinary offence; the gravity is far greater, and so must be the punishment. Probity in public life, which a judge is duty-bound to uphold, is uncompromisable. It is imperative that criminal law is set into motion, the matter is thoroughly investigated, and most importantly, ascertain who was the bribe giver/beneficiaries and what was the cause/judgment in which justice was purchased. Since the matter involves setting the criminal law into motion where it was not done, a petition under Article 32 will lie.
22. While the judiciary is sovereign in its field, namely, the adjudication of disputes, when it comes to the investigation of crimes and bringing of culprits to book, the police is sovereign. So long as the police act bona fide and in accordance with law, no interference is permissible. As the Privy Council has held, so long as the police act fairly and within jurisdiction, nobody, not even the Court, can interfere.

23. The Petitioners being lawyers and citizens consider that they have locus standi, nay, that is their bounden duty to take up the issue before this Hon'ble Court to ensure that if Justice Varma has in fact committed the offence of accumulating wealth through corrupt means, he shall be subjected to criminal prosecution, even an impeachment by itself will not suffice. Corruption in the judiciary substantially and directly infringes the fundamental rights enshrined in Part III of the Constitution, in particular Articles 14, 19 and 21. As citizens of this country, the Petitioners have every right, unquestionable locus standi, to invoke Article 32.

GROUND

A. The instant case is not an ordinary case where the Police have failed or refused to register an FIR on receipt of information of the occurrence of a cognisable offence but an extraordinary one where the police finds itself restrained by a 5-judge constitution bench judgment of the Supreme Court in K. Veeraswami's case which mandates that no FIR shall be filed against a judge of the High Court or Supreme Court without the prior permission of the Chief Justice of India. The ordain of the Supreme Court to the Police was that it shall not act in accordance with Section 154 of the CrPC, which renders it mandatory for the Police to register an FIR and set the criminal law in motion, investigate the crime and bring the accused, mighty or small, irrespective of their status to book. The Supreme Court had no power to make such a declaration or direction

contrary to law, it being the creation of the constitution, bound by law and duty bound to administer law.

B. The police cannot be blamed, for not acting contrary to the judgement of the Supreme Court in K. Veeraswami's case because of the wholly erroneous perception created, the Petitioners are afraid to say, by the Supreme Court's own observations that its judgements are the law of the land, though it is not. The judgements of the Supreme Court are only binding as *res judicata* between the parties and none else. All that is binding on those who are not parties to the judgment is the legal principle, if any, which the Supreme Court has evolved where none existed or where a principle has been repeatedly and repeatedly reaffirmed, as a precedent within the meaning of Article 141 of the Constitution. These are undeniable principles of law, fundamental. These fundamentals are misunderstood, even by the Courts. In reality, contempt proceedings are initiated against the police for acting in violation of the directions, for instance, in *Arnesh Kumar*, though they are not parties. It is not wholly inconceivable that had the Police registered an FIR against Justice Varma, someone would have filed a contempt of court petition alleging that the police have acted contrary to K. Veeraswami.

C. The judgment in K. Veeraswami is the single primary reason for the police not registering an FIR and setting the criminal law in motion. The Petitioners have raised the issue of the need to revisit K. Veeraswami and hold it to be *per incuriam* and *sub silentio*, nay, one rendered void *ab initio*, one which never

existed in the eyes of law, in the earlier two writ petitions. However, it was not considered. Leaving no option to the Petitioners except to invoke the jurisdiction of this Court a third time.

D. This Court in its judgement dated 21.05.2025 held that no mandamus will lie until and unless the Person aggrieved had approached the statutory authorities and the authorities had failed to act on such representation or demand. In ordinary situations, this proposition of law is tenable. Law cannot be understood or interpreted in a vacuum detached from the realities of life. The Petitioners, most of them being lawyers, were certain that approaching the police or the government would be of no use because the Government, even at the highest level is fully aware of the incident/crime and had not acted upon it and that the police would not have acted upon it so long as K. Veeraswami remained the “law of the land”. Therefore, the only option open to the Petitioner is to approach this Court for a direction to register an FIR, making it clear that if a judgment is contrary to a statute, it is not the judgment that will prevail, but the statute. No judgement can be read as a statute or in substitution of the statute. These are undeniable. Yet, a specific direction at the hands of this Court was absolutely necessary. What is a precedent is the principle evolved or followed by a court while adjudicating a case. It is not the strength of the bench that matters, but the principle.

E. Therefore, from the pure point of view of jurisprudence, there is no need to refer the issue presented by K. Veeraswami to a larger bench. But the practice

in vogue being to refer to a larger bench even when a judgment/precedent is contrary to statute, the Petitioners pleaded that K. Veeraswami be referred for reconsideration by a larger bench. But that plea, too, was not considered. Leaving the Petitioners with no option that to institute the present petition, because as anticipated, the Government and the police have not acted upon the representations of the Petitioners dated 26.05.2025 seeking registration of an FIR preferred in furtherance of the judgment of this Court dated 21.05.2025 in W.P.(C) No. 534/ 2025.

- F. The core of our Constitutional ethos is equality before law and equal protection of law. The penal laws of the country are applicable equally to all. The rich and the poor. The mighty and the insignificant alike. This is a universal principle. The only exception is the immunity to the President and Governors who symbolise the king, the sovereign. K. Veeraswami v. Union of India, 1991 SCR (3) 189 cuts the said constitutional principles at its very roots. The judgment in K. Veeraswasmi is therefore liable to be declared as violative of Article 14 of the Constitution.
- G. The Police is liable to be directed to register an FIR and investigate the crime, which would involve the arrest and custodial interrogation of Justice Varma if the police in the exercise of their sovereign function, find it just and necessary to do so. What has happened so far is the negation of Article 14. The Supreme Court did not come in the aid of the Constitution, on the contrary, the constitution of a committee to do the job of the police and the failure to make

it clear that the police is duty bound to register an FIR and set the criminal law in motion, has undoubtedly meant Justice Varma being given a preferential treatment in the face of serious allegations of corruption and money laundering. No amount of platitudes to Justice Varma by the so-called eminent lawyers and so-called legal luminaries, which include retired judges of the Supreme Court, can conceal this undeniable truth. What is being buried is the doctrine that “*be you ever so high, the law is above you*”, that even the king is under law and God. The protection which Justice Varma enjoys today in the face of serious allegations of corruption, as evidenced by the report of the Supreme Court’s own committee, is a protection which even the King does not enjoy.

H. Impeachment, which the Petitioners believe is a *fait accompli* in the light of the gravity of the offence and the undeniability of his involvement, will not be enough in itself. That is only the removal of an employee from his office, a pure civil consequence. What has happened is a grave crime against public justice. When it is a judge, the defender of justice who is himself the accused or culprit, then it is no ordinary offense; the gravity is far greater, and so must be the punishment. Probity in public life, which a judge is duty-bound to uphold, is uncompromisable. It is imperative that criminal law is set into motion, the matter is thoroughly investigated, and most importantly, ascertain who was bribegiver/beneficiaries and what was the cause/judgment in which justice was purchased. Since the matter involves setting the criminal law into motion where it was not done, a petition under Article 32 will lie. In any other

circumstance, the discovery of such large amounts of cash would have resulted in the consequential arrest of the person involved and consequent criminal proceedings. However, even after clear findings of the Inquiry Committee Report by the Supreme Court, a mere recommendation of impeachment would not serve the ends of justice, since impeachment *per se* cannot be regarded as remedy to a crime deserving criminal punishment.

24. That the Petitioner in Person had filed a Writ Petition (Civil) No. 534 of 2025 before this Hon'ble Court for seeking similar reliefs.

PRAYER

In the above premises, it is prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

- a) To issue a writ in the nature of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction, directing the Respondents/Delhi Police to register an FIR and cause an effective and meaningful investigation into the incident of recovery of huge amounts of unaccounted money from the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma, or in the alternative to direct the Police/Union Government to seek permission of the Chief Justice for the registration of the FIR;
- b) To declare that the incident of recovery of crores of unaccounted money from the official residence of Justice Yashwant Varma constitutes a cognisable offence punishable under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and that the police is duty bound to register an FIR and that

the observations in paragraph 60 of the judgment of the Supreme Court in K. Veeraswami v. UOI prohibiting that no criminal case shall be registered against a judge of a High court or Supreme Court without the prior permission of the Chief Justice of India is one rendered per incuriam and sub silentio and is gross violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India;


- c) To issue a writ in the nature of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction, directing the Government to take effective and meaningful action for curbing corruption across all levels of the judiciary, including the enactment of the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010, which had lapsed;
- d) Pass any other order(s) as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit in the interest of justice.

INTERIM RELIEF

- a) Direct the police to register an FIR, set the criminal law into motion/grant permission to the police to do so, if such permission is deemed necessary;
- b) To direct the publication/uploading of the report submitted by the in-house committee which inquired into the incident concerning Justice Yashwant Varma on the official website of this Hon'ble Court;

**AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS THE PETITIONER IN PERSONS
SHALL AS IN DUTY BOUND EVER PRAY.**

Drawn & Filed by:



**MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA
PARTY-IN-PERSON NO. 1
MOB. 9820535428**

Drawn on:
Place: New Delhi
Dated: 16.07.2025

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. OF 2025**



IN THE MATTER OF:

SHRI MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA & ORS.

PETITIONERS

VERSUS

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA & ORS.

RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT

I, Mathews J. Nedumpara, Petitioner No. 1, Having Office at 101, 1st Floor, Gundecha Chambers, Nagindas Master Road, Fort, Mumbai, Maharashtra-400001, Maharashtra, Presently at Ernakulam, Kerala, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. I am the Petitioner in Person No.1 in the above-mentioned Writ Petition, and as such I am well conversant with the facts of the case and thus competent to swear this affidavit on behalf of other Petitioner in Person also.
2. I say that the I have read and understood the contents of the Synopsis and List of Dates at Pages B to F and contents of Para 1 to 24 at Pages 1 to 21 of the Writ Petition and connected applications at Pages 123-125 & 130-131 and state that the facts mentioned therein are true to my knowledge and belief and information derived from

DEVY A.C.
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
2nd FLOOR, INFANT JESUS BUILDING
OPP. HIGH COURT, ABOVE UNION BANK
COCHIN-682 031
Roll No. K/355/95, Mob: 9847229732
E-mail: acdevy@gmail.com

the records of the case as per the legal advice received and believed by me. I say that the facts and circumstances stated in the Writ Petition and connected applications are true and correct.

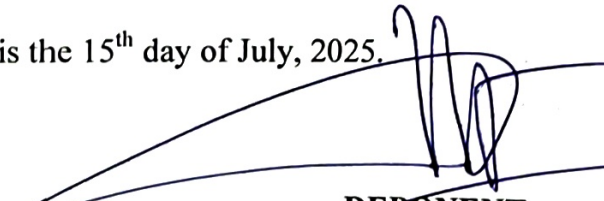
3. That the annexures filed along with this Writ Petition are true copies of their respective originals.
4. I say that the averments of facts stated herein above are true to my knowledge and no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.


DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I the above-named deponent affirms that the contents of Para 1 to 4 of this affidavit are true and correct to best of my knowledge and belief and no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Ernakulam, Kerala on this the 15th day of July, 2025.


DEPONENT

Solemnly affirmed and signed before
me at my office at Ernakulam

by deponent on 15th day of July 2025



DEVY A.C.
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
2nd FLOOR, INFANT JESUS BUILDING
OPP. HIGH COURT, ABOVE UNION BANK
COCHIN - 682 031
Roll No. K/355/95, Mob. 9847229732
E-mail: acdevy@gmail.com

NOTARIAL REGISTER PARTICULARS
Vol. No. 54 Page No. 182
Sl. No. 8505 Date 15 JUL 2025



ITEM NO.69

COURT NO.4

SECTION X

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 (CIVIL) Diary No(s). 15529/2025

SHRI MATHEWS J NEDUMPARA & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

Date : 28-03-2025 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ABHAY S. OKA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

For Petitioner(s) :

Mr. Mathews J.Nedumpara, in-person

For Respondent(s) :

UPON hearing the petitioner in person the Court made the following
O R D E R

Heard the first petitioner appearing in person.

As far as the grievance regarding the third respondent is concerned, as can be seen from the website of this Court, an in-house procedure has been adopted as directed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India. The inquiry pursuant to the in-house procedure is in progress. After the report is submitted by the Committee, there will be several options open for Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India.

Therefore, at this stage, it will not be appropriate to entertain this Writ Petition. There are wider prayers for reading down some of the decisions of this Court.

At this stage, according to us, it is not necessary to go into that aspect.

Subject to what is observed above, the Writ Petition is disposed of.

Pending application, if any, also stands disposed of.

(ANITA MALHOTRA)
AR-CUM-PS

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER

BY THREE MEMBERS COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY
HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA VIDE ORDER
DATED 22.03.2025 FOR CONDUCTING INQUIRY INTO
THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MR. JUSTICE
YASHWANT VARMA, THE THEN SITTING JUDGE OF
HIGH COURT OF DELHI, PRESENTLY JUDGE HIGH
COURT OF ALLAHABAD. **ANNEXURE P-2**

* * * *

Sequence of Events:

A fire which occurred on 14.03.2025, in the store room of the official bungalow, 30 Tughlak Crescent, Tughlak Road New Delhi, of Justice Yashwant Varma a sitting Judge of the Delhi High Court late at night at around 11.35 P.M. has led to the constitution of this Committee by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India. The fire personnel and the Delhi Police officials had reached the spot on receiving a request for help from the residents of the house and the Private Secretary of the sitting Judge, who himself was not in station at the relevant point of time. Apparently, in the process of dousing the fire, the said fire personnel and Delhi police officials took photographs and videos of the debris in the store room in question in which the fire had broken out and on account of the fact that the currency of high denomination had got affected and burnt, the same were shared with their higher officials.

2. The said information was shared by Commissioner of Police Mr. Sanjay Arora (witness No. 53) with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhaya, the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court in the late afternoon of 15th of March, 2025, who was out of station at Lucknow, on account of Holi vacation and he was also informed that a

report (Ex. P-1) had been sent to the Union Home Minister, wherein there was reference that there were four or five half burnt sacks of Indian currency at the spot. Certain still photographs and a video had also been shared with the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court by the Commissioner, of Police. Resultantly, the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court spoke to Justice Varma and also instructed his Registrar-cum-Secretary, Naresh Chand Garg to inspect the site of incident on the evening of 15th March, 2025. Pertinently, Justice Varma reached his residence at around 5.00 P.M. on 15.03.2025 after cutting short his trip to Madhya Pradesh (Satpura Wild Life Sanctuary)

3. The site was accordingly inspected at around 9:10 P.M. on 15.03.2025 in the presence of Justice Varma and his Private Secretary, Rajinder Singh Karki (W-41) who had also been present at the site of incident on 14.03.2025, when the fire was being doused and had remained at the site till the early morning on 15th March, 2025. Mr. Garg in his report dated 15.03.2025 (Ex. C-7) reported that store room was adjacent to the office and that on inspection, it was completely dark and walls had developed cracks and with the help of mobile phone torches had taken a look inside the room which had got blackened due to fire and some half-burnt articles were hanging and other half burnt articles were lying here and there on the floor. The said report submitted to the Chief Justice Delhi High Court was silent as to whether there were any half-burnt currency notes at the spot. Apparently, the Chief Justice, on returning to Delhi, met Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and resultantly was asked to contact Justice Varma and seek his explanation in detail. The interaction between the

two (Chief Justice of Delhi High Court and Justice Varma) thereafter took place on 17.03.2025 at around 8.30. A.M. at Delhi High Court Guest House where the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court was residing and the explanation given by Justice Varma was that furniture and household articles etc. had been burnt in the fire and the store room is accessible to all the house staff including the staff of CPWD. He was, at that point of time, shown the video and the still photographs which had been shared by the Commissioner of Police with the Chief Justice of Delhi by way of WhatsApp application to apprise him of the incriminating material to which he had set-forth a case of conspiracy against him. The said photographs and videos were also shared with Chief Justice of India on 20.03.2025, by the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court and resultantly, a proposal to transfer Justice Varma was initiated on the positive response of the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. Accordingly, Justice Varma's response was sought on 20.3.2025 (Ex. P-16), to which he gave his consent on the same date itself (Ex. P-17). The Chief Justice of Delhi High Court had also got information from the Commissioner of Police (Ex. P-4) that the debris consisting of half-burnt articles had been removed from the room in the morning of 15.03.2025. Therefore, he came to the conclusion that the inquiry got conducted by him did not reveal the possibility of entry or access to the room by any person other than those residing in the bungalow and came to the *prima facie* conclusion vide official communication bearing D.O. No. 268/CJS/25 dated 21.3.2025 addressed to Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India that the entire matter warrants a deeper probe. On the same day, a National

News paper "Times of ²⁹India" Delhi Edition dated 21.03.2025
(Mark-A) published a news item that *"A fire in the house of a Delhi High Court Judge had led to the recovery of cash pile"* and the fact that there was a proposal to transfer the judge in question by the Collegium of the Apex Court and that action should be taken against him.

4. Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India on the same date, i.e., 21.03.2025, asked for the reply of Justice Varma in writing before 12:00 noon of 22.03.2025, through the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court and also specifically asked that he provide the following information:

- i) *How does he account for the presence of money/cash in the room located in the premises?*
- ii) *Explain the source of money/cash which was found in the said room;*
- iii) *Who is the person who had removed the burnt money/cash from the room in the morning of March 15, 2025?*

5. Apart from that, the details of the official staff attached to Justice Varma, in the High Court Registry, the personal security officers and security guards was called for, apart from the fact that a request letter was forwarded summoning for call record details of the officials and other officials of the last six months. Justice Varma was also requested not to dispose of his mobile phones or delete or modify any conversation messages or data and the reply submitted was to be furnished immediately along with the comments of the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.

6. Resultantly, the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court asked for Justice Varma's explanation in writing on 21.03.2025, vide a DO letter No. 269/CJS/2025 (Ex. P-18) in which all the facts as narrated above had been put to him and the incident being very disturbing, Justice Varma was asked to give his response within the timeline which had been fixed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India. He was also accordingly told not to dispose of his mobile phone or delete or modify the communications.

Stand of Justice Varma at the outset:

7. Justice Varma in his response dated 22.3.2025 (Ex. P-15) addressed to the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court replied that the store room was utilized by all and sundry and was being used to store articles or unused furniture, bottles, crockery, mattresses, used carpets, old speakers garden implements as well as CPWD material and the room was unlocked and accessible from, both from front gate, as well as the back gate of the staff quarters. It was his specific case that the store room was disconnected from the main residence and was not a room in his house. He further mentioned the fact that he was not present in Delhi and only his daughter and aged mother were at home and the fire service was alerted by his daughter and his Private Secretary. His further categorical stand was that the staff and members of his house hold were asked to move away from the scene of incident in view of safety concerns and when the fire was doused, they had gone back to the scene of the incident and saw no cash or currency at the site. He had accordingly taken the plea that there was no cash placed by him or any of his family members and denied that it

belonged to him. He had stated that none would keep cash in an open and freely accessible store room near the staff quarters or in the outhouse. The store room was stated to be completely disassociated from his living area and a boundary wall demarcated his living area from the store room/outhouse. The plea, as such was taken that the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court in his communication apprised him of an information of an incident of "arson" at his residence and he had expressed shock as he was under the belief that it was merely a fire caused by short-circuit. In the explanation given, he mentioned the fact that there had been a request for the principal Private Secretary to visit the site in question to which he readily agreed and the same had been done and neither any currency had been found nor any cash seemed to be present on the site and the gutted room remained in the same state till that date.

8. Justice Varma in his explanation also mentioned the factum of meeting the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on 17.03.2025 before the commencement of the Court and that he had expressed his apprehension of a conspiracy to frame him at that point of time on being shown the video of the fire site and also had given the reference of an earlier attempt of unfounded allegations being made against him and circulated in the social media in December, 2024. The stand, thus, was that neither he nor his family members stored cash or kept currency in the store room and all cash withdrawals were all well documented and no one from his house ever reported seeing any currency in burnt form in the room. It is further his stand that there was no cash or currency which they had seen when

the site was restored to them after the fire personnel and Police had left the scene and had there been any recovery, seizure would have been made from the spot. Reference was also made to the statement of Chief of the Fire Service made which had come in the news report regarding this context. Resultantly, the plea taken was that an explanation was being asked for the allegations being leveled against him or his family members to account for the cash and that the reporting as such had been done without any inquiry being held and he had been wrongly indicted.

9. While referring to the video clip which had been shared with him, it was mentioned that no cash had been recovered or seized and it was doubtful whether the video was taken at the time of incident at the site while highlighting that none of his staff were shown any remnants of cash or currency that may have been present at the site. His own inquiry had revealed that there was no removal of currency from the premises and the only thing which had been cleared was debris which was considered salvageable. The same was stated to be still present in the house and kept in one part of the residence. The sacks of half burnt currency not having been shown to his daughter, Private Secretary or house hold staff was asserted and when the said persons had accessed the store room, they had not seen the incriminating material. Stress again had been made that the said store room was used as general dumping room for disused and other sundry articles and there was no occasion for currency being kept in the corner of the house which was freely accessible also from the back wicket gate and the fact that currency was not recovered from the

premises which they actually occupied and used by the family since e store zoom was removed from the living quarters.

10. The reputation built over the decade as the Judge of a High Court was highlighted that there was no such allegation ever made in the past and never any doubt had been cast on his integrity and that an inquiry should be made with respect to his functioning as a Judge and the perception of the legal fraternity regarding his discharging of judicial function. Resultantly, while replying to the three pertinent queries put by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, to which the answer was to be given, the stand taken was that he was never aware of any money or cash lying in the outhouse and neither his family members had any knowledge of cash and neither it had any bearing on him or his family and no such currency was shown to his family members or staff who were present on the said night Resultantly, the question of explaining the source of money did not arise and also that there was no question of removal of currency as neither the family members of staff had been shown or handed over the sacks of bunt currency and none of his staff had removed any cash or currency in any form and question of removal was not known to them. It was also highlighted that he had only returned along with his wife Dom Bhopal in the evening of 15.03.2025.

Non-acceptance of the said stand and need for deeper probe:

11. The said explanation was thereafter forwarded by the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court to Hon'ble the Chief Judice of India vide D.O letter No. 270/C15/2025 on 22.03.2025 who further also informed that the necessary request letter had been made to the

Commissioner of Police dated 22.03.2025 (Ex.P-11) for obtaining call details records and IPDR of Justice Varma Mobile phone number 9792675888 for the last six months and they having been received and forwarded in a pen-drive. The IPDR would be furnished as soon as received from the CP/Mobile service provider. Necessary details of security staff posted with Justice Varma had been made out to the Deputy Commissioner of Police and would be submitted once they were received. The fact that Justice Varma was asked not to dispose of his mobile and delete any of his conversation had been also been conveyed to him.

12. The Registrar, Supreme Court of India Devender Pal Walia on the instructions of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India addressed communication on 22.03.2025 (Ex.P-12) to Mr. Sanjay Arora, Commissioner of Police (W-53) seeking details of the police officials of the Delhi police who had visited the residence of Justice Varma on the intervening night of 14/15.03.2025 and also the names and designations of the officers and officials of the Delhi Fire Service. The copy of the photographs and videos available with the Delhi Police along with the certificate under Section 63 of the *Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023* was also asked for.

Constitution of the Committee and seizure of phones:

13. Simultaneously, keeping in view the reports dated 21.03.2025 and 22.03.2025 and response of Justice Varma, Hon'ble the Chief Justice India was of the view that a deeper probe under para-3 of the In-house procedure was required to be made and accordingly the undersigned Committee was constituted on 22.03.2025, and the

Chief Justice Delhi High Court was informed that judicial work should not be assigned to Justice Varma for the time being.

14. A press release was also issued by the Supreme Court on the said date, i.e. 22.03.2025, wherein apart from mentioning the names of the Committee Members and that factum that the judicial work was not to be given to Justice Varma, the report submitted by the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court and response of Justice Varma and the photographs were put in public domain. While addressing necessary communication to the Chairman and the members of the Committee, the relevant documents and the pen-drives containing necessary material was forwarded firstly by way of soft copies and later by hand copies and pen drives.

15. The police officials in the meantime furnished a report dated 22.03.2025 (Ex.P-10) through the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Shri Sumit Kumar Jha (W-51), which was duly forwarded through the Deputy Commissioner of Police and OSD to the Commissioner of Police to the Registrar Supreme Court of India on 22.03.2025, (Ex.P-13), which had been prepared and forwarded on the same date, by the Station House Officer P.S. Tughlak Road, New Delhi (Ex. P-5).

16. On 23.03.2025 vide (Ex. P-14) Commissioner of Police was requested by the Registrar Supreme Court of India, Mr. Walia that the custody of the mobile phones of all the officials who had visited the house of Justice Varma on the intervening night of 14/15.03.2025 should be taken and the said phones should be sealed by a senior officer under the stamp and signature and sent to the Supreme Court

of India by the evening. The costs of the phones were to be paid by the Registrar of the Court and if not further required could be returned after the forensic examination. Similar communication dated 23.03.2025 (Ex. P-2) was also addressed to the Director, Fire Service, Shri Atul Garg (W-22) before seizing the phones of fire officials who had visited the spot. Accordingly, ten phones as such of the officials were seized and forwarded to Mr. Walia under the signature of Chief Fire officer Varinder Singh, on the same date (Ex. P-3) itself.

17. This In-house Committee was thus constituted by the order of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India dated 23.02.2025 for conducting an inquiry into the allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma, the then Sitting Judge of High Court of Delhi and presently sitting Judge of Allahabad High Court.

18. The basic issues as such which were sought to be addressed and which had been asked from Justice Varma and his explanation dated 22.03.2025 having not found favour on these three issues which had been put to him which have already been reproduced in para-No.4 above and for providing the information on the same, a supplementary report dated 22.03.2025 having been received from Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.

Procedure adopted by the Committee and the details of hearings conducted:

19. The In-house Committee was required to conduct an enquiry in terms of the In-house Procedure adopted by the Supreme Court of India on 15.12.1999. The nature of the inquiry was to be fact finding without being formal judicial inquiry involving examination and cross examination of witnesses or representation by lawyers in

view of the law laid down in *Additional District Judge vs. Registrar General High Court of Madhya Pradesh*, (2015) 4 SCC 91. The Committee was extended liberty to devise its own procedure, which it resolved in the following manner: -

- i) To follow the principle of natural justice by calling witnesses and recording their statements including that of Justice Yashwant Varma relating to the fire incident which occurred on the night intervening between 14/15.3.2025 at Bungalow No. 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi.
- ii) Justice Yashwant Varma was to be shared with all the incriminating material, including the statements of all the witnesses recorded during the enquiry.
- iii) Carry out physical spot inspection at Bungalow No. 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi, which was accordingly carried out on the first day and spot inspection report was prepared and videography was done and made part of the record to have graphic knowledge of the location of the store in question.
- iv) To obtain call details of all the service providers of all the phones of other staff members associated with Justice Yashwant Varma (seized as per the directions of the Chief Justice of India) and thereafter to send them for forensic examination to the CFSL at Chandigarh, an independent agency, situated outside the jurisdiction of Delhi.
- v) It was further resolved that after all the statements had been recorded and the reports are received from the experts and CFSL and whatever incriminating evidence and documents have come on record, the same would be put to Justice Varma in compliance of principles of natural justice.
- vi) The committee also resolved that video recording of all the statements of the witnesses would also be undertaken and preserved in order to ensure that the veracity of the

same throughout could not be challenged at a subsequent point of time and also for confirmation whether such statements were in sum and substance recorded correctly.

20. The Committee held its meetings at the Haryana State Guest House Chanakyapuri on 25.03.2025, 26.03.2025, 27.03.2025, 28.03.2025, 02.04.2025, 03.04.2025, 04.03.2025, 07.04.2025, (by way of physical mode) 17.04.2025 and 27.04.2025 (by way of hybrid mode) as Justice Anu Sivaraman joined by way of video conferencing, respectively during which statements of 55 witnesses including that of Justice Varma were recorded.

21. Accordingly, a decision was taken to inspect the premises on the first day of hearing i.e. 25.03.2025 which was accordingly done and the videos were duly recorded under the supervision of the Secretary of the Committee which are collectively Exhibited as **Ex.V2**. The Committee then decided on 26.03.2025 to order sealing of the store room and directed the police authorities to do the needful which was also done under the supervision of the Secretary of the Committee which aspect has also come on record in the statement of W-52 Devesh Kumar Mahla, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Delhi, who had proceeded to the site to comply with the said direction.

22. The witnesses were accordingly examined department wise with the first 11 witnesses being from the Delhi fire services; and thereafter officials were also examined at the subsequent point of time including Divisional Officer and Director, Delhi Fire Services being witnesses No. 21 and 22. The officials from the police department were examined as witnesses No. 12 to 20 whereas the top brass of the police was examined as witnesses No. 50 to 53. Three PSOs attached

to Justice Varma, were examined as witnesses No. 23 to 25 whereas the static guards of the CRPF were examined as witnesses No. 26 to 30.

23. The domestic and Court staff attached with Justice Varma were examined as witnesses No. 31 to 49. Eventually the daughter of Justice Varma was examined as witness No. 54 as she was the sole family member (apart from ailing and old mother of Justice Yashwant Varma) present at home during the fire incident and Justice Varma was examined as witness No.55 in three separate sittings. During the course of said proceedings all the incriminating material was supplied to Justice Varma on 07.04.2025, 17.04.2025 and 27.04.2025.

DETAILS OF OFFICERS/OFFICIALS OF DELHI FIRE SERVICES EXAMINED:-

Witness No.	Name & details of witness	Date of examination
W-1	Navneet Kharab, Fire Officer-35/66, Delhi Fire Services	25.03.2025
W-2	Birender Singh, Fireman, Delhi Fire Services	25.03.2025
W-3	Ankit Sehwaq, Fire Officer, 32/66, Delhi Fire Services	25.03.2025
W-4	Prakash Chand Meena, Leading Fireman, Delhi Fire Services	25.03.2025
W-5	Pradeep Kumar, Fire Officer, Delhi Fire Services.	25.03.2025
W-6	Manoj Mehlawat, Station Officer, Delhi Fire Services	25.03.2025
W-7	Pawan Kumar, Fire Officer, Delhi Fire Services 431/65	25.03.2025
W-8	Bhanwar Singh, Driver, 48/61 Delhi Fire Services	26.03.2025
W-9	Pravindra Malik, Fire Officer, 27/66, Delhi Fire Services	26.03.2025
W-10	Suman Kumar, Assistant Divisional Officer, Delhi Fire Services	26.03.2025
W-11	Virender Singh, Chief Fire Officer, Delhi Fire Services	26.03.2025
W-21	Rajinder Atwal, Divisional Officer, Central Division, Delhi Fire Services, New Delhi.	27.03.2025
W-22	Atul Garg, Director, Delhi Fire Services, Delhi	27.03.2025

DETAILS OF DELHI POLICE OFFICERS/OFFICIALS EXAMINED

Witness No.	Name & details of witness	Date of examination
W-12	Chaman, Police Constable, Police Station Tughlak Road, Delhi	26.03.2025
W-13	Head Constable Rajesh Kumar, Police Station Tughlak Road, Delhi	26.03.2025
W-14	Head Constable Rishi Kesh, Police Station Tughlak Road, Delhi	26.03.2025
W-15	Head Constable Sunil Kumar, Incharge, ICPCR Van V-41, New Delhi	26.03.2025
W-16	Head Constable Gograj, Driver, PCR VAN V-22, New Delhi.	26.03.2025
W-17	Head Constable Roop Chand, PIS No. 28011195, New Delhi.	26.03.2025
W-18	Arjun Gari, SI, Incharge PCR Van V-22, New Delhi.	27.03.2025
W-19	SI Rajneesh Kumar, P.S.Tughlak Road, New Delhi.	27.03.2025
W-20	Umesh Malik, SHO, P.S.Tughlak Road, New Delhi.	27.03.2025
W-23	Head Constable Ajit Delhi Police.	27.03.2025
W-24	Sub Inspector Jaivir Singh, PSO at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	27.03.2025
W-50	Virendra Jain, Assistant Commissioner of Police, New Delhi	04.04.2025
W-51	Sumit Kumar Jha, Addl. Deputy Commissioner of Police, New Delhi.	04.04.2025
W-52	Devesh Kumar Mahla, Deputy Commissioner of Police, New Delhi.	04.04.2025
W-53	Sanjay Arora, Commissioner of Police, New Delhi.	04.04.2025

DETAILS OF CRPF OFFICERS/OFFICIALS EXAMINED:-

Witness No.	Name & details of witness	Date of examination
W-25	Shashi Kumar, Head Constable, Security posted at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	27.03.2025
W-26	Ranjit Kumar Jamatia, ASI, CRPF, posted at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	28.03.2025
W-27	Dilip Manjhi, Constable, CRPF, posted at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	28.03.2025
W-28	Sunil Kumar, Constable, CRPF.	28.03.2025
W-29	Sanjay Kumar, Head Constable, CRPF	28.03.2025
W-30	CG Rawat, ASI, CRPF,	28.03.2025

DETAILS OF STAFF POSTED AT THE RESIDENCE AND ALSO ATTACHED IN COURT WITH MR. JUSTICE YASHWANT VARMA:-

Witness No.	Name & details of witness	Date of examination
W-31	Girja Devi Sharma wife of Hanuman Prashad Sharma, residing at the residence	02.04.2025

	of Justice Yashwant Varma	
W-32	Hanuman Prashad Sharma, CA (Co-terminus, posted at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	02.04.2025
W-33	Ravi Prakash Chauffeur, posted at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	02.04.2025
W-34	Babloo Nishad, CA, Co-terminus, posted at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	02.04.2025
W-35	Mohammad Rahil, CA, Co-terminus, posted at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	02.04.2025
W-36	Mangal Kol, Peon, Posted at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma at Allahabad	02.04.2025
W-37	Joginder Singh, Court Attendant,	02.04.2025
W-38	Deepak, Safaisewak, posted at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	02.04.2025
W-40	Sohit, Safaiwala, posted at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	03.04.2025
W-41	Rajinder Singh Karki, Assistant Registrar cum Private Secretary to Justice Yashwant Varma	03.04.2025
W-44	Jyoti, Loader, Delhi High Court.	03.04.2025
W-45	Anuj, Loader, Delhi High Court.	03.04.2025
W-46	Suraj Yadav, Attendant, posted at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	04.04.2025
W-47	Geeta Devi, servant, working at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	04.04.2025
W-48	Gagandeep Singh, Chauffer driver, posted at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma	04.04.2025
W-49	Kamlesh Kumar, Assistant Registrar, Delhi High Court attached to Justice Varma.	04.04.2025

24. After concluding the process of recording of statement of 55 witnesses from 26.03.2025 to 27.04.2025, this Committee proceeded to prepare its report.

25. Taking cue from the three issues framed vide letter of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India dated 22.03.2025 qua which Justice Yashwant Varma had been asked to respond, this Committee for convenience framed the following substantive issues:-

- i) *How does he (Mr. Justice Yashwant Varma) account for the presence of money/cash in the room (store room) located in his premises 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi?*
- ii) *Explain the source of money/cash which was found in the said room (store room)*

- iii) *Who is the person who had removed the burnt money/cash from the room (store room) in the morning of March, 15, 2025.*

26. The aforesaid first issue is foundational to the controversy and thus the answer to the said issue will decide the fate of issues No.

(ii) and (iii). For further convenience, this Committee frames the following sub issues arising out of the aforesaid issue No. (i):-

- a) *Whether cash was present in the store room?*
- b) *Whether the store room is located in or outside the premises (30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi)*
- c) *What is the justification of Mr. Justice Yashwant Varma as regards presence of cash in the store room.*

Sub Issue (a) (presence of cash in store room) proved by Eye Witnesses:-

27. In regard to this sub issue, statements of various witnesses were recorded. The ten eye witnesses who have stated before this Committee about presence of cash in the store room are as follows along with the relevant extract of their statements:-

Witness No.3 namely Ankit Sehwal, Fire Officer, 32/66 Delhi Fire Services, Delhi, dated 25.03.2025:-

"After receiving the information from Pradeep Kumar FO-520/65 and Parvindra Malik FO27/66 (personnel of WB-22) that there were currency notes which had caught fire inside the store room, I personally checked by peeping inside the room with the help of torch and found that large number currency notes of denomination of Rs. 500/- were half burnt. Because of water spray, the burnt currency notes had become wet and had also been singed by fire. But from whatever was left of the unburnt notes, it was visible that they were of Rs. 500/- denomination. When asked as to whether he made any panchnama report, the witness

informs that this is the job of Manoj Mehlawat, Station Officer. The said Pradeep Kumar and Parvindra Malik had further told me that they had informed about the currency inside the store room having caught fire to their Incharge Station Officer Manoj Mehlawat."

Witness No.5 Pradeep Kumar, Fire Officer, Delhi Fire Services, dated 25.03.2025:-

"While dousing the fire, we were standing outside the store room and pointing the jet of the water inside the store room, but without entering the store room. When I could enter the store room, I felt something touch my feet. On close scrutiny, I found that there was something which appeared like currency notes which became visible because of reflection. I immediately informed Prakash Chand Meena who was standing immediately outside the store room. Sh. Prakash Chand Meena thereafter informed Manoj Mehlawat. Thereafter, Manoj Mehlawat came with a rechargeable torch and came inside the store room. Thereafter, on the instruction of Manoj Mehlawat, I pulled down certain burning debris on the ledge."

Witness No. 6 Manoj Mehlawat, Station Officer, Delhi Fire Services, dated 25.03.2025:-

"I did take two photographs of the store room where the fire had erupted. I was told by Parkash Chand Meena LFM 16/62 that there were currency notes in the room which had caught fire which I also saw at that point of time. The notes which were visible at the site were of Rs. 500/- denomination and were singed by fire and also got wet in the process of dousing. The embers were still burning on the shelf and, therefore, we pulled them down by instructing Pradeep Kumar to do the needful and to spread out the debris to reduce the heat. I cannot tell for sure whether the fire occurred by short circuit, though there was no electric heater in the room. The currency notes were being pulled down from the shelf and had fallen during the process. The witness identifies the site in question where the fire incident had taken place when shown the video sent to the Committee by the office of Hon'ble the

Chief Justice of India. The witness admits that it is his voice, whereby he is saying that "Mahatma Gandhi mein aag lag rahi hai bhai". Witness denies that video has been made by him, though he admits that he had taken two still photographs, but the video had been sent to him."

Witness No.8 Bhanwar Singh, Driver, 48/61, Delhi Fire Services, dated 26.03.2025:-

"As I entered, I noticed that on the right hand side and in front, there was large pile of cash only of Rs. 500/- denomination lying on the floor. I am not sure whether any such notes of Rs. 500/- denomination were there on the ledge or not. I was shocked and surprised such large amount of cash which was strewn on the floor which I saw for the first time in my life. Pradeep Kumar and Parvindra Malik were also working inside the store room where I was also present. They were busy dousing the embers. The witness was shown the video accompanied with the letter from the office of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India which is marked as exhibit 'V1'. The witness after having seen and heard the video, states that the same is of the inside of the store room which was on fire at Bungalow No. 30, Tuglaq Crescent, Tuglaq Road and the fire official who is working has been identified as Pradeep Kumar FO 520/65 present in the video wearing helmet and dousing the fire. I do not know who was making the video, but I can identify the voice of Manoj Mehlawat uttering the words "Mahatma Gandhi is on fire brother".

xx xx xx

"The video of the spot inspection carried out by the Committee on the morning of 25.03.2025 on being shown to the witness, he states that the state of the debris lying on the floor at the time the fire fighters entered the store room to douse the fire is different from the nature and state of the debris which is visible in the video recorded by the Committee on 25.03.2025, especially, broken ledge (part of a ledge) which was

WWW.THELEAFLET.IN

lying on the floor. The witness states that he has not seen such an incident of fire fighting in his service career of 20 years where half burnt cash in such huge quantity was found at the scene of the fire."

Witness No.9 Pravindra Malik, Fire Officer, 27/66, Delhi Fire Services, dated 26.03.2025:-

"After the smoke was reduced to some extent, the visibility was restored inside the store room, I saw that there were stacks of half burnt currency notes on the ground. I found half burnt currency notes lying on the right side inside the store room. The currency notes were of 500 denomination and it appeared to have been kept in plastic bags which were almost burnt completely. The stock pile of half burnt currency notes of denomination of 500 were seen by me, Pradeep, Fire Operator, Manoj Mehlawat, and Ankit. My remaining colleagues of the fire station were standing outside the store room. All of my colleagues of the fire station who were available on the spot saw pile of half burnt notes inside the store room, including the police personnel. The entire exercise of arriving at the scene of the fire and dousing of the same took around one hour."

xx xx xx

"I have been shown Ext. V-1 the video clip sent to the Committee by the office of the Chief Justice of India, I cannot tell as to who is making the video. My colleague Pradeep who is clearly visible is dousing the embers in the store. While dousing due to clinking of the liquor bottles on the left side, the fire intensity increased on the right side of the store also and while dousing the right side, the stacked material on the right side got wet and fell down and there were also currency notes visible on the floor next to Pradeep."

Witness No.10, Suman Kumar, Assistant Divisional Officer, Delhi Fire Services, dated 26.03.2025:-

"I located the senior most officer Manoj Mehlawat, Station officer and he told me that the fire had been extinguished and I was also told that the

currency notes had caught fire. On coming to know the fact I asked to show me the said fact and I was taken to the entrance of the store and at that point of time two fire fighters were holding on to the hose and dousing the fire inside the store from the entrance of the store itself through the main gate. Due to the pressure of the water hose, the half burnt currency notes on the floor of the store were being thrown out. Thereafter I came out and rang up my superior Rajinder Atwal (Divisional officer). I do not remember his number since it is stored in my telephone number 9718289900. My phone has been seized by the Chief Fire Officer Varinder Singh on 23.03.2025 (Sunday). I informed my Divisional Officer that in the fire incident, there were currency notes of 500 denomination which had been affected by fire which I had seen with the help of a torch light provided by the Station Officer Manoj Mehlawat. The said notes were smoldering and were in a heap and due to the water pressure and were flaking up and there was some difficulty in seeing them on account of the smoke in the room. I did not identify the cause of the fire as our job is more related to dousing of the fire and preventing casualty. I was a little bewildered on seeing the incident and my senior officer had informed me that since high ups are involved you should not further take any action. He however, told me to get in touch with some responsible official attached with the resident of the house and inform him accordingly. Resultantly, I got in touch with Mr. Rajinder Singh Karki, Private Secretary who was present at the site. The verification was made from him but he stated that the fire was in stationery and in domestic items only. I did not contradict him regarding this aspect. The incident was witnessed by one and all that were present at the site."

Witness No. 13 Rajesh Kumar HC No. 523/ND PIS NO. 28094422 Police Station Tughlak Road New Delhi, dated 26.03.2025:-

"At a later point of time when the fire was being cooled off and the burning embers were spread I saw with my own eyes that there were remnants of

burnt currency of 500 denomination and they were lying spread all over the floor of the store room. At that point of time I did not take any other photographs and therefore, I could not send the same to my Superior officer ASI Tej Pal. There were other people taking the videos and seeing the site in question. I have been shown videos Ext. V-1 in which the fire fighters were working and it is the same place where I visited on the intervening night of 14th and 15 March, 2025 along with constable Chaman. The visibility of the notes was easier with the help of torch."

Witness No. 15 H.C. Sunil Kumar No. 2191/PCR (PIS No. 28092876) Incharge ICPCR Van V-41 New Delhi, dated 26.03.2025:-

"Then I peeped inside the store and I saw the currency on the floor which were partly burnt and some fully burnt. The fireman outside was with the torch with the help of which I could see that there were currency notes. I made a call to my superior SI Mahesh from my number 9810489098 to inform him about the said development of burning of currency notes while going on the side who stated that he was already pre-occupied in a suicide case and could not come to the location. The first call which I made at 23:55:08 was to find out the telephone number of my superior SI Mahesh. The witness is not sure as to from which person he got the number of his superior SI Mahesh in order to clarify as to how he made two calls at that point of time while deployed at the place of incident. I made three videos of the fire incident which I forwarded to SI Mahesh. My phone has been seized on 23.3.2025 (Sunday) by my superior officer due to the inquiry proceedings. There were other people also making the videos of fire in order to see the currency which had caught fire. The video which I have been shown **Ext. V-1** is a video which has not been shot from my phone. The site and location which is visible in the video in question is the same site of the incident where the fire took place at 30 Tuglak Crescent."

**Witness No. 17 Head Constable Roop Chand, PIS
No. 28011195, New Delhi, dated 26.03.2025:-**

"Thereafter, when the fire was brought under control it then transpired from the employees of the fire brigade when they were locating the embers within the burnt articles that notes of Rs. 500/- denomination in burnt condition were present from the door till the back of the store which were visible by way of the torch light of the Fire Department. When they were removing the embers, the denomination was in the form of pack. When the embers were being cleared from the ledge, the bundles of notes were coming which were mixed with other items. But on the floor the notes which were half burnt and affected by fire were apparently visible. The fire personnel were using their mobile phone also for illuminating the area and I do not know the phones were being used to record the incident. The SHO was also standing next to me and asked me to also record the said incident in my phone which I duly did. I recorded some still photographs and some videos on my phone No. 70151105127. My phone has been seized by the higher officials around two to three days back."

**Witness No.20 Umesh Malik, S.H.O. Police Station
Tughlak Road, Delhi, dated 27.03.2025:-**

"When the flame was doused with the help of the light from torches of the fire fighters I saw that half burnt currency notes of denomination of Rs. 500/- were lying intact and on right side of the store room. There were also some burnt notes stacked on the ledge on the right side of the store house which on being pulled down by the fire fighters dropped on the floor. The stack of half burnt currency lying on the floor was about 1 ½ feet height. The stack of half burnt currency notes on the ledge on right hand side was also of one and half feet high. The witness also informed that the currency notes were on the floor from the door of the store house to the opposite wall at the end. The witness informs that there was extreme heat in the room. Since there was extreme heat created by the fire, he did not enter in the store house. Except the fire fighters nobody entered in the store room. However, with

the help of the light of torch he noticed about the large bundle's of cash lying on the floor as well as the ledge of the denomination of Rs. 500. Some notes were tied in bundles while the other possibly because of pressure of water were opened up and lying on the ground. I was inside the bungalow No. 30 Tuglak Crescent about 30 minutes. I did not inquire about the cause of fire since that lies within the domain of fire fighters. After noticing half burnt stack of notes on the floor and ledge of the store I directed my subordinate HC Roop Chand to take photographs and video of inside the store room. Roop Chand thereafter took still photos as well as videos from his mobile. I was carrying both the mobiles one bearing 9811266987 and other 88750870524. While I was inside the bungalow 30 Tuglak Crescent I do not clearly remember as to whether I used aforesaid two number to make or to receive any call. Before I left the premises I was informed by Mr. Karki again in the presence of Suman Kumar, ADO of Fire Department that Justice Varma still could not be contacted as yet. For what reasons Mr. Karki could not get in touch with Justice Varma was not informed by Mr. Karki to me. Once the fire had been extinguished and the fire fighters were winding up Mr. Karki told me that since the fire has now been extinguished you may go and I told Mr. Karki that please take care of the place of scene of fire."

28. From the evidence that has come on record as regards the sub issue of presence of cash in the store room, especially, the statements of eye witnesses No. 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17 & 20, which have been extracted above, it is obvious that each of the eye witnesses has stated that they had seen half burnt piles of cash inside the store room which was situated within the premises of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi in occupancy of Mr. Justice Yashwant Varma. In support of this direct evidence, electronic evidence in the shape of video recordings and still photographs which have been duly

authenticated by certificates issued by the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory, Chandigarh are also available on record.

Electronic Evidence:

29. The video made by witness No.17 Head Constable Roop Chand of Delhi Police on instructions of his superior S.H.O. Umesh Malik, Witness No.20, which is of 67 seconds (Ex.V1) has not been disputed ever by Justice Varma. The similar video approximately of the same period was also taken by Head Constable Sunil Kumar W-15 from his phone which is of 70 seconds (Ex.V28). The phones of said officials had been seized on the directions issued by the office of Chief Justice of India as per the instructions and have been got analyzed by us having been sent to the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory, Chandigarh and are per se admissible in view of the provisions of 329 of the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)**. The said videos have been shown to the independent eye witnesses including the fire/police personnel who were at the spot who have vouched for the same. The witness No.6 Manoj Mehlawat, the Station Officer of Delhi Fire Services had also admitted that it is his voice in the abovesaid video Ex.V1 wherein he is heard saying "Mahatma Gandhi is on fire brother" which has also been reproduced above. The above reference is thus to the currency notes of Rs.500/- denomination having got affected in the fire since the image of Mahatma Gandhi figures on Rs.500/- currency note. At the end of the video Ex.V1, there is an audio reference to a person calling out the name of 'Rahil' the house staff employee and since the video being shot is at the entrance of the store room, Mr. Karki, has admitted

in his examination that it might be his voice. Similarly when it was put to Rahil (Witness No.35) that his name is being called out, he admitted that it was Mr. Karki calling out to him. It is thus apparent that both Mr. Karki and Rahil were present in front of the store room and were eye witnesses to the factum of currency having been burnt and present in the store room and their explanation as such that they were kept away from the entrance of the store room by the fire personnel cannot be accepted. Rahil (W-35) has also, while being confronted with Ex.V1, admitted that the store room is the same place where the fire incident took place and there are huge stacks which caught fire. His statement reads as under:-

"The witness has been shown the video clip Ext. V-1 in the end of which his (Rahil's) name has been called out. He explains that it is Mr. Karki calling out his name. Second time being asked he submits that the store in the video is the same where the fire incident took place. He also admits that there are huge stacks which have caught fire. He admits that the photograph of Mahatama Gandhi is engraved on Rs.500/- denomination notes. He did not make any video of the store from the entrance."

30. Therefore, his explanation as such that when he had gone inside the store room to assess the damage along with Justice Varma's daughter Ms. Diya Varma, they had not seen any semi or fully burnt currency notes inside the store room is not liable to be accepted without a pinch of salt. It has already come on record that though he was only engaged three years back, he was the "Major Domo" (chief steward) and Incharge of all the servants since any information or access to the house had to be done by contacting him, which would be clear from the statement of Mr. R.S.Karki, Private Secretary also.

Reasons for domestic staff to depose to contrary:

31. It has also come on record that most of the domestic staff of Justice Varma hails from Allahabad (U.P.) and one of them namely Mangal Kol, Witness No.36, though not stationed in Delhi, but looking after the house at Civil Lines, Allahabad and has been working with Justice Varma since the year 2012. A perusal of his statement would also go to show that oldest staff is Hanuman Parshad, Witness No. 32, who belongs to a village situated around 30-32 kilometers from Allahabad and is working with Justice Varma since he was a practicing lawyer. It is also come on record in the statement of Witness No.36 Mangal Kol that Mohammad Rahil is the relative of Mohammad Allaudin who is his Jija and an employee of Allahabad High Court and also visits to the private residence of Justice Varma at Allahabad at Civil Lines.

32. Thus, from the above evidence, it would be clear that the domestic staff has obviously not supported the version of any currency being present and affected at the time of fire incident for obvious reasons, whereas, there is independent corroboration from other official witnesses who were not closely associated with Justice Varma. Therefore, the reliance upon the statements of house staff by Justice Varma would be of no avail to him and there is no valid reason as such to disbelieve the statements of the independent witnesses who have no axe to grind, especially keeping in view the fact that they are not known to Justice Varma in any manner and had come to the house for the first time while exercising their duties.

33. The eye witnesses who have disclosed about the presence of cash in the store room were neither related to Justice Yashwant Varma nor were obliged to him in any manner and therefore, are independent witnesses being employees of the Delhi Fire Services as well as of Delhi Police. Rather the statement of Justice Yashwant Varma himself, recorded on 07.04.2025, would go on to show that the house staff deployed with him, as noticed earlier are basically outsourced from his home State, Uttar Pradesh, and are trusted and old staff members and he has categorically deposed that the servants are with them for long and most of them are staying with them for considerable time and are trusted one's while taking the plea that the store room could be left open on account of the trust in the staff. Thus the said staff cannot be expected to depose against the voice of their Master and the Committee has to fall back on the statements of independent witnesses who are not connected in any manner with Justice Varma.

Presence of the Private Secretary throughout the night:

34. The factum of Private Secretary Mr. Rajinder Singh Karki having been instructed by Justice Varma to stay at night at the residence is also a matter of record which would be clear from his statement also though justified on account of the fact that the daughter was in a state of panic. Thus, his presence till early morning on 15.03.2025 at the residence of Justice Varma is fully established. Being the senior most employee at the site, he had detailed conversation with Justice Varma at 1.23 A.M. on 15.03.2025 which would be clear from his call details (Ex.C6) for 230 seconds which

has been received from Justice Varma's phone No. 9292675888. It is also come on record that though he had been asked to stay back at the residence, but no instructions were given to him that he could leave in the morning. Other calls made by WhatsApp communication are not available being encrypted by the application provider. It has been admitted by the witnesses, namely, Rajinder Singh Karki and Diya Varma that there has been communication by WhatsApp mode and therefore, the calls as such are also not depicted in C-6 which is the call record of Mr. Rajinder Singh Karki. Similarly, the other Private Secretary, W-49 Kamlesh Kumar, also admitted that the communication with Justice Varma while making the change as such of return programme was also by WhatsApp communication and also stated that calls inter se were usually made by WhatsApp mode and rarely by normal mode. R.S.Karki's explanation as such that he came to know about the burnt currency in the house for the first time after six to seven days after the fire incident does not inspire confidence as it is his categorical deposition that he had not seen the burnt currency notes though shown in the video (Ex.V1) which had been confronted to him. The witness has also categorically denied that he has instructed any fireman not to mention in their report about the burning of currency notes in the fire and also denied the fact when confronted with the statement of W-30 CG Rawat, ASI, that he and Rahil were busy in supervising the cleaning up job after the fire wagons had left. He has further given his explanation regarding his voice in the video Ex.V1 by calling out the name of Rahil that he was not present at the spot but was standing at the distance in the back yard of the bungalow

on the deck. However, from the said video and audio, it is apparent that he was very much present in the front of the store room when the videos were being shot by the fireman and the police personnel and the same calling out of the name of Rahil is also reflected in Video (Ex. V-28 of 70 seconds) taken by Head Constable Sunil Kumar (Witness No.15).

35. The statement of Sandeep Kumar Sharma, Deputy Registrar, Delhi High Court (W-39) would go on show that he had been informed by Mr. Karki at 11.30 PM regarding the fire and had contacted Rajinder Atwal, DFO (W-21) at Delhi regarding the incident of fire. He had also reached the spot, but as per his deposition, had not gone close to the store room, but it has come on record that he had been rung up by Mr. Karki in the morning on 15.03.2025 at 07:54:54 hrs that no assistance was required from his end as Justice Yashwant Varma was out of station and as and when required Mr. Karki would get in touch with him. It has also come on record that he met Mr. Sandeep Sharma (W-39) on 15.03.2025 in the evening in the area of R.K. Puram (Nanakpura) where both of them reside and apparently, it was for the first time such a meeting had taken place outside the High Court premises. When confronted with Ex. V-1, he did not confirm the said voice of Mr. Karki calling out for Rahil, but stated that it could be his voice. It is, thus, apparent that apparently Mr. Karki has more to explain regarding his conduct as regarding his meeting with the said Deputy Registrar who was Incharge of the P&P Branch, Delhi High Court. More so, when he has denied in his deposition that he was not sure whether he met Sandeep Sharma (W-39) on the 15/16.03.2025

evening and admitted that he had met him regarding the incident of fire, but denied that any instructions were given to him to be conveyed to Mr. Sharma but admitted that it was for the first time that he had tea with Mr. Sharma outside the High Court.

36. Mr. Karki also stated that the inspection took place by the PPS to the Chief Justice on 16.03.2025 and thereafter sought to clarify that it was on 15.03.2025 after having also stated that on 15.03.2025 after meeting Mr. Sharma, he had stayed at home and not gone anywhere as he had household work to do, which is in contradiction to the fact that he was present at the site of the store room since it has already come on record that the store room was inspected on 15.03.2025 evening at 9.00 PM by Naresh Chander Garg, Registrar-cum-Secretary to the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. These contradictions from Mr. Karki's statement are, thus, being highlighted to show that his presence at the house, as such, continued throughout the night admittedly and, therefore, his explanation that he was not in any way connected with the cleaning up of the debris from the fire in the store area stands contradicted by the CRPF guards W-28 Sunil Kumar and W-30 C.G. Rawat, who stated to the contrary. The reproduction reads as under:

"W-28....Before change of duty I had closed the main gate and thereafter no other person had entered the bungalow during my duty. When I proceeded to the barrack, I noticed that the house staff both in the form of male and female, including Mohd. Rahil was present who was supervising the team had gathered around the store and processing of cleaning was on. I am not sure whether the daughter of the Hon'ble Judge was there as I do not recognize her. I am not sure whether there

was any other relative of Hon'ble Judge due to the fact I had just been posted there on 12.3.2025. My next shift was at 6:00 a.m on 15.03.2025 and I noticed that the jaffery and bamboos installed on the boundary was had also got affected and the water tank next to the store had melted to some extent. I did not notice any cleaning by the staff at that point of time...".

xxx xxx xxx xxx

"W-30.....Mr. Karki did not leave the house between 12.00 to 3.00 A.M. during my period of duty. When I went back at 3.00 P.M. two three persons were still carrying on work and removing the debris but there was no immediate family member. Both Mohd. Rahil and R.S.Karki were engaged in the task of supervising of clearing the debris."

Thus, the explanation that Mr. Karki had retreated to the front of the house and gone to sleep in the front verandah till his departure at around 7.30 AM on 15.03.2025 cannot be accepted.

Discussion on recording of Electronic Evidence:

37. The statement of Head Constable Sunil Kumar (W-15) is already reproduced earlier and the fact of making three videos of the fire incident and forwarding the same to his superior SI Mahesh has already been reproduced above. This fact of making three videos is verified by the report of the Experts Ex.V26 to V-28 which goes on to show that there were three videos taken by him of 11 seconds, 22 seconds and 70 seconds. At that point he denied that Ex. V1 was not the video shot from his phone and correctly so since the said video was actually shot by HC Roop Chand W-17 which was done on the instructions of SHO.

38. Similarly, the still photograph of the door of the store room is also proved to be clicked by Roop Chand which is Ex. V-3

and who had also clicked the photograph Ex. V-4 in which the fireman is shown standing by the side of heap of ashes inside the store room. Similarly, Ex.V-11 to Ex.V-13 still photographs clicked by Manoj Mehlawat Witness No. 6 which had been retrieved from his phone as per report No. 766 dated 07.04.2025 (Ex. C-9) showed the back portion of the store room. V-14 to V-25 are more still images captured by HC Roop Chand on his phone a Samsung device as per the report of the CFSL dated 17.04.2025 Ex. C-9. The capture time had been duly depicted in the said report alongwith the tower location which is 28:5958/77:21029 which is the tower location of all the witnesses who were present at the spot and engaged in the fire fighting operation at the approximate time. There is no plausible reason as such to take a contrary view to doubt the presence of the said witnesses. Exs.V-29 to V-34 have been proved to be photographs taken by HC Sunil Kumar (W-15) from his camera as per the report No. 785 of the CFSL dated 16.04.2025 Ex. C-10 and similar is video Ex. V-35 of 24 seconds which was extracted from the phone of the ADO Suman Kumar (W-10) which had been also seized. Still photograph Exs. V-36 to V-51 and the three videos which are similar to the ones as discussed above were depicted in M-11 the phone of SHO Umesh Malik (W-20) and similar material was also derived from M-21 by the CFSL which was the phone of witness Gograj W-16 Driver of the PCR.

Conduct of Ms. Diya Varma:

39. The said electronic evidence has been duly proved by sending it to the CFSL and, thus, establishes beyond the anvil of doubt

the presence of fire and the police personnel at the spot and videos and the still photographs having been shot from their mobile phones and from the same the witness including the daughter of Justice Yashwant Varma had admitted that the video clip would go on to show the fireman in the store room of the house and there was a burnt currency visible. There was a lame explanation given by her that the said room could be any other room at a different location and the witness has also refused to identify the voice of Rajender Singh Karki in Ex. V-1 which goes on to show that she is hiding the said fact since Karki himself had admitted that it is his voice. The said witness No. 54 being the daughter of the Justice Yashwant Varma also deposed in her statement recorded on 07.04.2025 that she had come to know the news of the half-burnt cash found in the store room on 15.03.2025 when the PPS to the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court had visited the bungalow. The said admission was sought to be retracted by addressing a communication to the Committee on 12.04.2025 by way of an e-mail. The said deposition was then duly checked from the video recording being conducted by the Committee and since the said fact had been duly recorded at the first instance when the statement had been recorded, the Committee had rejected the said request in the proceedings conducted on 17.04.2025. From the demeanor of the witness, we noticed that she is a confident young woman, having been subjected to hostel life throughout her education apart from being an independent working woman. This belies her statement that she was totally overwhelmed and panicked by the incidents of the fateful night, which led to her giving an allegedly wrong statement and later

seeking to retract it. No doubt, it has come on record that she did make phone calls to the concerned fire station which also had been brought on record by screen shots (Ex. D-8) and at one stage had also sought to inform the fire personnel that the fire had been brought under control and that they need not come. The conduct of the said witness is, but natural keeping in view the fact that there was an alarm raised by the domestic staff late at night and since the smoke had already started pouring out of the store room and it would be her natural reaction to call for help.

Reference of Spot Inspection:

40. It is also a matter of record that the spot inspection was carried out by the Committee on 25.03.2025 and video (V-2) was prepared of four minutes fifty-two seconds. The said video was also put to witness No.8 Bhanwar Singh, driver of Fire Services, whose part statement is already reproduced above. The said witness also identified that the video prepared by the Committee is of the same place where the fire occurred where he had reached at the intervening night of 14/15.03.2025. As mentioned above, he has also stated that state of debris lying on the floor at that time and when the fireman entered the store room is different in nature which is visible in the video and which fact was also noticed by the members of the Committee and recorded in the Inspection Report dated 25.03.2025. The sealing of the store room was ordered accordingly on 26.03.2025, which further goes on to show that cleaning process was done at the site in question in the wee hours of 15.03.2025. At that point of time, after the fire personnel and police had left at around 1.00 A.M. apart

from the house staff and Mr. Rajinder Singh Karki, and the security personnel and the daughter, mother and relatives of Justice Varma, there was no other person inside the house. Thus, a necessary inference is to be drawn that cleaning exercise was got conducted under the supervision of Mr. Karki, the Personal Secretary, who admittedly had got in touch with Justice Varma in the wee hours of the morning of 15.03.2025 and talked for as long as 230 seconds as it is clear from his deposition being witness No.41, apart from talking by using WhatsApp Application.

Stand of Justice Varma before the Committee:

41. Justice Varma, in his explanation before us, has relied upon the fact that the entrance of the store room was constantly monitored by CCTV cameras and was under control of security personnel and it was highly improbable that the cash was kept in the store room. While referring to CFSL report dated 27.4.2025 bearing No. 797 Ex.C-11 he has submitted that the Hard Disc of the said cameras have been found not to be accessible and submitted that it was not his fault that the cameras were not working. He has also questioned the manner in which the CCTV hardware was retrieved. However, there is nothing on record why the data was lost on account of the fact that the CCTV camera was sealed since the Committee had called for the said Hardware. Therefore, he pointed out that his defence has been lost and whether the said hardware has been properly sealed has been questioned. The said argument as such is noticed only to be rejected in the manner since even as per his defence and the documents exhibited by him, the still camera installed on the

gym wall is clear from D-4 and it has come in the statements of various witnesses that it is covering the entrance of the store room. The incident has taken place on 14th night and sealing of DVRs of the CCTV cameras had only been ordered by this Committee on 25.03.2025 by addressing a letter to the Registrar General of Delhi High Court. The said exercise has been done after the Committee had carried out site inspection on 25.03.2025 and noticed presence of such CCTV camera at the spot as has been depicted in D-4. It was always open to Justice Varma as such to have got the data preserved, analyzed and scrutinized before this Committee had ordered the sealing, in case he had any plausible defence to further his conspiracy theory that the bags of currency were planted by someone else and area was accessible to one and all, not being part of the living area of the residential house. Thus, for a period of over ten days, the data was there to be preserved and could have been relied upon by him and help could have been taken to scrutinize the same to depict before this Committee that the store room was kept open and was open at the time of the fire incident and that he was not in station and not responsible for any material stored in the store room. Even otherwise, detailed discussion will be taken under the sub-issue-(b) on this aspect.

42. While referring to table -C which is summarization of the electronic evidence, which the Committee had fallen upon and supplied to Justice Varma, an attempt has been made to dispel it by way of sequence of events and the timing since the videos have been shot in close proximity of 11 minutes. The said sequence of events

rather proves beyond the shadow of doubt the presence of the currency in the store room which got affected by fire. The reference to Ext. V-35, is video shot taken of 24 seconds from the telephone M-1 of Suman Kumar, the Assistant Divisional Officer W-10 of the Fire Department as per report 785 dated 16.04.2025 Ext. C-10 which had been seized, whose statement has already been reproduced above and who had already rang up his superior officer informing him of the said incriminating material and who had been told by Rajinder Singh Karki that the fire was only of domestic items. The said senior officer has also identified the voice of Manoj Mehlawat (W-6) in the video Ext. V-1 uttering the words "Mahatma Gandhi is on fire brother" and also admitted that he made video of the incident in question on his phone which has now been seized. A perusal of the said video V-35 would go on to show that the same which was shot at 23:59:52 on 14.3.2025 is a scene of the fire which has already been doused heavily by the fire department as the sound of water dripping from the roof on to the entrance of the store room is apparent and its presence also on the floor of the store room. The person making the video is using the help of a torch and starting to film it from the left side of the store room and going under the shelf of the store from left to right. The door frame of the store of both sides is also visible at the end of the video and the currency which got affected by the combined effect of water and fire is distinctly visible. As per table-C Justice Varma has submitted that there is no cash or other items visible in V-35 which is factually incorrect in view of the above discussion. In V-13 the photographs taken at the same point of time shows a fireman standing

at the entrance of the store with a torch in his hand and also making video, the debris as such at that point of time is stored at the back side of the store and there is also an unidentified man standing on the right side of the store wearing a check shirt.

43. Similarly, V-26 which is taken is a video of 11 seconds taken at 00:00:28 on 15.3.2025, which would mean that it was 36 seconds later, was available in M-16 which is a video made by witness No. 15, HC Sunil Kumar from his phone. The said video again pans from left to right which shows burnt speakers on the left hand side and one pile of currency next to the door on the right hand side and there is another heap of currency in front of the store door at the back under the shelf of the store room. One of the service personnel is heard saying There are only notes, look they are visible which are sought to be objected that the same were not visible in the video shot earlier at Ex. V-35.

44. Similarly, reference has been made to Ex. V-27 a video of 22 seconds shot at 00:00:48 which is shot 20 seconds later from the earlier video Ex. V-26 and the objection taken is that there are currency notes at the entry in the form of mound and it has been objected that if they were not visible in the first video in V-35, then how they have become visible in the 3rd video and the number of heaps has increased. The audio of the said video would go on to show that one of the personnel is talking to his superior officer in vernacular and saying All notes have been burnt sir . The reference has also been made to the video of 40 seconds which was extracted from M-13 and was shot by Head Constable Roop Chand (W-17) on the instructions of his

superior SHO at 00:01:07 on 15.3.2025 which is 19 seconds after V-27. The viewing of the same would go on to show that the video was being shot by the said gentleman while he was carrying the phone in his hand outside the store initially and has an audio recording apparently while he is talking to the CRPF security personnel who were present at the site whose presence was sought to be discounted by the house staff that they had never come to the site to help out which is contrary to their stand as to two of them specifically namely, Sanjay Kumar and CG Rawat witnesses No. 29 and 30 have stated that they broke open the lock with the help of a log. The said official is asking whether they are posted there and they had replied in the positive that they are Guard of CRPF security. The video also pans on to the wicket gate opening on the back lawn in the front of the store and around ten people are standing in front of the store room and some time it is showing the floor of the area outside the store room and eventually focuses on to the inside of the store and a heap of currency is lying on the right side of the store. At the end of the video one of the fire personnel is heard asking the fireman Pradeep witness No. 5 to douse the embers on the shelf on the right side next to the entrance of the store.

45. If one is to examine the statement of Pradeep W-5 which has been reproduced above it would go on to show that he was instructed by Manoj Mehlawat W-6 who was holding the re-chargeable torch in his hand and asking his colleagues to pull down the burning debris from the shelf. Similarly the statement of witness No. 6 Manoj Mehlawat which has been reproduced above would go

on to show that the embers were still burning on the shelf and instructions had been given to Pradeep to spread the fire affected items. The apparent change of what was visible in the first instance on the floor in the videos and the increase as such of the debris/currency on the floor is thus on account of the fact that the fire personnel in order to cool the embers after they had doused the fire had pulled of the burning material from the shelf to spread it out which has also come forth in the videos shot subsequently which are of 67 seconds (V-1) and 70 seconds (V-28) by the police personal HC Roop Chand and Sunil Kumar. Therefore, the argument which has been raised that the presence of currency at subsequent point of time would not have been possible, keeping in view the videos which had been shot in such a short span of time to question the veracity, is untenable and rather self defeating since a large number of service personnel were present at the site and within the said period as such nobody could have come and put forth the currency notes in the store after the fire had been extinguished and therefore, the said alleged conspiracy theory on this account cannot be accepted.

46. Similarly, reference can be made to the video shot at 00:01:41 hrs on 15.03.2025 which is 34 seconds after the video discussed above and which is of 67 seconds and was captured from M-13 shot by Roop Chand again Ex. V-1 and an identical one V-28 shot by W-15 Sunil Kumar of 70 seconds which has come to be proved by the report of the FSL dated 17.04.2025 Ex. C-9 having been taken from a Samsung device. Similarly, as per the report No. 785 of the FSL dated 16.04.2025 Ex. C-10 the video (V-28) had been taken

from a camera model 2412DPCOAi. The said videos show the presence of W-5 Pradeep Kumar clearing out the store room again and Justice Varma has relied upon the same also to show that various household items i.e. clothing, household linen, appliances were lying in the store and a plastic bag is seen dropping from the shelf/slab to the floor in the same area where the mound of cash is seen close to the entry of the room. The said video depicts W-5, the Fire Officer, Pradeep Kumar working as per the instructions given by his senior, Manoj Mehlawat, Station Officer, clearing the debris from the shelf and the said video also goes on to show that two videos are being recorded at the same time as another mobile phone is seen being used in front of the lens which apparently was at that point of time being recorded by Sunil Kumar and the audio of both the videos is also identical and the difference of duration is only of 3 seconds. Apart from the visibility of currency notes, there is debris being pulled out and also the tinkling of glass items in the debris.

Reason for non-seizure or making of Panchnama:

47. There is no dispute regarding this aspect that there were other household articles which had been kept in the store room which is the consistent stand of the household staff and immediate family members. The presence of liquor cabinet located close to the switch box is also a matter of record which has been noticed by the Committee in its spot inspection and it is common knowledge that liquor is a highly volatile liquid and the bottles having been affected by the fire would have ignited and broken by the heat which are part of the debris being cleared and leading to the tinkling sound and there

is no inconsistency as such in the sequence of videos recorded. Thus, apart from the currency bags which got affected, the other household items had also been affected, though in the fire report Ex. P-6, the fire officials have chosen to show that there was fire in the stationery and domestic articles in the store room which was sought to be highlighted. The higher police officials have also sought to explain before us the reasons as such why they chose not to initiate any investigation or lodge an FIR on account of the sensitivity of the issue and lack of information of any crime scene and the absence of Justice Varma in his residence being out of station and legal position as such regarding lodging of FIR against a sitting Judge. The ambit of the Committee is not to find fault with the action or inaction of the fire personnel or the police personnel as discussed above and, therefore, it would not be appropriate for us to comment upon the manner in which the fire personnel or the police personnel have gone about concluding the proceedings without preparing a proper Panchnama or seizure memo depicting the correct situation at the spot which can only be termed as slip shod. Therefore, the argument of Justice Varma that the verification of the quantity of the cash had not been properly done by the officials and it has rather been done by the police officials who had prepared the reports and were not present at the spot and while referring to P-1 and P-1/A has tried to punch holes which have not to be answered by the Committee and the same would not take him a long way in view of the issues to be addressed. The stand of Justice Varma is clear that there was no cash present in the store room and it is not his case that he had kept some amount of cash and was

vouching for the same and the addition has been made by some person who had planted the said amount and since it is his case that it was a conspiracy and, therefore, the quantification of the volume of the currency is of no consequence since it has come from the statements of the witnesses and from the video recordings that there was reasonably large amount of volume of currency in the store room which got affected by the fire and clearly visible which aspect Justice Varma has failed to explain either in his initial statement or before the Committee, though having been given reasonable opportunity. Reliance upon the still photographs Exs. V-21 and V-23 to V-25 shot at 00:03:21 hours up to 00:03:33 hours on 15.03.2025 are of no assistance also to Justice Yashwant Varma as first Ex. V-21 would go on to show two police personnel and one unidentified bespectacled gentleman standing in front of the store and similarly Ex. V-23 would show that damage at the rear side of the store being assessed and whereas Exs. V-24 and V-25 would go on to show the overhead water tank of the CRPF personnel at the back of the store which admittedly also sprung a leak on account of the fire in the close vicinity has already come in the statement of the witnesses.

48. This Committee thus has no hesitation in holding that in the backdrop of direct as well as electronic evidence of unimpeachable character further corroborated by the evidence of the experts, the sub issue of presence of cash in the store room situated within 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi is established.

Sub issue (b) "Whether the store room is located in or outside the premises of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi":

49. It is not disputed by any witness including Justice Yashwant Varma that the store room in which the fire incident took place on the night intervening 14/15.03.2025 is situated within the premises of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi, which is occupied by Justice Yashwant Varma. However, what has been stated by Justice Varma, his daughter Diya Varma (Witness No.54) and various other witnesses, who were members of the staff residing within the premises, is that the store room, where the fire broke out, is not part of the residential portion of the Bungalow where Justice Varma and his family members reside. These witnesses have stated that the store room is not adjacent to any of the rooms of the Bungalow occupied for residence but is a little away from the main portion of the Bungalow and closer to the CRPF barracks and staff quarters. It is also stated that the access to the store room is from the side of the Bungalow which can be approached without entering the residential portion of the Bungalow.

50. What has further come on record in shape of statements of witnesses No. 31, 32, 34, 35, 40, 46 and 47 is that the store room was occasionally locked and the key to the lock was accessible to all the residents of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi including the security staff and the personal staff of Justice Yashwant Varma. These witnesses are members of the personal staff and one personal security officer attached to Justice Varma. In this manner, it is contended by Justice Varma that since all and sundry had access to the store room, anyone could have planted cash in the store room, assuming that cash

was found in the store room. Justice Varma has also stated that the key to the liquor cup board inside the store room was in his exclusive possession. Justice Varma has further disclosed that the store room contained unused carpets, crockery items, some furniture and the liquor cabinet. Justice Varma has also disclosed that during the period of his occupation of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi for about one and half years, he must have visited the store room four to five times.

51. However, witness No. 23 Ajeet Singh HC PSO, witness No. 25 Shashi Kumar HC PSO, witnesses No. 28, 29 and 30 CRPF personnel, witnesses No. 33 and 48, two chauffeurs attached to Justice Varma witness No. 38 Deepak, the cleaner, have clearly stated that they have seen the door to the store room always locked and padlocked. These persons had to frequently pass right next to the store room to go to the barracks/washroom and the servants quarters situated right behind the store. Further, most of the members of the personal staff who stated that the store room was not habitually locked also stated that they had never been inside the store and it was Rahil, Babloo or Hanuman who went into the store to get things, if required. It is also stated that there is a CCTV camera pointing at the door of the store with the visuals in the guardroom.

52. At the time of the site inspection conducted on 25.03.2025, this Committee had noticed that there was an inbuilt lock on the door panels of the store and the latch portion of the said lock was still jutting out from one of the door panels. This is evident from Ex.V-3 still photograph as well. W29 and W30 two CRPF personnel had clearly stated that the door of the store room was locked at the

time of the fire and that they had assisted in breaking open the lock. It is therefore, evident that the door was kept locked and secured at the relevant time especially since Justice Varma and his wife were out of station on a Holiday.

53. In the backdrop of aforesaid statements and the evidence that has come on record, it cannot be denied that the store room is a part of the premises of the official residence and that access to the store room may be available to the occupants of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi only, but the overall control and the permission to have access to the store room was undeniably with Justice Varma or his family members. The proposition that was put forth by Justice Yashwant Varma in his last appearance on 27.04.2025 was that there was a security lapse as such in his absence and even prior to that the store room had been targeted and the currency had been planted since there was an access from the back gate next to the staff quarters while referring to various photographs Ex. D-7 to show that the gate opened in a rarely used service lane at the back and the keys were also with the security personnel in the guard room. He had also made reference to the fact that he was not in the knowledge of the fact that the cameras were not working and never had been informed as such by the security personnel and it is his case as such that there was a camera at the wall of the staff quarters covering point D of site plan Ex. D-1 which was not in working condition and it was the responsibility of the High Court as such to ensure the same and therefore it has led to the breach of security. The documents which have been furnished to us and the photographs would not show

whether there was any camera covering the gate at point D and the only CCTV camera which is shown is depicted in photograph D-4 which is on the wall of the gym opposite the water cooler installed at point J in Ex. D1 covering the store door. The statements of the personal security officers of Justice Yashwant Varma namely W-23 to W-25 would rather go on to show that there was strict discipline maintained within the security personnel and inspite of the fact that there was a security guard of CRPF deployed at the gate, one PSO was always stationed for 24 hours whether Justice Yashwant Varma was at home or in case he was out of station. Such PSO would be sitting in the guard room opposite the sentry gate of the CRPF. The factum of the CCTV camera covering the store has also come on record and W-23 had stated that the door of the store was frequently passed by all security and domestic help while having access to the bathrooms situated behind the store room. The said PSO Ajit W-23 stated that he had gone to the spot at the time of the fire and interacted with the daughter of Justice Yashwant Varma, namely, Diya and also described the clothes that she was wearing and that after the arrival of the fire wagon at 11.40 P.M. on 14.03.2025 which had been brought in the driveway of the house Mr. Karki had also arrived and taken control of the situation and the PSO Ajit (Witness No.23) had come back to the gate.

54. The conduct and demeanor of the witness was questioned by the Committee as put to him that he was falsely deposing regarding his presence also which then stood confirmed by the statement of Diya that the PSO who normally remains present in the house when

her father remained out of station did not come to see the fire. The said witness had specifically stated that the fire wagons had been reversed with the back portion facing the gym and the pipes had been laid out whereas it is consistent version of the fire personnel that due to the narrow entrance gate the wagon was brought in with great difficulty and had been parked with the front facing the gym. He also stated that Mr. Sandeep Sharma, Deputy Registrar (W-39) did not come to the spot which is also incorrect statement as Sandeep Sharma himself deposed that he came present and rather had been informed by Rajinder Singh Karki (W-41) of the fire and had contacted Mr. Rajinder Atwal, DFO (W-21) and had also reached the spot within minutes after Mr. Karki and was standing outside near the fire wagon which was closer to the location where the PSO was stationed in the front lawn. It has already been noticed by us earlier that Mr. Karki (W-41) had also deposed regarding his presence.

55. We have seen the video clips and stills (Exs. V-6 to V-9) as such furnished by Diya before the fire tenders had arrived which would go on to show the extent of the fire and it is hard to believe that the PSO who was specifically deputed for duty would not come to help the family members, though having served the Judge for a period of two years prior in point of time. The further examination of the other PSOs would also go on to show that they were working on 24 hours pattern with duty from 7.30 A.M. to 7.30 A.M. of the next date and were stationed in the guard room of the house where other members and the drivers would also come. The said W-24 Jaivir Singh PSO has also stated that earlier the store room used to remain open

and now it is locked and he had seen the lock sometimes hanging on the store of the door. Similarly, the statement of Shashi Kumar W-25 the PSO would also confirm the strict surveillance of 24 hrs of duty even if the Judge was not at station and the fact that they were not allowed to roam in the premises and were only allowed go to the bathroom and that he had been informed that the daughter had instructed the PSO Ajit to look after the gate duty rather than extinguishing the fire. His deposition also would go on to show that even the PPS to Chief Justice of Delhi High Court came for inspection and they had asked for permission whether he should be permitted entry on the intercom or not which further goes on to confirm the factum as such of strict surveillance of the security level. The said PSOs and other officials have not deposed that the CCTV camera displayed in the PSO room was not working and one of the cameras at the back gate was not working and therefore there is nothing to show that the CCTV camera footage was not available or not in a working condition. Rather the statement of the CRPF would show that the monitoring of the CCTV footages was the responsibility of the PSOs. Even the statement of Dilip Manjhi W-27 would go on to show that if anyone took the key to the back-gate, a requisite entry was made in the register. He also stated that entry to the bungalow is duly regulated by the PSO and vehicles entering the same is entered in a register. Similar is the statement of W28 Sunil Kumar that entry to the bungalow is controlled by the PSOs and Mohd. Rahil. The said witness specially stated that there was difficulty for the fire wagon from entering the same into the driveway and he was on duty at that

point of time and the wagon was facing the cars in the garage and the pipes were taken from the side and the back of the fire wagon. His deposition was that the PSO Ajit (W-23) did not come back to the gate and continued to remain at the site of the fire which is contrary to the deposition of Ms. Diya and Ajit also.

Implied responsibility and control of Justice Varma:

56. The official residence of a sitting High Court Judge is secured by static guards which are four to five in number deputed round the clock, 24x7. Even these security guards are bound by certain rules and regulations to maintain discipline, punctuality and vigil. These security guards may be under the disciplinary control of their superior officers in their respective forces, but when they are posted at the residence of a sitting High Court Judge, they are bound by the directions issued by the sitting Judge.

57. In the instant case, the store room, which was used for keeping unused domestic items and liquor cabinets, was under the physical control of Justice Varma and his family members and, therefore, any suspicious item found in the store room will have to be accounted for by Justice Varma or his family members. The half-burnt currency notes seen and found during the process of dousing of fire are highly suspicious items and more so are not of small amount or denomination which could not have been placed in the store room without the tacit or active consent of Justice Varma or his family members. Justice Varma's initial response in his written reply to the query raised by the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court as well as Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India was of flat denial and conspiracy

being hatched by someone without naming that someone or explaining the circumstances thereto. The amount of cash found in the store room was not of small quantity, but is visibly huge in quantity lying on the floor and also on the ledge of the store room, as seen by the fire and police personnel. Thus, it could not be brushed aside as something petty or insignificant.

58. Whenever, a government accommodation is allotted to a sitting High Court Judge, or for that matter, any government servant, the allotment carries with it the responsibility upon the occupant to keep the premises free of items or material which may give rise to suspicion in the eyes of the common man. With the privileges attached to the government accommodation comes the responsibility of upholding the trust bestowed by the public at large of keeping the premises of official residential accommodation free from all items/material which are objectionable to the extent of breaching the public trust bestowed upon the occupant.

Cleaning of site and unnatural conduct:

59. Another aspect which we are finding difficult to reconcile is the issue of cleaning up of the site without specific instruction as it is the categorical case of Justice Yashwant Varma that he was not present and therefore could not have supervised the same, having reached only on 15.03.2025 at 5.00 PM by flight. It is his categorical case that he cut short his trip which he had undertaken on account of the Holi vacations and came back on account of the fire incident being worried about his daughter and mother who were at home though not directly affected. It is also come on record that he was travelling with

a couple who also cut short the trip. In the statement of Diya it has come-forth that after her parents had arrived back on 15.03.2025, they did not go to the scene of the fire inside the store room and only she had informed her mother about her visit to the store room with Karki and Rahil and all the things in the store room were burnt and nothing could be salvaged. Similar is the statement of Justice Yashwant Varma that he, along with his wife, took stock of the situation on arrival by talking to the aged mother, daughter and servants and thereafter he had taken tea and coffee and went to the camp office and his wife and daughter had gone to the market. The explanation given as to why he had not gone and inspected the spot immediately on his return to Delhi is that he was only concerned about the well being of his family members and he had been told that every article in the store room had been destroyed and he did not deem it appropriate to visit the store. He only did so when the PPS to the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court came at 9.00 PM on 15.03.2025. As noticed once, Justice Varma had cut short his trip on account of the situation created by the fire incident, we find it hard to believe that he and his wife even did not inspect the spot even if the household articles were kept there which is his categorical case and is now confirmed by the eyewitnesses present on the spot and the electronic evidence both in the form of videos and still photographs regarding the presence of currency affected by the fire which contradicts his stand taken in the reply dated 22.03.2025 (Ex. P-15) given to the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court also. A natural reaction of any person would be on arrival to first inspect the site to assess the damage, even if only house hold articles had been

damaged and no person was hurt in the fire incident. Rather, if having done so firstly there would be no occasion for Justice Yashwant Varma to visit the site when the PPS had come forth to inspect the store room and he could have asked his Personal Secretary to facilitate the inspection by the PPS. This conduct on the part of Justice Yashwant Varma also is unnatural and defies all logic and leads the Committee to come to a conclusion that the correct picture has not been projected and necessarily an adverse inference has to be drawn against him.

Conspiracy and Arson Theory being contradictory:

60. A perusal of his reply (P-15) would also go on to show that a conspiracy theory was, as such, alleged by Justice Yashwant Varma while giving reference to an earlier attempt made in social media in 2024 on being shared the videos by Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on the morning of 17.03.2025. Neither any specific person has been named who is responsible for the planting or any instance or motive as to why he has been targeted had been put-forth in the said reply and neither before us, the said theory has been elaborated. The only additional part as mentioned before us is the presence of his cousin sister and her husband who had come from Dubai on the same evening of Holi Day which had not been mentioned in his initial stand dated 22.03.2025. As noticed above, the argument that the area was very porous and open to all is not liable to be accepted in view of the categorical statement of the security personnel to the contrary that there was discipline maintained amongst them and none could access the house without the permission of the family members. Therefore, it is well nigh impossible for currency to be planted in the store room of

a sitting Judge, which is being monitored by static 1+4 guard and a PSO stationed at the gate at all time, apart from the fact that the house abounds with a large number of old and trusted domestic servants with over six staff quarters. Similarly, the arson theory which has now been highlighted that there was an explosion in the store room which is not being examined by anyone is also to be not accepted as even in the explanation (P-15) given by Justice Yashwant Varma he had stated that the terminology of arson was only told to him that when the first query was made by the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. The stand as such of Justice Yashwant Varma also in the explanation given is the fact that Chief Justice of Delhi High Court in order to facilitate the visit of PPS at that point of time had used the word 'arson' and it was never Justice Varma's case also in his explanation dated 22.03.2025 Ex.P15 that incident was an outcome of arson which is a criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property. Rather it was his case that it was on account of a short circuit. If that was the case of Justice Yashwant Varma, he apparently took no action on the same after reaching home on 15.03.2025 and even rather he chooses not to visit the store in question after coming back from Bhopal till the PPS to the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court came to inspect which thus does not further his defence in any manner.

61. Rather, if the statement of Justice Varma dated 07.04.2025 before us is taken into account, a totally different stand had been taken that when he was out of station, instructions were given that the PSO should remain on duty at the guard room to ensure there is one man at hand in case of any emergency or need or

assistance to his mother and the access to the house is well monitored and limited. The total turn around in the subsequent statements made on 17.04.2025 and 27.04.2025 to take the plea that the area is porous and accessible thus cannot be accepted.

62. The unnatural conduct of Justice Yashwant Varma has already been noticed above and the fact that if there was any conspiracy theory why he chose not to file any complaint with the police officials or bring it to the notice of the Chief Justice of the High Court or the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India regarding the fact that there were planted stories regarding the burning of currency notes in the store room which is part of his house. Another reason which weighs with us is post incident conduct that Justice Yashwant Varma knowing the inevitable, quietly accepted the proposal of transfer order which he received on 20.03.2025 (Ex.P-16) at 4.15 P.M. after finishing his judicial work from the office of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India though he could have responded till 9.00 A.M. on 21.03.2025 as per the said proposal. The categorical acceptance on 20.03.2025 (Ex.P-17) immediately, without any demur and "respectfully accepting the decision of repatriation to Allahabad" would, in normal circumstances, only be done after discussion with family members at least and after an attempt to find out the reason for transfer, having served in Delhi High Court for the last three years. It is his categorical case that he has served diligently for a decade without any complaint. Thus, he would have liked to find out the reason for transfer.

63. In the absence of any plausible explanation coming from Justice Varma or his family members or for that matter any other witness, this Committee is left with no option, but to hold that the trust reposed in him was belied by him by allowing highly suspicious material in shape of piles of currency notes to be stashed in the store room. Whether this stashing was done with tacit or explicit consent of Justice Varma or his family members is of little significance in the face of the larger concept of breach of public trust and probity expected of the high constitutional office held by Justice Varma.

64. Further, the fact that no attempt was made by Justice Varma or any member of his household to report the incident to any quarters or to immediately secure the visuals from the CCTV cameras and make them available in support of his contentions, at least, when he was told on 17.03.2025 that there were photos and videos of burnt cash in his premises, renders his contentions totally unbelievable.

65. The comprehensive written response submitted online by Justice Varma on 30.04.2025, which runs in 101 pages, has also been perused by this Committee.

66. The first and the foremost objection raised by Justice Varma is that by formulating three issues vide letter of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India dated 22.03.2025, he faces the uphill task of disproving a fact which is presumed to be prima-facie true.

67. It is contended that the issues indicate that there is a presumption of guilt which Justice Varma has now to disprove. It is further contended that since there is no cogent incriminating evidence/material on record, it is for the Committee to first discover

the truth in regard to each allegation and when the same is prima-facie found to be established, only then Justice Varma needs to disprove the same and not the other way round. Thus, in sum and substance, Justice Varma contends that reverse burden of proof is being fastened upon him to disprove the fact of currency not having been found in the store room after presuming without evidence that the currency was found in the store room.

68. This Committee for convenience subcategorized the first of three issues into three (3) sub issues, the first one being "*whether the burnt currency was found in the store room at 30 Tuglak Crescent, New Delhi*".

69. The first and the foremost sub issue to establish was that the burnt cash was found in the store room. The burden to prove this assertion was upon this Committee. This burden has been discharged by this Committee by recording the aforesaid findings based on statements of eye witnesses (firemen and police personnel) corroborated by electronic evidence of still photographs and videos which have been proved to be shot by the said eye witnesses at the coordinates which coincide with the location of the store room. More so the discussion supra reveals a number of corroborative pieces of evidence to establish that the burnt currency notes were seen and found in the store room by the firemen as well as police personnel.

70. It is only when this Committee found the factum of burnt currency having been seen and found in the store room to be established, the burden shifted upon Justice Varma to raise his defence by disproving the aforesaid factum. As explained above, Justice

84
Varma has failed to discharge this burden compelling this Committee to hold that the burnt cash was found in the store room in the night intervening 14/15.03.2025.

71. As such the objection of Justice Varma that he has been put to a disadvantage by having to disprove that the burnt currency notes were not found in the store room needs to be rejected at the very outset.

72. The second sub issue (b) of issue No.1 that whether the store house is within the premises of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi or not also stands established by the fact of this Committee having found that the tacit and active control of the access to the store room was with Justice Varma and his family members and well monitored without any outsiders getting access to it without permission. In this view of the matter, the objection of the store room being situated at a distance from the residential portion of the bungalow fades into insignificance.

73. The third sub issue (c) of Issue No.1 is how Justice Varma accounts for presence of money/cash in the store room. This sub issue assumes relevance and importance only when the burnt cash was established to have been found in the store room. The factum of the burnt cash having been found in the store room was undeniably established and therefore, the burden shifted upon Justice Varma to account for the said cash/money by giving a plausible explanation which he failed to do except projecting a case of flat denial and raising a bald plea of conspiracy. Where presence of burnt cash in the store room is established, it is for Justice Varma to account for the

same by either successfully raising a defence of planting of cash in the store room which he failed to do or proving the defence of conspiracy theory by adducing evidence/material that the money/cash did not belong to him but to someone else by disclosing the identity of the real owner of the cash. Not having done so, Justice Varma cannot be helped and therefore, this Committee holds that the money/cash was found in the store room located within the premises of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi occupied by Justice Varma, the source of which could not be accounted for by Justice Varma.

74. The third main issue pertains to the persons removing the burnt money/cash in the wee hours of 15.03.2025. A conjunctive reading of the statements of eye witnesses, electronic evidence and the circumstantial evidence, which has come on record, as explained supra and the failure of Justice Varma and his personal staff to explain the omissions, contradictions and embellishment, noticed in their statements, this Committee is compelled to hold by way of strong inferential evidence on record that the most trusted personnel of domestic staff i.e. Rahil/Hanuman Parshad Sharma and Rajinder Singh Karki, Private Secretary to Justice Varma were instrumental in removing the burnt money/cash from the store room during the wee hours of 15.03.2025 sometime after the firemen/Delhi Police personnel had left the premises.

CONCLUSION:

75. In the conspectus of the discussion, analysis and threadbare marshalling of the statements made by 55 witnesses including the statement of Justice Varma, this Committee has to now

render its findings in regard to Clause (5) of the Procedure laid down for conduction of enquiry by In-house Committee constituted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, which reads thus:-

"5 (i) After such enquiry, the Committee may conclude and report to the Chief Justice of India that:-

(a) There is no substance in the allegations contained in the complaint; or

(b) There is sufficient substance in the allegations contained in the complaint and the misconduct disclosed is so serious that it calls for initiation of proceedings for removal of the Judge, or

(c) there is substance in the allegations contained in the complaint, but the misconduct disclosed is not of such a serious nature as to call for initiation of proceedings for removal of the Judge

(ii) A copy of report shall be furnished to the Judge concerned by the Committee".

76. Before recording its conclusion, this Committee deems it appropriate to ponder upon certain aspects which lie at the foundation of the very constitution of this Committee i.e. to inquire into the acts of omission and commission of Judges of higher judiciary who fail to follow Universally Accepted Values of Judicial Life.

77. It has been more than three decades when the "Restatement of values of Judicial Life" were adopted by the Supreme Court in its Full Court meeting dated 07.05.1997, which for ready reference & convenience are stated below:-

"RESTATEMENT OF VALUES OF JUDICIAL LIFE

(As adopted by Full Court Meeting of the Supreme Court of India on 7th May, 1997)

(1) Justice must not merely be done but it must also be seen to be done. The behaviour and conduct of members of the higher judiciary must reaffirm the people's faith in the impartiality of the judiciary. Accordingly, any act of a Judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court, whether in official

or personal capacity, which erodes the credibility of this perception has to be avoided.

(2) A Judge should not contest the election to any office of a Club, society or other association; further he shall not hold such elective office except in a society or association connected with the law.

(3) Close association with individual members of the Bar, particularly those who practice in the same court, shall be eschewed.

(4) A Judge should not permit any member of his immediate family, such as spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law or daughter-in-law or any other close relative, if a member of the Bar, to appear before him or even be associated in any manner with a cause to be dealt with by him.

(5) No member of his family, who is a member of the Bar, shall be permitted to use the residence in which the Judge actually resides or other facilities for professional work.

(6) A Judge should practice a degree of aloofness consistent with the dignity of his office.

(7) A Judge shall not hear and decide a matter in which a member of his family, a close relation or a friend is concerned.

(8) A Judge shall not enter into public debate or express his views in public on political matters or on matters that are pending or are likely to arise for judicial determination.

(9) A Judge is expected to let his judgments speak for themselves. He shall not give interview to the media.

(10) A Judge shall not accept gifts or hospitality except from his family, friends, close relations and friends.

(11) A Judge shall not hear and decide a matter in which a company in which he holds shares is concerned unless he has disclosed his interest and no objection to his hearing and deciding the matter is raised.

(12) A Judge shall not speculate in shares, stocks or the like.

(13) A Judge should not engage directly or indirectly in trade or business, either by himself or in association with any other person. (Publication of a legal treatise or any activity in the nature of a hobby shall not be construed as trade or business).

(14) *A Judge should not ask for, accept contributions or otherwise actively associate himself with the raising of any fund for any purpose.*

(15) *A Judge should not seek any financial benefit in the form of a perquisite or privilege attached to his office unless it is clearly available. Any doubt in this behalf must be got resolved and clarified through the Chief Justice.*

(16) *Every Judge must at all times be conscious that he is under the public gaze and there should be no act or omission by him which is unbecoming of the high office he occupies and the public esteem in which that office is held. These are only the "Restatement of the values of Judicial Life" and are not meant to be exhaustive but illustrative of what is expected of a Judge."*

78. From the aforesaid enumerated values of judicial life, it is obvious that all the virtues expected from a Judge are founded upon the concept of probity. Probity qua a Judge is measured by yardstick which is much more stringent than the probity expected of a civil post holder. The element of probity becomes predominant, relevant and indispensable when the offices of higher judiciary are in question. The expectation of the general public from a member of superior judiciary is extremely high. Probity is the most important and indispensable attribute of a person holding judicial office and is rather the basic eligibility criteria. Least that is expected of any judicial officer of district or higher judiciary is unimpeachable character and conduct in and outside the Court room. The very existence of judicial office is founded upon the trust of the citizens at large. The quality & quantity of this trust is directly relatable to the behaviour, conduct and performance demonstrated by the Judge, not only inside but also outside the Court room. Any deficiency in this regard erodes public trust which ought to be viewed stringently.

79. This Committee thus holds that the cash/money was found in the store room of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi officially occupied by Justice Varma. More so, the access to the store room has been found to be within the covert or active control of Justice Varma and his family members and that by way of strong inferential evidence, it is established that the burnt cash/money was got removed from the store room during the wee hours of 15.03.2025 from 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi.

80. Keeping in view the direct and electronic evidence on record, this Committee is firmly of the view that there is sufficient substance in the allegations raised in the letter of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India dated 22.03.2025 and the misconduct found proved is serious enough to call for initiation of proceedings for removal of Justice Yashwant Varma, Judge of the Allahabad High Court.

Sd/-
(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE
CHAIRMAN

Sd/-
(G.S. SANDHAWALIA)
CHIEF JUSTICE
MEMBER

Sd/-
(ANU SIVARAMAN)
JUDGE
MEMBER

DATED:- 03.05.2025

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
(CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 534 OF 2025
(UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)

IN THE MATTER OF:

SHRI MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA & ORS.

PETITIONERS

VERSUS

THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA & ORS.

RESPONDENTS

WITH

I.A. NO.132747 OF 2025

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN THE
ABOVE-MENTIONED WRIT PETITION FILED BEFORE THIS
HON'BLE COURT AS PARTY IN PERSONS

PAPER BOOK

(KINDLY SEE INDEX INSIDE)

SHRI MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA & 3 ORS.:
PARTY-IN-PERSONS
MOB. NO. +91 9820535428

SYNOPSIS

1. The Petitioners had invoked the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court under Article 32 of the Constitution seeking registration of an FIR on 23rd March, 2025, since even after the lapse of over a week since the recovery of huge volumes of currency from the official residence of Justice Yashwant Varma, no FIR had been registered and the criminal law had not been set into motion. It was indisputable that the huge volumes of money that was burned and partly burned and clandestinely removed was nothing but bribe/corruption. A crime punishable under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Prevention of Corruption Act. There was no official explanation as to why no FIR was registered and why the criminal law was not set into motion, which would have meant the seizure of the currency notes securing the crime location, arresting of suspects, etc. The unsaid reason was that a 5-judge constitution bench of this Court in *K. Veeraswami v. Union of India*, 1991 SCR (3) 189, was pleased to direct that no criminal case shall be registered under Section 154 of the CRPC against a judge of the High Court, Chief Justice of a High Court or a judge of the Supreme Court, unless the Chief Justice is consulted of the matter. The said direction creates a special class of privileged men/women, immune from the penal laws of the land. Our judges, except for a minority, and not a microscopic one, are men and women of the greatest of erudition, integrity, learning and independence. Judges do not commit crimes. But incidents where

judges are caught red handed accepting money as in the case of Justice Nirmal Yadav or in the recent case of Justice Yashwant Varma, so too, being involved POCSO and other cases, cannot be denied.

2. The Chief Justice/collegium uploaded the videos of burned currency notes, so too, the letter of the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court addressed to the Chief Justice of India which undoubtedly was greatly commendable. The people of this country expected the police to register an FIR, nay, the Chief Justice to grant permission to the police for registration of the FIR without any further delay, to put the criminal law into motion lest precious evidence is lost, and ensure that the investigation of the crime proceed in the right direction. However, no such permission was granted, much less sought by the Government/Police. The Chief Justice/collegium, instead constituted an in-house committee consisting of the Chief Justices of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana and High Court of Himachal Pradesh, and a judge of the Karnataka High Court.
3. Equality before law and equal protection of law is the core of our constitution. All are equal before law and the criminal laws apply equally to all, irrespective of one's status, position, etc. The only exception, nay immunity, in our constitutional scheme is extended to the President and the Governors, the sovereign who represents 'we the people'. 'Be ye never so high, the law is above you', is the very edifice on which the concept of rule

of law is built. Even the King is not considered above law, but under God and the law.

4. The Writ Petition instituted by the Petitioners as aforesaid, seeking a declaration that the observation of this Court in K. Veeraswami is one rendered per incuriam, in ignorance of law and sub silentio, without noticing that the police is under a statutory duty to register an FIR when it receives information of a cognizable offence, and the said direction of the Court is nothing short of restraining the police from discharging their statutory duty, was dismissed pointing out that the inquiry by the in-house committee is in progress and that several options will be open to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India once the report is submitted and that it is not appropriate to entertain the petition 'at this stage'. The Petitioners are made to understand that the Committee submitted its report to the Chief Justice of India on 4th May, 2025, indicting Justice Varma and recommending appropriate action. The Chief Justice of India sought Justice Varma's response. On receiving the reply from Justice Varma has forwarded the report to the President/Government reportedly recommending his impeachment.
5. The nation is in dire straits, a high-level committee constituted by the Chief Justice of India has found Justice Varma to be prima facie guilty of corruption allegedly involving over 50 crores of rupees. Social media is rife with rumours that others from the Delhi High Court are involved. An

FIR is yet to be registered and the criminal law is yet to be set into motion, giving worrisome impression that judges are above law.

6. Impeachment, which the Petitioners believe is a fait accompli in the light of the gravity of the offence and the undeniability of his involvement, will not be enough in itself. That is only the removal of an employee from his office, a pure civil consequence. What has happened is a grave crime against public justice. When it is a judge, the defender of justice who is himself the accused or culprit, then it is no ordinary offense, the gravity is far greater and so must be the punishment. Probity in public life which judge is duty bound to uphold is uncompromisable. It is imperative that criminal law is set into motion, the matter is thoroughly investigated and most importantly ascertain who was bribegiver/beneficiaries and what was the cause/judgment in which justice was purchased. Since the matter involves setting the criminal law into motion where it was not done, a petition under Article 32 will lie.
7. While the judiciary is sovereign in its field, namely, the adjudication of disputes, when it comes to the investigation of crimes and bringing of culprits to book, the police is sovereign. So long as the police acts bona fide and in accordance with law, no interference is permissible. As the Privy Council as held, so long as the police acts fairly and within jurisdiction, nobody, not even the Court, can interfere.

8. The Petitioner's being lawyers and citizens consider that they have locus standi, nay, that is their bounden duty to take up the issue before this Hon'ble Court to ensure that if Justice Varma has in fact committed the offence of accumulating wealth through corrupt means, he shall be subjected to criminal prosecution, even an impeachment by itself will not suffice.

Hence the instant Writ Petition.

LIST OF DATES

1991	This Hon'ble Court in K. Veeraswami Versus Union of India, 1991 SCR (3) 189, was pleased to direct that no criminal case shall be registered under Section 154 of the CRPC against a judge of the High Court, Chief Justice of a High Court or a judge of the Supreme Court, without the prior approval of the Chief Justice of India.
2010	The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill was introduced to establish a mechanism for investigating judicial misconduct. However, it lapsed without becoming law.
14.03.2025	A fire broke out at the official residence of Justice Yashwant Varma. Fire officials, while responding, discovered heaps of currency notes
March 2025	Widespread media coverage and public outcry followed. The

	Allahabad High Court Bar Association opposed Justice Varma's transfer to their court.
23.03.2025	The Petitioners filed writ petition seeking the registration of an FIR
28.03.2025	This Hon'ble Court disposed the said petition observing that no intervention was called for 'at this stage'.
13.05.2025	Hence the present Writ Petition.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
(CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 534 OF 2025
(UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)

IN THE MATTER OF:

1. SHRI MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA
ADVOCATE
101, 1ST FLOOR, GUNDECHA CHAMBER,
NAGINDAS ROAD, FORT, MUMBAI,
MAHARASHTRA-400001. PETITIONER NO. 1
2. ROHINI AMIN
ADVOCATE
B-705, NIRMAN APARTMENTS, R.J. MARG,
PUMP HOUSE, ANDHERI EAST, MUMBAI,
MAHARASHTRA-400093. PETITIONER NO. 2
3. RAJESH VISHNU ADREKAR
ADVOCATE
401, D-14, YOGI VARDHAN CHS, YOGI
NAGAR ROAD, YOGI NAGAR, BORIVILI
WEST, MUMBAI,
MAHARASHTRA-400092. PETITIONER NO. 3
4. MANISHA NIMESH MEHTA
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
PRESIDENT IOF MSME ASSOCIATION
1905, ROSELLA, PANT NAGAR,
GHATKOPAR, MUMBAI,
MAHARASHTRA-400075. PETITIONER NO. 4

VERSUS

1. THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL
NEW DELHI-110001. RESPONDENT NO. 1
2. THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE,
REPRESENTED BY REGISTRAR GENERAL
DELHI HIGH COURT, SHER SHAH ROAD,
NEW DELHI-110003. RESPONDENT NO. 2
3. JUSTICE YASHWANT VERMA
JUDGE OF DELHI HIGH COURT
76, SUNDER NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110003. RESPONDENT NO. 3
4. UNION OF INDIA
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL OF AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
4TH FLOOR, A-WING, SHASTRI BHAWAN,
NEW DELHI-110001. RESPONDENT NO. 4
5. ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED)
THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR,
6TH FLOOR, LOK NAYAK BHAWAN,
KHAN MARKET, NEW DELHI. RESPONDENT NO. 5
6. STATION HOUSE OFFICER (SHO)
TULGAK ROAD POLICE STATION,
TULGAK ROAD, NEW DELHI- 110011. RESPONDENT NO. 6
7. COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,
DELHI POLICE HEADQUARTERS,
JAI SINGH ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001. RESPONDENT NO. 7
8. MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
THROUGH ITS SECRETARY
NORTH BLOCK, CENTRAL SECRETARIAT,
NEW DELHI-110001. RESPONDENT NO. 8

9. FIRE DEPARTMENT, DELHI
THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR
DELHI FIRE SERVICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE
NEW DELHI-110001. RESPONDENT NO. 9
10. CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR
CGO COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD,
NEW DELHI-110003. RESPONDENT NO. 10
11. INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
THROUGH THE CHAIRMAN
CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES (CBDT),
NORTH BLOCK, NEW DELHI-110001. RESPONDENT NO. 11

**WRIT PETITION FILED UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**

TO
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF INDIA AND HIS COMPANION JUSTICES
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

HUMBLE PETITION OF THE
PETITIONERS IN PERSONS ABOVE NAMED

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

1. The Petitioner no. 1 is an advocate and has been spearheading a campaign for transparency and reforms in judiciary, titled the National Lawyers' Campaign for Judicial Transparency and Reforms, which is an NGO registered under the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act. The Petitioner nos. 2 & 3 are also lawyers practicing in the High Court of Bombay and are the office bearers of NLC. The Petitioner no. 4 is a Chartered Accountant and the President of the MSME Association.

2. Our colonial masters created institutions, primarily keeping in mind a means of retaining power and maintaining law and order. However, the institutions so created by the British for promoting their own interests such as the civil service, judiciary were admired even during the British times, in the case of the judiciary, for its efficacy, impartiality, even independence. Nobody can deny that what we inherited from the British is a system of administration of justice that is pristine. That was the reason why our founding fathers gave utmost institutional protection to the judiciary at all levels, in particular, the higher judiciary. By virtue of Articles 124(4) and 217 of the Constitution, a Judge of a High Court of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-third of the members of the House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
3. By virtue of the proviso to Articles 125 and 221, the pay, privileges, allowances or pension cannot be varied to their disadvantage subsequent to the appointment. In other words, once a person is appointed as a judge of the High Court or Supreme Court, he cannot be removed from office, except by a motion of impeachment which has received the assent of both Houses of the Parliament, that too, after an investigation has established

misbehaviour or incapacity. Under the Judges (Inquiry) Act of 1968 such a committee for inquiry shall consist of a sitting judge of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice of a High Court and a distinguished jurist. Further, the motion for impeachment must be signed by a minimum of 100 members of the Lok Sabha or 50 members of the Rajya Sabha.

4. The founding fathers had in mind a judiciary which is fiercely independent, free of corruption and other blemishes and which is a bulwark against executive excesses. This was because of the enormous respect that judiciary had enjoyed even during the colonial times. The Privy Council, had enjoyed such a high reputation and respect for the quality of its judgments, erudition, independence and impartiality, that many princely states had accepted the Privy Council situated in London, as the supreme judicial tribunal. The reason why the Petitioners make a reference to this historical background is to emphasis that our founding fathers would not have even in their wildest of dreams, would have ever thought that a day would come when there is so much hushed talk in the corridors of the bar and among the general public of corruption in judiciary. And that is the reason why they did not think of the need to have an effective mechanism to deal with judicial misconduct and other improbity.
5. The founding fathers were fully conscious of the fact that impeachment is an extremely difficult process, a near impossibility. But it was consciously made so in their anxiety to ensure that a judge can discharge his function

independently. In retrospect, the protection which the founding fathers ingrained in the constitution has become counterproductive. The Petitioners are forced to say so because of many instances of malpractice, corruption and improbity that they come across literally every other day. The latest was the news reports of the recovery of heaps of cash from the official residence of Justice Yashwant Varma by sheer accident.

6. If it were a bureaucrat, politician or any other government official in the place of Justice Varma, an FIR would have been lodged in no time. The police would have started investigation, even made arrests and the newspapers would have reported it on the very same day. However, nothing of the sort can happen here. To a common man it would appear strange. Little would he know that this is because a 5-judge constitution bench in *K. Veeraswami v. Union of India and others* 1991 SCR (3) 189, held:

“We therefore, direct that no criminal case shall be registered under Section 154, Cr. P. C. against Judge of the High Court, Chief Justice of High Court or Judge of the Supreme Court unless the Chief Justice of India is consulted in the matter. Due regard must be given by the Government to the opinion expressed by the Chief Justice. If the Chief Justice is of opinion that it is not a fit case for proceeding under the Act, the case shall not be registered. If the Chief Justice of India himself is the person against whom the allegations of criminal misconduct are received the Government shall consult any other Judge or Judges of the Supreme Court”.

7. Equality before law and equal protection of law is the very foundation on which the concept of rule of law is built, the very foundation of our democratic republic. Under the Constitution, only the President and the Governors alone are immune from criminal proceedings, founded on the principle that the sovereign is immune from criminal proceedings. No other authority, be it the Prime Minister, the Speaker, Chief Ministers, Chief Justices, Judges, none else enjoy immunity from criminal proceedings. The Supreme Court in directing as afore quoted, has acted contrary to the Constitution and the law of the land.
8. The judgment in K. Veeraswami, a manifest error and overreach, remains as a blemish even after three decades of it being rendered. This simply means that judges, as a class, are made above law, burying the concept that even the king is not above the law. In a constitutional democracy governed by rule of law, law is the king. The King ought to not be under any man, but under God and the law, said CJ Edward Coke. The Supreme Court by the said directions in K. Veeraswami's case, buried the constitution and the laws of the land and made the judges above the law.
9. The vast majority of our judges are honourable men of great erudition, of unquestionable integrity, worthy of adoration. However, a minority, a not-so microscopic one, the Petitioners believe have violated their oath, the laws of the land and indulged in corruption and malpractice and betrayed the trust which the public and the Constitution has reposed in them. The Petitioner no.

I has, in fact, taken up certain cases of corruption which had come to his notice, with the constitutional authorities. But it fell on deaf ears. The less said about, it the better. The Petitioners refrain from elaborating. The Petitioners had occasion to even come across a POCSO case involving a sitting judge of a High Court. This indicates the gravity of the assertions in K. Veeraswami's case which is *ex facie*. The Police had to leave out the name of the accused obviously because of the afore quoted directions in K. Veeraswami's case. The judges of this country absolutely need protection to the extend which is essential for the discharge of their functions. The Constitution as afore narrated provides for it adequately. There can be no doubt that there have been instances where the trust which the founding fathers have placed in our judges has been betrayed and that instances are not few or far and between. "*Power tends to corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely*", said Lord Acton.

10. The Government which represents the people and is accountable to them, therefore, tabled the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010. The Bill contemplated a mechanism for citizens to file complaints against judges for misconduct and a committee to investigate the same. The bill was a well-balanced one, keeping in mind the need to protect the judges against motivated and false complaints, and the at the same time providing for a meaningful mechanism to proceed against those who have indulged in corruption and malpractice. However, the said bill did not become a law

because the then government lacked the political will and statesmanship to withstand the objections raised by certain quarters, including judges. The resultant scenario as we find today is extremely detrimental to the reputation of the very institution of judiciary, so too our democracy. There can be no two opinions that the greatest of safeguard that the judiciary can hope for is the public confidence and the faith of the people in the independence, impartiality, erudition and above all, the probity of the judges.

11. One rotten apple spoils the whole barrel. The scenario today is not of one or two. To state that the time has come to clean the Augean stable would not be an exaggerated statement in the light of the incident of recovery of crores and crores of rupees from the official residence of Justice Yashwant Varma, that too, by sheer chance. This is not a solitary instance. In August, 2008, Rs. 15 lakhs came to be delivered to the door of Justice Nirmaljit Kaur, mistaking her residence to be that of Justice Nirmal Yadav. Such incidents leave the common people to ponder as to how enormous cancer of corruption that has spread its tentacles in the corpus of our judicial system could be.

12. The perception of the common man is that the Court when it comes to its own affairs puts standards quite different from what it mandates for other departments of the state. For instance, every government servant and members of Parliament, MLAs, all are required to declare their assets and liabilities. The Court itself is credited for this great reform in the realm of transparency. The people of this country expect judges to follow the

prescription which they enforce on others even more vigorously on themselves. However, only 11 percent of the judges of this country have declared their assets. There is a special court to try the offences relating to MPs and MLAs in every district. But when it comes to judges an FIR cannot be registered even for an IPC offence. The common man cannot be blamed if he perceives the same to be a double standard.

13. The time undoubtedly has come to not merely ponder but to take effective action to curb corruption in judiciary. The narrative of immunity and protection which certain quarters, even well-meaning men, have been raising, shall now pave way for accountability and curbing of corruption. The directions in K. Veeraswami that no FIR shall be registered against a judge without the prior permission of the Chief Justice of India is no “law of the land”, it is contrary to the law of the land. However, it remains practically as the law of the land though in the very same judgment (Paragraph 50) the Supreme Court has said that no judgment can be read as a statute or in substitution of a statute. It is a fundamental principle of law that where there is a conflict between statute and judgement, it is the statute that will prevail and not the judgment. A judgement which is contrary to statute is one rendered per incuriam and sub silentio and is liable to be ignored, though it is unrealistic, today, to expect the executive to ignore even such a judgment which is rendered per incuriam and sub silentio.

14. The case at hand is an open and shut case. It is a case of a holding black money accumulated by selling justice. Even attempting to believe Justice Varma's own version, the question still remains as to why he did not file an FIR. Filing an FIR even belatedly is absolutely necessary to enable the police to enable the police to investigate the conspiracy aspect.

15. The Petitioners beg to submit that 3-member Committee constituted by the collegium has no jurisdiction to conduct an investigation into the incident that occurred on 14th March, 2025, at the official resident of Justice Yashwant Varma where heaps of currency notes were by chance recovered in a fire constituting various cognisable under the BNS. The resolution of the collegium investing the Committee the power to conduct such an investigation is one rendered void ab initio inasmuch as the collegium cannot confer jurisdiction upon itself to order so where the Parliament or the Constitution has conferred none. The implication of the constitution of a committee is that the criminal law cannot be set into motion till the committee decides one way or the other on the involvement of Justice Varma. Judges cannot conduct investigations. Their role is limited to adjudication. They do not have the expertise or competence. Judges conducting investigations into allegations of corruption against a fellow/brother judge can evince no public confidence. There is a clear case of conflict of interest. Past experience has been disastrous, which for considerations of reticence the Petitioners refrain from elaborating.

16. The gross delay in putting the criminal law into motion which cannot happen without an FIR being filed has led to an alarming situation in the very of the capital of the world's largest democracy where criminal law has to stand as a mute spectator in the face of a grave and unpardonable crime against public justice is being committed. Still worse is that even the highest court of the land and the executive, both, remained silent. To repeat, large amounts of money was found to be in the possession of a judge of the High Court, yet almost for a week the nation is kept in darkness. And to the shock and dismay of the common citizen, the criminal law is not allowed to be put to motion.

17. It is the time for all concerned to act decisively to save the institution. It is time for the Parliament to take serious note of these developments, so too, the executive and this Hon'ble Court. Judicial corruption is a heinous crime. Every citizen has a duty to make a 'hue and cry'. The very words hue and cry comes from common law which casts a duty on every citizen to report crime, nay, even capture the criminal. The Petitioners are citizens of India. They are lawyers and lawyers have a greater responsibility to make such a hue and cry when it comes to corruption, even more so when it is about judicial corruption.

18. The Petitioners had invoked the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court under Article 32 of the Constitution seeking registration of an FIR on 23rd March, 2025, since even after the lapse of over a week since huge volumes of

currency being recovered from the official residence of Justice Yashwant Varma, no FIR was registered and the criminal law was not set into motion. It was indisputable that the huge volumes of money that was burned and partly burned and clandestinely removed was nothing but bribe/corruption. A crime punishable under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Prevention of Corruption Act. There was no official explanation as to why no FIR was registered and why the criminal law was not set into motion, which would have meant the seizure of the currency notes securing the crime location, arresting of suspects, etc. The unsaid reason was that a 5-judge constitution bench of this Court in *K. Veeraswami v. Union of India*, 1991 SCR (3) 189, was pleased to direct that no criminal case shall be registered under Section 154 of the CRPC against a judge of the High Court, Chief Justice of a High Court or a judge of the Supreme Court, unless the Chief Justice is consulted of the matter.

19. The Chief Justice/collegium uploaded the videos of burned currency notes, so too, the letter of the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court addressed to the Chief Justice of India which undoubtedly was greatly commendable. The people of this country expected the police to register an FIR, nay, the Chief Justice to grant permission to the police for registration of the FIR without any further delay, to put the criminal law into motion lest precious evidence is lost, and ensure that the investigation of the crime proceed in the right direction. However, no such permission was granted, much less sought by

the Government/Police. The Chief Justice/collegium, instead constituted an in-house committee consisting of the Chief Justices of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana and High Court of Himachal Pradesh, and a judge of the Karnataka High Court.

20. Equality before law and equal protection of law is the core of our constitution. All are equal before law and the criminal laws apply equally to all, irrespective of one's status, position, etc. The only exception, nay immunity, in our constitutional scheme is extended to the President and the Governors, the sovereign who represents 'we the people'. 'Be ye never so high, the law is above you', is the very edifice on which the concept of rule of law is built. Even the King is not considered above law, but under God and the law.

21. It was in the above circumstances that the Petitioners had instituted a writ petition seeking a declaration that the observation of this Court in K. Veeraswami is one rendered per incuriam, in ignorance of law and sub silentio, without noticing that the police is under a statutory duty to register an FIR when it receives information of a cognizable offence, and the said direction of the Court is nothing short of restraining the police from discharging their statutory duty. The said petition was dismissed pointing out that the inquiry by the in-house committee is in progress and that several options will be open to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India once the report is submitted and that it is not appropriate to entertain the petition 'at this stage'.

A true copy of the order dated 28.03.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Court in Writ Petition (Civil) Diary No. 15529 of 2025 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE P-1 (PAGES 22 TO 23)**.

22.The Petitioners are made to understand that the Committee submitted its report to the Chief Justice of India on 4th May, 2025, indicting Justice Varma and recommending appropriate action. The Chief Justice of India sought Justice Varma's response. On receiving the reply from Justice Varma has forwarded the report to the President/Government reportedly recommending his impeachment.

23.The nation is in dire straits, a high-level committee constituted by the Chief Justice of India has found Justice Varma to be prima facie guilty of corruption allegedly involving over 50 crores of rupees. Social media is rife with rumours that others from the Delhi High Court are involved. An FIR is yet to be registered and the criminal law is yet to be set into motion, giving worrisome impression that judges are above law. Media reports indicate that only part of the currency was burned and that the untouched portions were removed allowing involved to get away scot-free. The delay in registration of an FIR has caused enormous damage and hindered the possibility of a thorough and credible investigation.

24.Impeachment, which the Petitioners believe is a fait accompli in the light of the gravity of the offence and the undeniability of his involvement, will not be enough in itself. That is only the removal of an employee from his office,

a pure civil consequence. What has happened is a grave crime against public justice. When it is a judge, the defender of justice who is himself the accused or culprit, then it is no ordinary offense, the gravity is far greater and so must be the punishment. Probity in public life which judge is duty bound to uphold is uncompromisable. It is imperative that criminal law is set into motion, the matter is thoroughly investigated and most importantly ascertain who was bribegiver/beneficiaries and what was the cause/judgment in which justice was purchased. Since the matter involves setting the criminal law into motion where it was not done, a petition under Article 32 will lie.

25. While the judiciary is sovereign in its field, namely, the adjudication of disputes, when it comes to the investigation of crimes and bringing of culprits to book, the police is sovereign. So long as the police acts bona fide and in accordance with law, no interference is permissible. As the Privy Council as held, so long as the police acts fairly and within jurisdiction, nobody, not even the Court, can interfere.

26. The Petitioner's being lawyers and citizens consider that they have locus standi, nay, that is their bounden duty to take up the issue before this Hon'ble Court to ensure that if Justice Varma has in fact committed the offence of accumulating wealth through corrupt means, he shall be subjected to criminal prosecution, even an impeachment by itself will not suffice. Corruption in judiciary, substantially and directly infringes the fundamental rights enshrined in Part III of the Constitution in particular Article 14, 19 and

21. As citizens of this country, the Petitioners have every right, unquestionable locus standi, to invoke Article 32.

GROUND

Grounds in support of the relief sought for are fairly elaborated in the statement of facts above and hence are not repeated to keep this petition brief. The Petitioners respectfully submit that the paragraphs 1 to 21 hereinabove may be read and treated as the ground in support of the instant Writ Petition.

GROUND FOR INTERIM RELIEF

Every day's, nay, hour's delay in the registration of an FIR will lead to delay in setting the criminal law into motion, evidence being lost or destroyed, witnessed being influenced or intimidated and the apprehension of the culprit being rendered impossible and result in gross miscarriage of justice, putting the efficacy of criminal justice system to jeopardy.

PRAYER

In the above premises, it is prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

- a) To issue a writ in the nature of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction, directing the Respondents/Delhi Police to register an FIR and cause an effective and meaningful investigation into the incident of recovery of huge amounts of unaccounted money from the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma, or in the alternative to direct the Police/Union Government to seek permission of the Chief Justice for the registration of the FIR;
- b) To declare that the incident of recovery of crores of unaccounted money from the official residence of Justice Yashwant Varma constitutes a cognisable offence punishable under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and that the police is duty bound to register an FIR and that the observations in paragraph 60 of the judgment of the Supreme

Court in *K. Veeraswami v. UOI* prohibiting that no criminal case shall be registered against a judge of a High court or Supreme Court without the prior permission of the Chief Justice of India is one rendered *per incuriam* and *sub silentio* and is gross violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India;

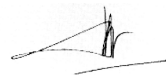
- c) To declare that the fundamental right enshrined under Article 19 of the Constitution, namely, freedom of speech and expression which takes within its ambit the right to access the report and findings of the in-house committee which investigated the incident of recovery of huge volumes of currency at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma and that there exists a corresponding duty on the part of the Supreme Court to make the said report public, and to issue a consequential writ in the nature of mandamus or any other writ or direction, directing the authority concerned to publish/upload the same on the official website of the court;
- d) To issue a writ in the nature of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction, directing the Government to take effective and meaningful action for curbing corruption across all levels of judiciary, including the enactment of the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010, which had lapsed;
- e) Pass any other order(s) as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit in the interest of justice.

INTERIM RELIEF

- a) Direct the police to register an FIR, set the criminal law into motion/grant permission to the police to do so, if such permission is deemed necessary;
and
- b) To direct the publication/uploading of the report submitted by the in-house committee which inquired into the incident concerning Justice Yashwant Varma on the official website of this Hon'ble Court;

**AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS THE PETITIONER IN PERSONS
SHALL AS IN DUTY BOUND EVER PRAY.**

Drawn & Filed by:



**MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA
PARTY-IN-PERSON NO. 1
9820535428**

Drawn on: 13.05.2025
Place: New Delhi
Dated: 13.05.2025



//True Copy//

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGSWRIT PETITION(S)(CIVIL) NO(S). 534/2025

SHRI MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE HONOURABLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 132747/2025 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON)

Date : 21-05-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ABHAY S. OKA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

For Petitioner(s): Petitioner-in-person

For Respondent(s):

UPON hearing petitioner-in-person the Court made the following
O R D E R

Application seeking permission to appear and argue in person is allowed.

Heard Shri Mathews J. Nedumpara, the first petitioner appearing in person.

Essentially the grievance in the Writ Petition is that no action has been initiated against the third respondent on the basis of the allegations made against him and on the basis of the report of the In-House Inquiry Committee. The Press Release issued by this Court on 8th May, 2025 records that the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has forwarded the report of the In-House Inquiry Committee along with the response of the third respondent to the Hon'ble President of India and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. Before the petitioners seek

a writ of mandamus, the petitioners will have to seek redressal of their grievance by filing a representation before the appropriate authorities. The petitioners have not done so. Therefore, we decline to entertain this Writ Petition. At this stage, it is not necessary to look into the other prayers.

Subject to what is observed above, the Writ Petition is disposed of.

Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of accordingly.

(ASHISH KONDLE)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)



MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA

President

National Lawyers' Campaign for Judicial Transparency and Reforms

101, Gundecha Chambers, Nagindas Master Rd, Kala Ghoda, Fort, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400001

Mob: +91 98205 35428/94471 65650

E-mail: mathewsjnedumpara@gmail.com

26.5.2025

For the kind personal attention of her Excellency

To,
Her Excellency, Smt. Droupadi Murmu
President of India,
New Delhi

May it please your Excellency,

Sub: Representation made in furtherance of the order of the Supreme Court dated 21.05.2025 in WP(C) no. 534/2025. Registration of FIR and expeditious, meaningful investigation into the incident of recovery of large amounts of burned cash at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma of the Delhi High Court who has since been transferred to the Allahabad High Court - Reg.

1. The instant letter/representation certainly will have no parallel in history. The undersigned along with a few lawyers and concerned citizens, invoked the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 32, twice, seeking the registration of an FIR of the incident now known as the 'judge burning cash scam'.
2. The incident took place on the night of 14th March, 2025, at the official residence of Justice Varma. The fire force was called to douse the fire. The police, too, reached the scene of occurrence. The police were made to leave the scene of occurrence without registering an FIR sealing the area and seizing the burned and unburned currency notes. There was absolute silence by all authorities concerned. However, through word of mouth and widespread agitation on social media, the incident came to be known to the legal fraternity and the larger public. Eventually, after 6 days, the



Supreme Court uploaded on its website, the video of the burned currency where a staff is heard saying "Mahatma Gandhi is on fire brother". which today resonates to be the perception of the common man about the judiciary of the country.

3. In the wake of the public outcry, the Chief Justice of India/the collegium, instead of swinging into action and immediately granting permission to register an FIR, nay to set the criminal law in motion, constituted an in-house committee of 3 judges to enquire into the incident. The uploading of the video and the constitution of the committee was hailed to be a step in the direction of transparency. The uploading of the video certainly was, but the constitution of an in-house committee is nothing but preventing the police from the discharge of its statutory duty. The penal laws of the country are applicable equally to all. To the rich and the poor alike, to both the constitutional functionaries and the common man.
4. The bar used to be the fourth estate. When an incident as shocking and unprecedented as that of Justice Varma's happened, it was the duty of the SCBA and the Delhi High Court Bar Association to raise 'hue and cry' and ask for the immediate resignation of the judge and registration of an FIR. But there was stoic silence. Only the Allahabad High Court Bar Association and the Bar Association Presidents from various parts of the country raised their voice. It was the media and the common man that vocal.
5. It was in the above backdrop that I approached the Supreme Court seeking a declaration that the direction in K. Veeraswami's case that no FIR shall be registered against a judge of the Supreme Court or High Courts without prior permission of the Chief Justice of India is rendered *per incuriam* (in ignorance of law) and *sub silentio*

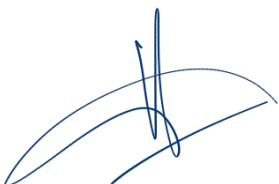


(without considering the relevant statutory provisions). I also sought a direction to the police to register an FIR or in the alternative, even going by K. Veerawasmi, which is ex facie unconstitutional, to seek the permission of the Chief Justice of India to register an FIR. I had also sought a declaration that the in-house committee has no statutory backing and therefore, has no sanctity in law. My petition, however, was disposed of without adjudicating the issues raised, practically asking me to wait for the outcome of the committee before I sought any relief.

6. I moved the Supreme Court once again after the committee had reportedly indicted Justice Varma. The rumour in the legal circles is that the police had discretely and informally investigated the matter and that it pointed to a larger scam involving hundreds of crores of rupees and the involvement of several others. This impelled me to file the second petition asking for the registration of an FIR in no loss of time, for every day's delay will allow the culprits, undoubtedly powerful and mighty, to escape the long arm of the law.
7. Who were the bribe givers, how many such instances had taken place, were there middlemen and what were the causes that came to be compromised are most pertinent. However, the Supreme Court rejected my plea holding that the Chief Justice has forwarded the report of the in-house Committee to your Excellency, so too, the Hon'ble Prime Minister and that I shall, before I seek a mandamus at the hands of the Supreme Court to register an FIR, make a representation your Excellency and the Hon'ble Prime Minister. A copy of the said order dated 21.05.2025 and W.P (C) no. 534 of 2025 are annexed.



8. I am in complete disagreement with the judgment of the Supreme Court. The registration of an FIR is the job of the station house officer. He did not do so because he is prohibited from doing so because of the direction in the judgment in K. Veeraswami's case restraining the police from filing an FIR against a judge without the permission of the Chief Justice of India. The Police could have registered an FIR notwithstanding K. Veeraswami because no judgment can be read as a statute or in substitution a statute, but to expect the police to do so in the current scenario where the Supreme Court has assumed to itself the powers of the executive and the legislature is too unrealistic.
9. I am certain that the government will initiate steps for impeachment of Justice Varma. The opposition parties will certainly extend their support. But that process is going to be time consuming. Justice Varma is all unlikely to resign because he would only be too aware of the bitter experience of Justice Shamit Mukherjee who resigned and immediately retracted his resignation in less than 3 hours realizing that he would lose the immunity that judges enjoy terms of the K. Veeraswami judgement. To Justice Shamit Mukherjee's dismay, by the time he sought to retract his resignation, the Government said that they had accepted his resignation. He was arrested. In the case of Justice Nirmal Yadav, though, permission for arrest was declined by the then Chief Justice, Hon'ble Mr. K G Balakrishnan, his successor Hon'ble S.H Kapadia granted permission and she came to be arrested. There are ever so many instances of corruption dating as back as the early 1990s. But no meaningful action has been taken.
10. Justice Varma's case is by far the most shocking in recent times. If an FIR is not registered and a thorough and impartial investigation is not conducted and the



accused not brought to book, the faith of the common man in the judiciary will be put to even greater jeopardy.

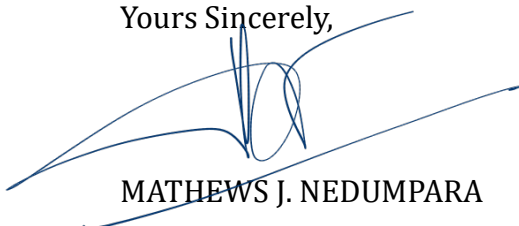
11. Even as heaps of currency notes are found literally up in flames, if the common man is made to stand and watch as nothing more than a mute spectator, then what would be at stake is the very concept of rule of law, nay, democracy and the very Constitution we hold sacrosanct.

12. At the cost of the public exchequer, a 3-member in-house committee, which has no foundation in law, has conducted an enquiry. The report is still not in the public domain and remains a private affair. It would only be in the fitness of things for the government to publish the report and the Supreme Court has directed me to make a representation to your Excellency and the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the same.

13. We as citizens repose faith in the government and are certain that the government in no loss of time will publish the report of the in-house committee, cause an FIR to be registered, set the criminal law in motion, bring to book the judge and those involved. And in that unstinted hope, beseeching your Excellency to take urgent action, I remain.

With most respectful regards,

Yours Sincerely,



MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA



//True Copy//

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
(CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION)

I.A. NO. OF 2025

IN

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA & ORS. PETITIONERS

VERSUS

THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA & ORS. RESPONDENTS

**APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN THE
ABOVE-MENTIONED WRIT PETITION FILED BEFORE THIS
HON'BLE COURT AS PARTY IN PERSONS**

TO
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF INDIA AND HIS COMPANION JUSTICES
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

HUMBLE PETITION OF THE
PETITIONERS IN PERSONS ABOVE NAMED

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That the Petitioners in Person herein have not engaged the services of an Advocate on Record as the Petitioner is well conversant and can diligently assist the court, and the Petitioner in Person herein wishes to pursue the matter as in Person. A true copy of the Aadhar Card bearing No. 2979 5739 1137 of the Petitioner in Person No. 1 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE A-1 (PAGES 126).**

A true copy of the Aadhar Card bearing No. 9377 1660 6859 of the Petitioner in Person No. 2 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE A-2 (PAGES 127).**

A true copy of the Aadhar Card bearing No. 8120 9032 1274 of the Petitioner in Person No. 3 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE A-3 (PAGES 128).**

A true copy of the Aadhar Card bearing No. 5281 0154 7535 of the Petitioner in Person No. 4 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE A-4 (PAGES 129).**

2. That the Petitioners in Person are trying to put forth all the facts, circumstances and observations in the form of this Writ Petition before this Hon'ble Court.
5. That the present application is being made in the interest of justice and no prejudice shall be caused to any party if the present application is allowed.
6. That in light of the above, the balance of convenience lies in favour of the Applicant.
7. True copy of SPA executed in favour of Petitioner in Person No. 1 by Petitioner No. 2 to 4 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE A-5 (PAGES 130 TO 132).**
8. That the Petitioner in Person No. 1 as an Advocate by profession and therefore, no advocates / amicus curie no required in this case.

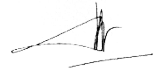
PRAYER

It is, therefore, most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

- a) Allow the present Application and permit the Petitioner in Person No. 1 for self and on behalf of all the Petitioners, to appear and argue the above-mentioned Writ Petition in Person before this Hon'ble Court being the SPA Holder; and
- b) Pass such other order or further orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

AND FOR WHICH ACT OF KINDNESS THE PETITIONERS IN PERSON SHALL AS IN DUTY BOUND EVER PRAY.

Filed by:



**MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA
PETITIONER IN PERSON NO. 1
9820535428**

Place: New Delhi
Dated: 16.07.2025

ANNEXURE A-1

भारत सरकार
Government of India

आधार

Issue Date: 19/01/2013



Mathews Joseph Nedumpara
DOB: 11/11/1958
MALE

2979 5739 1137

मेरा आधार, मेरी पहचान

भारतीय विशिष्ट पहचान प्राधिकरण
Unique Identification Authority of India

आधार

Print Date: 10/12/2020

Address: S/O Joseph Nedumpara, Villa No
11 DD Tudor Villas, Padam Road,
Vaduthala, Kochi, Vaduthala, Ernakulam,
Kerala, 682023



2979 5739 1137

1947  help@uidai.gov.in  www.uidai.gov.in 



//True Copy//

 भारत सरकार
Government of India

 रोहिणी मोहित अमीन
Rohini Mohit Amin
जन्म तारीख / DOB : 16/02/1974
स्त्री / Female



9377 1660 6859

आधार - सामान्य माणसाचा अधिकार

 भारतीय विशिष्ट ओळख प्राधिकरण
Unique Identification Authority of India

पत्ता W/O: मोहित अमीन, बी / 705, निर्माण अपार्टमेंट्स, आर.जे. मार्ग, पुंजब राष्ट्रीय बँक, अंधेरी (ईस्ट), मुंबई, चाकाला एमआयडीसी, महाराष्ट्र, 400093
Address: W/O: Mohit Amin, B / 705, Nirman Apartments, R.J. Marg, Punjab National Bank, Andheri (East), Mumbai, Chakala Midc, Maharashtra, 400093

9377 1660 6859

 1847
1800 300 1947

 help@uidai.gov.in

 www
www.uidai.gov.in



//True Copy//




भारतीय विशिष्ट ओळख प्राधिकरण
भारत सरकार
Unique Identification Authority of India
Government of India

नोंदणी क्रमांक : Enrolment No.: 1218/17748/89469

To,
 Rajesh Vishnu Adrekar
 राजेश विष्णू आड्रेकर

06/11/2011

B/ 23, EKSAR NEELKAMAL CHS LTD, EKSAR ROAD D.D
 BORGE MARG, NEXT TO MEGHDOOT SOCIETY
 BORIVALI WEST Borivali West Mumbai
 Maharashtra 400092
 Mobile:8082006475


 UC 08009781 9 IN
 Ref No.:4I2B3E9X-8009781



आपला आधार क्रमांक / Your Aadhaar No. :

8120 9032 1274
आधार — सामान्य माणसाचा अधिकार




भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

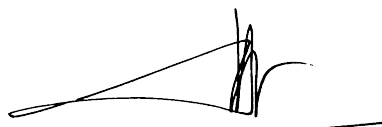

 राजेश विष्णू आड्रेकर
 Rajesh Vishnu Adrekar
 :
 :
 :

जन्म वर्ष / Year of Birth : 1970
 पुरुष / Male



8120 9032 1274




आधार — सामान्य माणसाचा अधिकार



//True Copy//

भारत सरकार
Government of India

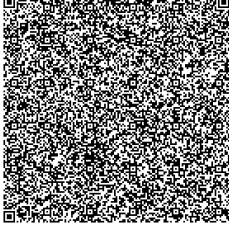
भारतीय विशिष्ट ओळख प्राधिकरण
Unique Identification Authority of India

नोंदणी क्रमांक:/ Enrolment No.: 0013/37005/11981

Download Date: 26/10/2021

 Issue Date: 04/10/2021

To
 मनीषा निमेश मेहता
 Manisha Nimesh Mehta
 C/O: Nimesh Mehta
 Flat No 1905, 19th Floor , Rosella, Bldg No 148
 .
 Pant Nagar Ghatkopar East
 .
 Mumbai
 Pant Nagar
 Mumbai Suburban Maharashtra - 400075
 9821931014




आपला **आधार** क्रमांक / Your **Aadhaar** No. :


5281 0154 7535

VID : 9107 3549 2423 4652


माझे आधार, माझी ओळख



भारत सरकार
Government of India



Download Date: 26/10/2021






मनीषा निमेश मेहता
 Manisha Nimesh Mehta
 जन्म तारीख/DOB: 22/12/1968
 महिला/ FEMALE

Issue Date: 04/10/2021

5281 0154 7535

VID : 9107 3549 2423 4652

माझे आधार, माझी ओळख

माहिती


- **आधार** ओळखीचा पुरावा आहे नागरिकत्वाचा नाही
- सुरक्षित QR कोड / ऑफलाइन XML / ऑनलाइन प्रमाणीकरण वापरून ओळख सत्यापित करा.
- हे इलेक्ट्रॉनिक प्रक्रियेद्वारा तयार झालेले एक पत्र आहे.

INFORMATION


- **Aadhaar** is a proof of identity, not of citizenship.
- Verify identity using Secure QR Code/ Offline XML/ Online Authentication.
- This is electronically generated letter.

- **आधार** देशभरात वैध आहे
- **आधार** आपल्याला विविध सरकारी आणि खाजगी सेवा सुलभतेने घेण्यास मदत करते
- आपला मोबाइल नंबर आणि ईमेल आयडी **आधार**मध्ये अद्यावत ठेवा
- आपल्या स्मार्ट फोनमध्ये **आधार** घ्या - **mAadhaar App** वापरा

- **Aadhaar** is valid throughout the country.
- **Aadhaar** helps you avail various Government and non-Government services easily.
- Keep your mobile number & email ID updated in **Aadhaar**.
- Carry Aadhaar in your smart phone – use **mAadhaar App**.



भारतीय विशिष्ट ओळख प्राधिकरण
Unique Identification Authority of India

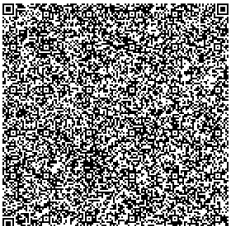


Download Date: 26/10/2021

पत्ता:
 माफत: निमेश मेहता, फ्लॅट नं 1905, 19 फ्लोर , रोझेला
 बीएलडीजी नं 148, ., ., पंत नगर घाटकोपर ईस्ट, मुंबई,
 मुंबई उपनगर,
 महाराष्ट्र - 400075


Address:
 C/O: Nimesh Mehta, Flat No 1905, 19th Floor
 . Rosella, Bldg No 148, ., ., Pant Nagar
 Ghatkopar East, Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban,
 Maharashtra - 400075

Issue Date: 04/10/2021







5281 0154 7535

VID : 9107 3549 2423 4652



भारतीय विशिष्ट ओळख प्राधिकरण
Unique Identification Authority of India



 1947 |
  help@uidai.gov.in |
  www.uidai.gov.in

//True Copy//



महाराष्ट्र MAHARASHTRA

2025

DY 736996



प्रधान मुद्रांक कार्यालय, मुंबई
प.मु.वि.क. ८००००९०
15 MAY 2025
सक्षम आधिकारी

श्री. विनायक ब. जाधव

SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

We,

1. **Rohini Mohit. Amin**, Advocate, D/o. Kariappa C. Kotian, R/o. B-705, Nirman Apartments, R.J, Marg, Pump House, Andheri East, Mumbai-400009
 2. **Rajesh Vishnu Adrekar**, Advocate, R/o. 401, D-14, Yogi Vardhan CHS, Yogi Nagar Road, Yogi Nagar, Borivili West, Mumbai-400092,
 3. **Manisha Nimesh Mehta**, Chartered Accountant, D/o. Vasantlal Haridas Joisher, R/o. 1905, Rosella, Pant Nagar, Ghatkopar, Mumbai-400075
- the Petitioners in the Writ Petition (D) No. 27420/2025, in our capacity, constitute and appoint and by these presents do make, constitute,

120 MAY 2025



जोडपत्र - २ Annexure - II

दस्तावा प्रकार	POWER OF ATTORNEY
दस्त नोंदणी करणार आहेत का ?	YES/NO
मिळकतीचे वर्णन -	
मुद्रांक विवेक्त घेणाऱ्याचे नाव	Rohini M. Amin, ne 9 & 10/11
दुराऱ्या पक्षकाराचे नाव	Mathans Nedumpara
हस्ते असल्यास त्याचे नाव व पत्ता	
मुद्रांक शुल्क रक्कम	
मुद्रांक विक्री नोंद वही अनु. क्रमांक/दिनांक	3383
मुद्रांक विवेक्त घेणाऱ्याची सही	
मुद्रांक विवेक्त्याची सही	Math

परवाना क्रमांक : ८००००९०

मुद्रांक विक्रीचे नाव/पत्ता : श्री. कल्पेश प्रेमजी गाला

भा.प. ब.३, भा.प.दय विल्लिंग, ७९ बगीचादास मास्टर रोड, पार्क, मुंबई - ४०० ००१

व्या. कारणासाठी ज्यांनी मुद्रांक खरेदी केला त्यांनी त्याच कारणासाठी

मुद्रांक खरेदी केला जाऊन व महिन्यात वापरणे बंधनकारक आहे

20 MAY 2025



20 May 2025

nominate and authorize and hereby appoint Mr. Mathews J Nedumpara, Advocate, residing at, 12-F, Harbour Heights, Narayan A Sawant Rd, Azad Nagar, Colaba, Mumbai -400005 as special power of attorney and authorize him in respect of Writ Petition (D) No. 40429/2025 to appear, argue in the matter, sign on our behalf all type of documents in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, as for the acts and deeds to represent us before all the court/s and further to do all the litigation, file written statement, declarations, any other documents required for the purpose of the case or withdraw the case.

We hereby ratify and approve all his acts, deed or his delegates, acts with respect to the aforesaid case.

In acknowledgement, whereof I have signed the present Special Power of Attorney.

120 MAY 2025

EXECUTANTS

1. ROHINI AMIN

RM Amin

PETITIONER NO. 2

2. RAJESH ADREKAR

Rajesh Adrekar

PETITIONER NO. 3

3. MANISHA MEHTA

Manisha Mehta

PETITIONER NO. 4



ATTORNEY FOR THE EXECUTANTS

BEFORE ME

WITNESS

1. MARIA NEDUMPARA

2. SHAMEEM FAYIZ



For 20/5/2025
Adv. T.S.N.H. ZAIDI
Notary Government of India
Regn. No. 50285 Mumbai, Mah.
Bombay Mutual Building, 1st Floor,
Office No. 65, Sir P. M. Road,
Fort, Mumbai - 400 01 . Maharashtra

Place : Mumbai

Date : 20.05.2025.



NOTED & REGISTERED
Page No. 079 Sr. No. 875
Dated. 20 MAY 2025



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
(CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION)

I.A. NO. OF 2025

IN

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA & ORS.

PETITIONERS

VERSUS

THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA & ORS.

RESPONDENTS

**APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING OFFICIAL
TRANSLATION**

TO
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF INDIA AND HIS COMPANION JUSTICES
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

HUMBLE PETITION OF THE
PETITIONERS IN PERSONS ABOVE NAMED

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That the instant, sadly, is the third petition which the Petitioners, citizens and lawyers, are constrained to institute to set the criminal law in motion, which is a statutory duty cast on the Delhi Police and the Central Government. The Central Government which is in charge of the Delhi Police, on it being reported that there has been an incident of huge volumes of currency notes, burned and partially burned, being found and clandestinely removed from the official residence of Justice Varma, a judge of the Delhi High Court, was duty bound to direct the Delhi Police to register an FIR. Its amounts to the a great failure in the discharge of its

sovereign function, nay, duty to investigate crimes and secure punishment to those who violate the law.

2. That relevant portion of Pages 5, 44, 50, 63, 64 and 119 which are original in Hindi. Getting that document being translated by the Official Translator is time consuming. Since the petitioner is seeking urgent interim orders from this Hon'ble Court, that documents are being translated by the counsel for the Petitioner in the High Court who is familiar with Hindi and English. Therefore, this Hon'ble Court may kindly accept the free translation made by the counsel for the petitioner in the High Court and exempt the petitioner from filing the translated copy of the document by the Official Translator.


PRAYER

It is therefore most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to;

- (i) Exempt the Petitioner from filing official translation of relevant portion of Pages 5, 44, 50, 63, 64 and 119 which are original in Hindi; and
- (ii) To pass such other order or further orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.

AND FOR WHICH ACT OF KINDNESS THE PETITIONERS IN PERSON SHALL AS IN DUTY BOUND EVER PRAY.

Filed by:



**MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA
PETITIONER IN PERSON NO. 1
9820535428**

Place: New Delhi
Dated: 16.07.2025

MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA**Advocate**

101, Gundecha Chambers, Nagindas Master Rd, Kala Ghoda, Fort, Mumbai,
Maharashtra 400001 Mob: +91 98205 35428/ 99679 69256/ 94471 65650/

mathewsinedumpara@gmail.com

25.7.2025

To,
The Registrar,
Supreme Court of India

**Sub: Explanation to the defects notified in Mathews J. Nedumpara
v. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India (Diary no. 40429/2025)**

Objection 9: Clarify as to whether the petition or PIL. If writ, locus to be clarified.

The principal prayer sought for in the writ petition is a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the police/authorities to register an FIR which they are dutybound to do as per Section 173 of BNSS. In Lalita Kumari's case the Supreme Court has reaffirmed that the Police is dutybound to register an FIR and set the criminal law in motion upon receipt of information disclosing the commission of a cognizable offense and where the police have failed to do so, a writ of mandamus will lie as a matter of right. The remedy of mandamus, expressly stated in Article 32, is a fundamental right in itself as expressly stated in Article 32(1). The Petitioners are representing themselves as citizens and lawyers and are not anyone who out of their poverty, illiteracy or like reasons are unable to invoke the jurisdiction of this Court under Article 32 on their one (which is what qualifies as a PIL). This Petition does not therefore, fall under of the category of PILs, where a person acting pro bono espouses the cause of someone else. The Petitioner's locus is that they are enforcing their own fundamental rights, namely, a writ in the nature of mandamus. **Every citizen has a right, nay, duty to set the criminal law in motion, to raise hue and cry and to institute a *qui tam* action. Hence the instant Writ Petition.**

Objection 10: In person to clarify the nature of matter filed as civil but prayers are criminal in nature

What the Petitioner is seeking is a writ in the nature of mandamus to set the criminal law in motion. But it, namely, writ of mandamus is an equitable court granted by the Chancery Court, the defect raised is out of a complete misconception of law. The principal relief sought for is a writ in the nature of a mandamus seeking the registration of an FIR and a declaration that the judgement in K. Veeraswami is per incuriam and sub silentio. Article 32 only speaks of 5 writs, the second being mandamus. Mandamus, prohibition, certiorari, etc. are writs of a civil nature

issued by the Chancery courts in England, so too our courts. In theory, only writ of habeas corpus alone is of a criminal nature. It may be added, that the earlier writ petition which came to be disposed of by order dated 28.3.2025 was also a civil writ petition.

Objection 11: In person to further clarify the maintainability of the instant petition in view of the impeachment proceedings underway pertaining to the subject matter

This objection is absolutely misconceived. If a public servant commits a crime, a holder of high constitutional office, public trust, indulges in corruption and accumulates crores of rupees as illegal wealth, far in excess of his known source of income, it will invite both criminal and civil consequences. Civil consequence is removal from service. In the case of a government employee under the service rules. He will also simultaneously face criminal proceedings which would mean the registration of an FIR which would invariably lead to his arrest and a trial and conviction. The person involved in the instant case is a high court judge he cannot be removed from office except by a motion of impeachment which has received the assent of both houses of parliament in the same session. The actor and the judex, both, therein is the Parliament, which includes the President. All are equal before law. Criminal laws of the land apply to all equally and in respect of the huge volumes of cash found at his residence, Justice Varma is liable to be punished, if found guilty, is liable to be punished under the laws of the land like any other citizen. No one is immune from the penal laws of the land except for the President and Governor. These are fundamentals. The registry ought not have raised this objection at all.

objection 12. Further clarify w.r.t. the maintainability of the instant petition in view of similar matter already disposed off with similar prayers vide w.p. (c) 534 of 2025

The Petitioner is constrained to file the third writ petition because the supreme Court in the earlier rounds did not adjudicate the case of the Petitioner on merits, did not grant the writ of mandamus directing the police to register an FIR or refuse it. On the contrary, in the first round, the Petitioner was asked to wait for the outcome of the committee of 3 jugdes. In the second round, the petitioners were asked to make a representation to the President and the Prime Minister since the Chief Justice has forwarded the report of the 3-judge committee to the President and Prime Minister. The President and the Government did not act upon the representation of the Petitioners, leaving the Petitioners with no option than to invoke Article 32 a third time for the registration of an FIR and a declaration that the judgement in K. Veeraswami is per incuriam and sub silentio. None of which has been adjudicated upon. The instant petition is not barred by res judicata estoppel.

Objection 13: Slight discrepancy in name to be clarified.

It is very disappointing that the Registry is raising such meaningless objections. The Registry's objection regarding the abbreviation of middle names is wholly unjustified and lacks any

substantial merit. The first Petitioner is *Mathews Joseph Nedumpara*, who has abbreviated his name as *Mathews J. Nedumpara*. Similarly, the second Petitioner is *Rohini Mohit Amin*, abbreviated as *Rohini M. Amin*. Such standard and universally accepted abbreviation of middle names does not, in any manner, create ambiguity as to the identity of the Petitioners. In fact, even in contexts requiring the highest level of identity verification—such as international air travel—abbreviation of middle names does not raise any objection or lead to refusal of boarding or identification.

The Registry's insistence on treating this abbreviation as a "discrepancy" is **not only unreasonable but also results in undue delay and waste of judicial time. The same documents were submitted in the last two petitions and no such objection was raised. Each time the registry tries to find new and immaterial objections. This is deeply saddening. The Registry's job is to act as a facilitator, an aid, not to create needless hurdles and for the litigants.**

The remaining objections are changes that need to be made in the petition and the same are being carried out. When I mentioned the matter on 24.7.2015, the Hon'ble Chief Justice was pleased to inform me that the matter has already been listed for Monday, 28th July, 2025. Kindly list the matter on Monday, 28th July, 2025, as directed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice.

Regards,

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Mathews J. Nedumpara', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mathews J. Nedumpara

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
(CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION)**

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA & ORS.

PETITIONERS

VERSUS

THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA & ORS.

RESPONDENTS

MEMO OF APPEARANCE

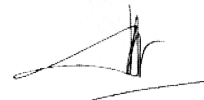
To,

The Registrar,
Supreme Court of India,
New Delhi.

Sir,

Please enter my appearance for the above-named Petitioners in Person No. 1 in the above-mentioned Writ Petition.

Yours faithfully



**Mathews J. Nedumpara
Advocate**

Petitioner in Person No. 1

101, 1ST FLOOR, GUNDECHA, CHAMBER,
NAGINDAS ROAD,
FORT, MUMBAI-400001,
MAHARASHTRA

E-Mail: mathewsjnedumpara@gmail.com

Mob. No. 9820535428

Dated: 16.07.2025

Place: New Delhi

SECTION

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

(CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION)

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA & ORS.

PETITIONERS

VERSUS

THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA & ORS.

RESPONDENTS

INDEX

Sl. No.	Description	Copies	C. Fee
1	Listing Proforma	1	
2	Synopsis & List of Dates	1	
3	Writ Petition with affidavit	1	
4	Annexure P-1 to P-5	1	
5	<u>I.A. NO. OF 2025</u> Application for permission to appear and argue the above-mentioned Writ Petition filed before this Hon'ble Court as party in Person.	1	
6	Annexure A-1 to A-5	1	
7	<u>I.A. NO. OF 2025</u> Application for exemption from filing official translation.	1	
8	Memo of Appearances	1	
	Total	8	



Filed by:

Mathews J. Nedumpara

Petitioner In Person No.1,

101, 1st Floor, Gundecha Chambers,

Nagindas Master Road, Fort, Mumbai-

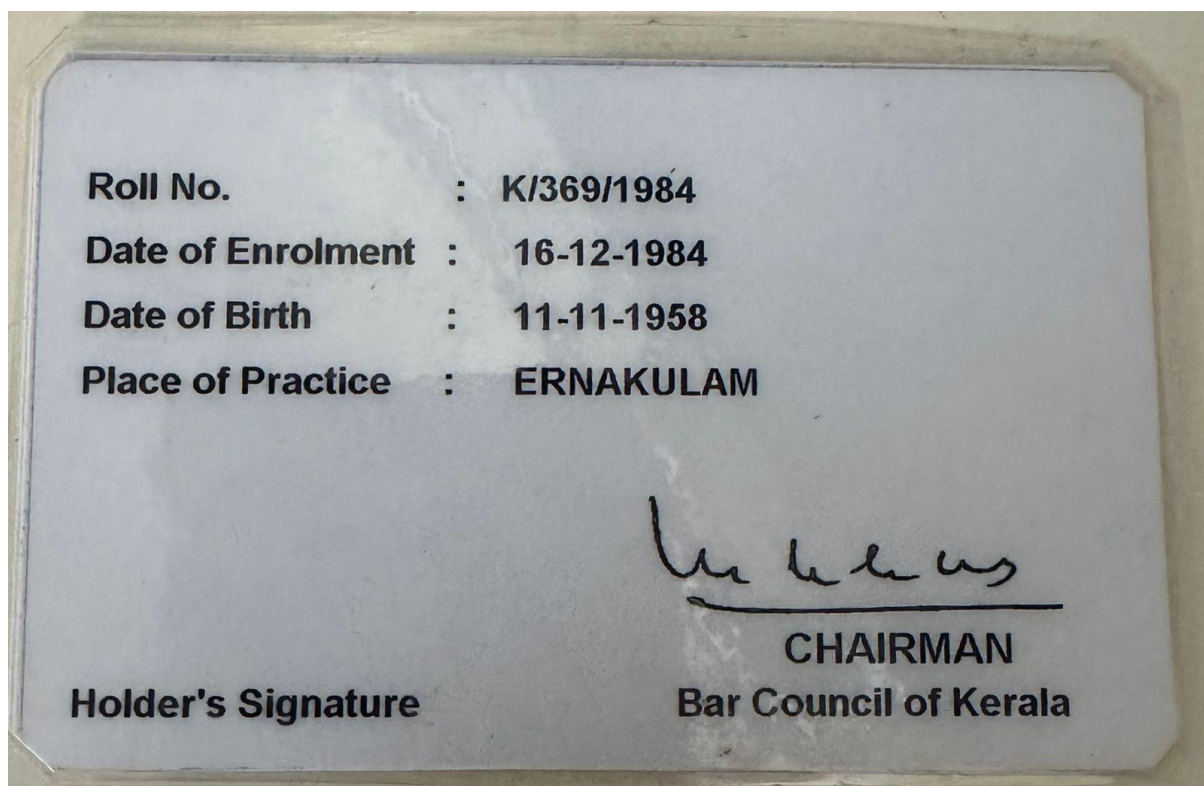
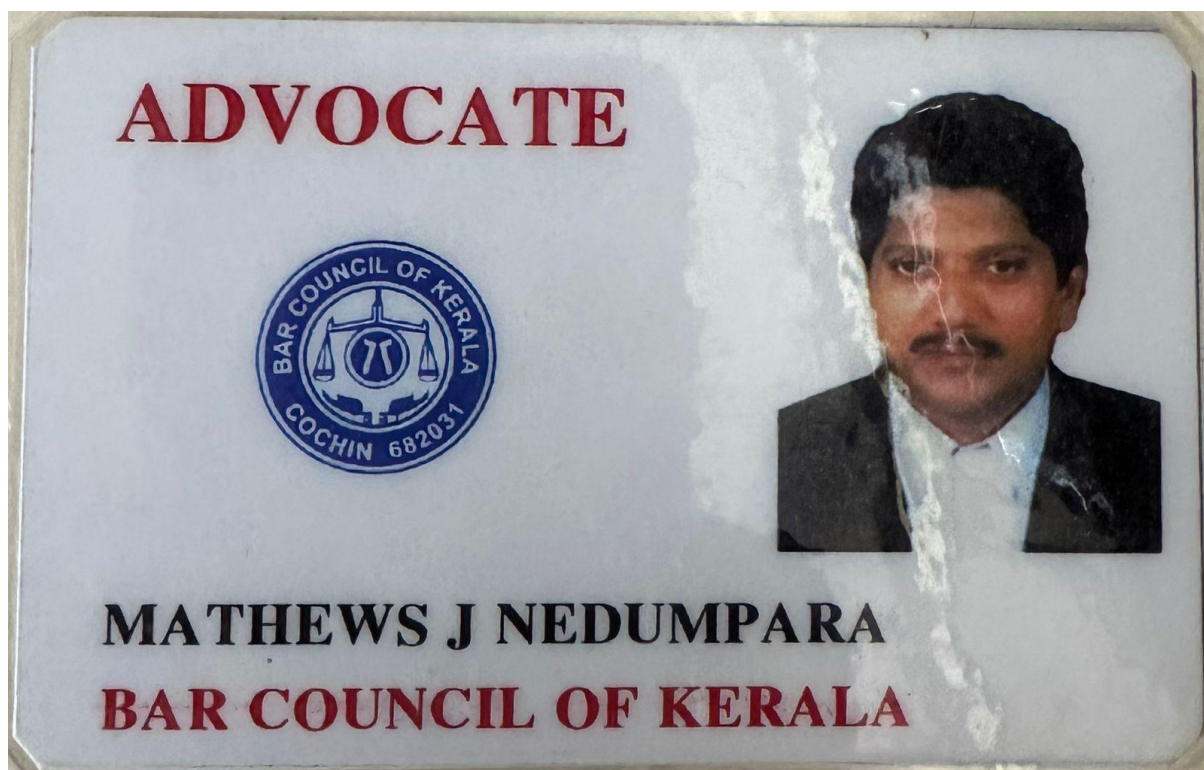
400001, Maharashtra

Mob. No. 9820535428

E-Mail: mathewsjnedumpara@gmail.com

Dated: 16.07.2025

Place: New Delhi



DIARY NO. 40429 OF 2025

DECLARATION

All defects have been duly cured. Whatever has been added / deleted / modified in the petition is the result of curing of defects and nothing else. Except curing the defects, nothing has been done. Paper books are complete in all respects.

Signature:



MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA
PETITIONER IN PERSON NO. 1
9820535428

Dated: 24.07.2025

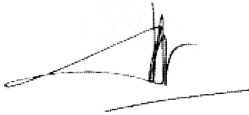
Place: New Delhi

PROPOSED ADVOCATE'S CHECK LIST (TO BE CERTIFIED BY ADVOCATE-ON-RECORD)

1.	Writ Petition (Civil) has been filed in Form No. 28 with certificate.		YES
2.	The Petition is as per the provisions of Order XV Rule 1.		YES
3.	The papers of Writ Petition has been arranged as per Order XXI, Rule (3) (1) (f).		NO
4.	Brief list of dates / events has been filed.		YES
5.	Paragraphs and pages of paper books have been numbered consecutively and correctly noted in Index.		YES
6.	Proper and required numbers of paper books (1+1) have been filed.		YES
7.	The particulars of the impugned judgment passed by the courts below are uniformly written in all the documents.		NA
8.	In case of appeal by certificate the appeal is accompanied by judgment and decree appealed from and order granting certificate.		NA
9.	The annexures referred to in the petition are true copies of the documents before the court(s) below and are filed in chronological order as per List of Dates.		YES
10.	The annexures referred to in the petition are filed and indexed separately and not marked collectively.		YES
11.	In Special Leave Petition against the order passed in Second Appeal, copies of the orders passed by the Trial Court and First Appellate Court have been filed.		NA
12.	The complete listing proforma has been filled in, signed and included in the paper books.		YES
13.	In a Petition (PIL) filed under clause (d) of Rule 12 (1) Order XXXVIII, the petitioner has disclosed.		NA
	(a)	His full name, complete postal address, e-mail address,	NA

		phone number, proof regarding personal identification, occupation and annual income, PAN number and National Unique Identify Card number if any;	
	(b)	The facts constituting the cause of action;	NA
	(c)	The nature of injury caused likely to be caused to the public;	NA
	(d)	The nature and extent of personal interest, if any, of the petitioner(s);	NA
	(e)	Details regarding any civil, criminal or revenue litigation, involving the petitioner or any of the Petitioners, which has or could have a legal nexus with the issue(s) involved in the Public Interest Litigation.	NA
14.	In case of appeals under Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007, the Petitioner / Appellant has moved before the Armed Forces Tribunal for granting certificate for Leave to Appeal to the Supreme Court.		NA
15.	All the paper books to be filed after curing the defects shall be in order.		YES

I hereby declare that I have personally verified the petition and its contents and it is conformity with the Supreme Court Rules 2013. I certify that the above requirements of the Check List have been complied with. I further certify that all the documents necessary for the purpose of hearing of the matter have been filed.



Signature:

Mathews J. Nedumpara
Petitioner In Person No.1,
101, 1st Floor, Gundecha Chambers,
Nagindas Master Road, Fort,
Mumbai-400001, Maharashtra
Mob. No. 9820535428
E-Mail: mathewsjnedumpara@gmail.com

Place: New Delhi
Date: 16.07.2025