

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2026
(Arising out of SLP(C) No.5451/2026)

THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY & ORS.

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

DIKKEN KUMAR THAKUR & ORS.

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

1. Leave granted.

2. We have heard Shri V. Giri, learned senior counsel on behalf of the appellants and Shri Maninder Singh & Shri Ankush Dass Sood, learned senior counsel, representing the writ petitioners before the High Court.

3. The direction issued by the High Court that elections of the Urban Local Bodies/Municipal Corporations/Nagar Panchayats are required to be held after expiry of their term of the elected bodies, in terms of the constitutional mandate, is the correct position of law, and it does not warrant any interference by this Court. The High Court was equally right in observing that the pendency of the delimitation exercise is also not a valid ground to delay or stall the elections of local bodies and Panchayats.

4. However, having regard to the logistical difficulties experienced by the State Government, we modify the schedule of election slightly and further modify paragraph 71 of the impugned judgment in the following terms:

(i) The State Election Commission, Panchayati Raj Department, Urban Development Department and SDMA, altogether will finalise and shall complete the pending processes by 31.03.2026 (instead of 28.02.2026) and

thereafter the elections shall be conducted within 8 weeks, i.e., positively by 31.05.2026. No application for extension of time shall be entertained.

5. The appeal is, accordingly, disposed of.

.....CJI.
(SURYA KANT)

.....J.
(JOYMALYA BAGCHI)

NEW DELHI;
FEBRUARY 13, 2026

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

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No(s).5451/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 09-01-2026 in CWPII No.115/2025 passed by the High Court of Himachal Pradesh at Shimla]

THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

DIKKEN KUMAR THAKUR & ORS.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 40438/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

Date : 13-02-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

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

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. V Giri, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Anup Rattan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Vaibhav Srivastava, A.A.G.
Ms. Sugandha Anand, AOR
Mr. Bhargava Ravikumar, Adv.
Mr. Puneet Rajta, Adv.
Mr. Ashish Joshi, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Maninder Singh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ankush Dass Sood, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Nand Lal Thakur, Adv.
Mr. Ajay Sipahiya, Adv.
Mr. Shivam Prashar, Adv.
Mr. Tarun Mehta, Adv.
Ms. Jyotsna Mehta, Adv.
Mr. Prabhas Bajaj, Adv.
Mr. Amol Chitravanshi, AOR
Mr. Udit Shaurya Kaushik, Adv.
Mr. Udayanand, Adv.
Mr. Karan, Adv.
Mr. Rithvik Mathur, Adv.

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

1. Leave granted.
2. The appeal is disposed of in terms of the signed order.

3. All pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

(ARJUN BISHT)

ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(signed order is placed on the file)

(PREETHI T.C.)

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR