IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) NO.74 OF 2026
[*IN* CRIMINAL APPEAL NO.1622 OF 2022]

RAJ VIKRAM SINGH ...PETITIONER

VERSUS

RAHUL PRAKASH AND ORS. ...ALLEGED CONTEMNORS/RESPONDENTS

R1: RAHUL PRAKASH
R2: RAKESH SRIVASTAVA
R3: VIPIN KUMAR

O R D E R

AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH AND R. MAHADEVAN, JJ.

I.A. No.297369 of 2025 for permission to appear and argue in person is allowed.

2. Heard Mr. Raj Vikram Singh, petitioner-in-person appearing through video-conferencing. This contempt petition prays '*to take contempt*' against the respondents for wilful disobedience of the directions issued in this Court's Judgment dated 07.05.2025 rendered in **Criminal Appeal No.1622 of 2022** titled ***Sarla Gupta v Directorate of Enforcement***, *inter alia*, reported as **(2025) 7 SCC 626**. Respondent no.1 is a judicial officer, whilst respondents no.2 and 3 are officers of the Directorate of Enforcement.

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by SAPNA BISHT
Date: 2026.05.27 19:00:00 IST
Reason:

3. Mr. S.V. Raju, learned Additional Solicitor General[1] appearing for respondents no.2 and 3-officers of the Directorate of Enforcement, has raised an objection to the effect that the petitioner, who has filed the present contempt petition, is the learned

1 Hereinafter abbreviated to 'ASG'.

counsel of the person on whose purported behalf the alleged contempt is urged and thus, the same is not maintainable.

4. Countering the aforesaid submission, the petitioner-in-person submits that while he is the counsel of the person who alleges contempt, he is aware of the entire facts and circumstances thereof. He would, further, submit, that the person actually aggrieved is in jail. He would also state that when there is contempt/non-compliance of general directions issued by this Court, then any lay-person is also permitted to move this Court, praying for the invocation of contempt jurisdiction. As such, it is submitted that the instant petition is maintainable. It was emphasised that there had been a serious violation of this Court's Judgment in ***Sarla Gupta*** (*supra*). It was next submitted that anybody can maintain a contempt petition and the strict concept of *locus standi* would not be applicable, as contempt is a matter between the alleged contemnor(s) and the Court, and by way of the present petition, the Court is only being informed about the contempt committed by the respondents. Lastly, reference was made to our recent Judgment in ***Israr Ahmad Khan v Amarnath Prasad*****, 2026 SCC OnLine SC 322**.

5. Learned ASG reiterates that the petitioner-in-person, who has filed this contempt petition, has fairly disclosed that he is the learned counsel of the person who is in jail on whose behalf the instant petition is filed, but it is also a personal litigation inasmuch as, he has filed it in his own name and is appearing in person. It was submitted that in criminal cases, the person actually aggrieved has to be before the Court. Learned ASG submitted that mere incarceration is no ground for the said person to himself/herself not file a petition of the like herein. By way of illustration, he stated that even before this Court, the High Courts and Courts below, persons in

custody do file petitions of various natures. He would urge that the present petition ought to be dismissed *in limine*.

6. Having considered the matter, we find substance in the contention of learned ASG. As a general rule, the person actually aggrieved, especially in a criminal matter, is required to himself/herself approach the Court with the grievance. No other person, including a learned counsel, unless he/she discloses a *bonafide* reason, as to why the person actually affected and on whose behalf the relief is sought is not before/unable to move the Court more so, in matters where contempt is alleged, would under the usual circumstances, be competent to prefer such an application in a representative capacity. No doubt, the said rule is not without exception, and this Court has relaxed the *locus standi* principle for certain categories of matters. Even then, a genuine reason must exist to allow a person to espouse a cause/ventilate a grievance on behalf of another person. Here, the petition is founded on non-compliance of ***Sarla Gupta*** (*supra*) in a criminal case on behalf of an accused/convict and, we may note here, there is not even a whisper about the petitioner being asked, much less authorised, to prefer the present petition on behalf of the said accused. We clarify that there is no blanket ban on a third-person approaching the Court alleging violation of a Court order but rather, an exposition on the facts and circumstances, especially in the present case, where the person on whose behalf the cause is sought to be espoused is capable of maintaining a petition himself. As far as ***Israr Ahmad Khan*** (*supra*) is concerned, we do not find any applicability of the *ratio* therein to the case at hand.

7. Thus, on this short point alone, keeping in view the particular facts and circumstances, we hold that the present contempt petition is not maintainable and,

accordingly, the same stands dismissed *in limine*.

8. However, it shall be open to the actual aggrieved person to move the appropriate forum/Court, in accordance with law, including contempt proceedings, for redressal of grievances, if any. This Order shall not operate to prejudice any other remedies available to the concerned person.

9. I.A. Nos.297374/2025[2] and 297377/2025[3] are allowed.

…….J.
[AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH]

…….J.
[R. MAHADEVAN]

NEW DELHI
MAY 11, 2026

2 Exemption from filing Paper-books.
3 Exemption from filing O.T.

ITEM NO.19 COURT NO.13 SECTION II-D

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

Miscellaneous Application No.2148/2025 in Crl. A. No.1622/2022

SARLA GUPTA & ANR. Petitioners

VERSUS

DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT Respondent

[*ONLY CONMT.PET. (C) No.74/2026 IS LISTED UNDER THIS ITEM*]
(FOR ADMISSION)

WITH

CONMT. PET. (C) No.74/2026 in Crl. A. No.1622/2022 (II-D)

RAJ VIKRAM SINGH Petitioner

VERSUS

RAHUL PRAKASH AND ORS. Alleged Contemnors/Respondents

[I.A. No.297377/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.; I.A. No.297374/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING PAPER BOOKS, *AND*; I.A. No.297369/2025 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON]

DATE : 11-05-2026 The matter(s) was/were heard today.

***CORAM* :**
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN

For Petitioner(s) Petitioner-in-person

Mr. Sudarshan Lamba, AoR

Mr. Yoginder Handoo, AoR
Mr. Ashwin Kataria, Adv.
Mr. Garvit Solanki, Adv.
Mr. Gaurav Vishwakarma, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Aggarwal, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Mr. Suryaprakash V. Raju (Sr. Adv.), ASG
Mr. Zoheb Hossain, Adv.
Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Arkaj Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Madhav Sinhal, Adv.
Mr. Vivek Gurnani, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AoR

O R D E R

***Re*: CONMT. PET. (C) No.74/2026 in Crl. A. No.1622/2022**

I.A. No.297369 of 2025 for permission to appear and argue in

person is allowed.

2. Heard Mr. Raj Vikram Singh, petitioner-in-person through video-conferencing and Mr. S.V. Raju, learned Additional Solicitor General, assisted by Mr. Zoheb Hossain, learned counsel, appearing for the respondents No.2 and 3-Officers of the Directorate of Enforcement.

3. The Contempt Petition stands dismissed in terms of the Signed Order, with the observations made therein.

4. I.A. Nos.297374/2025[4] and 297377/2025[5] are allowed.

***Re*: M.A. No.2148/2025 in Crl. A. No.1622/2022**

5. This matter is pending assignment/nomination to an appropriate Bench in terms of Order dated 15.12.2025.

6. To recapitulate, Crl. A. No.1622/2022 was decided *vide* Judgment dated 07.05.2025 by a 3-Judge Bench comprising Abhay S. Oka, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Augustine George Masih, JJ. Given that the latter two are sitting Judges of this Court as on date, the Registry shall obtain necessary orders of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India to hear this Miscellaneous Application, by an appropriate Bench as noted in Order dated 15.12.2025.

(SAPNA BISHT) **(ANJALI PANWAR)**
COURT MASTER (SH) **ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**

(Signed Order is placed on the file.)

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4 Exemption from filing Paper-books.
5 Exemption from filing O.T.