

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

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s).243/2005

RAJIVE RATURI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA &amp; ORS.

Respondent(s)

(WITH IA No. 144854/2018 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION, IA No. 121954/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 84893/2018 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 3/2009 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 2/2007 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 1/2005 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 96423/2018 - I/A FOR FILING STATUS REPORT CUM ACTION TAKEN REPORT, IA No. 89088/2018 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 96163/2018 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 5/2014 - PERMISSION TO FILE ANNEXURES, IA No. 4/2012 - PERMISSION TO FILE ANNEXURES)

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 228/2006 (PIL-W)

(WITH IA No. 2/2011 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 1/2006 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 08-11-2024 These petitions were called on for pronouncement of judgment today.

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- 1 Hon'ble Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, pronounced the judgment of the Bench comprising His Lordship, Hon'ble Mr Justice J B Pardiwala and Hon'ble Mr Justice Manoj Misra.
- 2 In terms of the signed reportable judgment, the following principles of accessibility should be considered while carrying out the above exercise:
  - a. Universal Design: The rules should prioritize universal design principles, making spaces and services usable by all individuals to the greatest extent possible, without requiring adaptations or specialized design;
  - b. Comprehensive Inclusion Across Disabilities: Rules should cover a wide range of disabilities including physical, sensory, intellectual, and psychosocial disabilities. This includes provisions for specific conditions such as autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, psychosocial disabilities, sickle cell disease, and ichthyosis;
  - c. Assistive Technology Integration: Mandating the integration of assistive and adaptive technologies, such as screen readers, audio descriptions, and accessible digital interfaces, to ensure digital and informational accessibility across public and private platforms; and
  - d. Ongoing Stakeholder Consultation: This process should involve continuous consultation with persons with disabilities and advocacy organizations to incorporate lived experiences and practical insights.
- 3 The Petitioner and NALSAR CDS have proposed a series of recommendations with regard to the existing legal framework. The Union Government is directed to meaningfully consider these recommendations while reworking the content of

Rule 15.

- 4 NALSAR-CDS states that the report has been prepared using their own resources, and no financial claims have been made to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Annexure II of the NALSAR-CDS Report indicates that it has been prepared over a period of six months, after consulting fifty-two experts, receiving reports from fourteen states and three Union Territories, and with over hundred reports from organizations and individual testimonies. As the report states, it is “a present-day example of creating a knowledge commons.” This Court records its appreciation for and is cognizant of the labour of time, effort, and resources expended by the NALSAR-CDS in preparing this report. Accordingly, the Union of India in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is directed to pay NALSAR-CDS an amount of INR 50,00,000 as compensation for the work, which was carried out in a timely and comprehensive manner. The amount shall be disbursed to NALSAR-CDS no later than 15 December 2024.
- 5 With the above direction, the Writ Petitions are adjourned to 7 March 2025 on which date, the Union Government must report compliance to this Court.

**(SANJAY KUMAR-I)**  
**ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR**

**(Signed reportable judgment is placed on the file)**

**(SAROJ KUMARI GAUR)**  
**ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**