

Supreme court asks Centre to file affidavit by Oct 31

New Delhi: The Supreme Court asked the Centre to furnish by October 31 its affidavit in response to petitions challenging the validity of certain provisions of a 1991 law which prohibit filing of a lawsuit to reclaim a place of worship or seek a change in its character from what prevailed on August 15, 1947.

When a bench headed by Chief Justice U U Lalit was told the Centre has not yet filed its response to the petitions, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the government, said it is under consideration as to what to respond to and whether to respond. The bench, also comprising Justices Rastogi and S R Bhat, asked Mehta how much time was required to submit the affidavit. "Two weeks, that is what my instruction is," Mehta said, adding some time was needed considering the sensitivity of the matter.

"On the last occasion, Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General, had prayed for some time to place his submissions in record by way of an affidavit in response," the bench said.



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PLACES OF WORSHIP ACT

The plea, including the one filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay who has said section 2, 3, 4 of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 be set aside on grounds including that these provisions take away the right of judicial remedy to reclaim a place

'Gyanvapi a waqf property, only waqf can hear cases linked to it'

Varanasi: The Anjuman Ihtisam Masjid - the Gyanvapi mosque management committee - on Wednesday submitted in the court of civil judge, senior division (first track court), Mahendra Kumar Pandey that the issues related to Gyanvapi mosque property could be heard at the Waqf Board's Lucknow tribunal only as it was a waqf property.

The FTC was hearing a petition of the Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh (VSSS) to seek the right to worship the purported 'shivling' found in the abutment pond of the Gyanvapi mosque during court commission entry of Muslims in the Gyanvapi compound. The VSSS, which is backing the plaintiff No. 1 in case state of UP and others vs the right to daily worship Shringar Gauri and other deities in Gyanvapi mosque compound, had filed another petition which was stayed after the discovery of the 'shivling'.

Additional district government counsel (civil) Subash Prakash said the FTC will consider the law which requires consideration in this case. "Solicitor, what is your personal sort of submission on this? Whether the matter is covered by the judgement in Ayodhya matter or not covered by that," the court asked Mehta during the hearing.

Justice Chandrachud as CJI would head 6-member collegium

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New Delhi: Justice DY Chandrachud, after assuming of the Chief Justice of India, November 9, will preside over a 6-member collegium instead of the usual 5-member one and have the immediate task of filling up five vacancies that would arise with the retirement of CJI U U Lalit and Justice Hemant Gupta.

A present there are four vacancies in the sanctioned strength of 34 judges in the Supreme Court, including the CJI. However, the collegium headed by CJI Lalit on September 26 had recommended to the government to appoint Boroye HC chief Justice Dipankar Datta as a judge of the SC. The warrant of appointment is likely to be issued soon when Justice Chandrachud becomes CJI, his collegium would include Justices

At present there are four vacancies in the sanctioned strength of 34 judges in the Supreme Court, including the CJI.

Sanjay K Kaul, S Abdul Nazir, K M Joseph and M R Shah. None of the four members would succeed Justice Chandrachud as CJI. As per the 1998 'Third Judges' case decision, Justice Chandrachud would have to include Justice Sanjay Khanna, who will be succeeding him as CJI on November 11, 2024, as a member of the collegium to increase its strength to six, including the CJI.

In the 1998 judgment, the SC had said, "Regarding the terms of Article 164(2), as analysed in the majority judgment in the Second Judges case, as also the precedent set by the then Chief Justice

of India, as set out earlier, and having regard to the objective aforesaid, we think it is desirable that the collegium should consist of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most puisne judges of the Supreme Court."

"Ordinarily one of the 4 senior-most puisne judges of the SC would succeed the Chief Justice of India, but if the situation should be such that the successor Chief Justice is not one of the four senior-most puisne judges, he must invariably be made part of the collegium. The judge to be appointed will function during his term and it is but right that he should have a hand in their selection," the SC had ruled. The collegium headed by Justice Chandrachud, who will have a two-year term as CJI till November 10, 2024, would be assisted by 17 judges to the SC, that is half of the sanctioned strength of the highest court.

Drop prosecution of all cases under scrapped Section 66A: SC

New Delhi: In a stark reflection of the lack of awareness about the law laid down by the Supreme Court not only among common men but also law enforcement agencies and judicial officers, people are still getting booked by police and being prosecuted in court under Section 66A of Information Technology Act which was declared unconstitutional almost seven years ago.

Taking a serious view of the situation a bench of Chief Justice U U Lalit and Justices Rastogi and S Ravindra Bhat directed the states and Union Territories to drop prosecution under Section 66A and not to invoke the already scrapped penal provision. "Section 66A dealt with the crime of sending offensive messages through electronic device which was punishable upto three years of jail term," Amit Anand Choudhary

PC: Demonetisation a mindless exercise, caused extreme hardship to citizens

Continued from Page 1

Chilambaram said generally on the RBI board's recommendations, the government takes demonetisation decisions. "But it was the reverse that happened. On November 7, 2016, the government wrote to the RBI seeking recommendation for demonetising its 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes. The RBI board hurriedly met the next day at Delhi. Its recommendation was sent to the cabinet, which was already in a meeting. The meeting accepted the recommendation and the notification was issued," he said.

"Why this supercilious hurry to demonetise? Was there any deliberation about the pros and cons? The court must ask the government to produce the November 7 letter to the RBI board before the RBI board took the recommendation. None of these vital documents were placed before Parliament or put in public domain. We must know what the government had in mind," the veteran Congress leader said.

Attorney general R Venkatesh said, "If and when required, the government will show these documents. But it is necessary for the court to carry an academic exercise when the decision has worked itself out. The court would be required to go into a web of entangled aspects that is considered before the government takes an economic policy decision. Should the court step into such an area? Economy is no longer only domestic, it has got intrinsic connections with the global economy."

The bench told the AG, "You cannot keep the documents away from the court's scrutiny. Keep the papers with you. If we need to look into them, we will." Solicitor general Tushar Mehta said individual grievances arising from demonetisation could be looked into by the court but the larger issue has become academic. He said, "The decision was taken keeping in view emergent requirements to stop funding terrorist activities, black money and fake currencies. The November 8, 2016 notification has worked itself out."

SC: Provide security to journo being stalked

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the copy of an affidavit, filed before it in a sealed cover by an investigative journalist probing a corporate fraud and claiming he was being stalked and attacked, to be sent to the office of the Attorney General so steps could be taken for his safety. The issue cropped up before a bench headed by Chief Justice U U Lalit while it was hearing a plea related to a company which allegedly took loans from 27 banks and siphoned off the money. Advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, appearing for the petitioner, placed before the bench an affidavit in a sealed cover and said the journalist has investigated the corporate fraud and is now facing threats. He said the man was also attacked on his way home in Noida.

The bench told Attorney General R Venkatesh, who was present in the court, that there is an allegation about a particular corporate fraud being looked into by a certain set of people, including investigative journalists, and one of the scribbles has now filed an affidavit saying he is being followed and watched.

KHANDUKHAL RAMPURA TRANSMISSION LIMITED

Head Office: 2nd Floor, Nityat Bhawan, Rao Tularam Marg, Vasant Vihar, Opposite Army Hospital & Referral, New Delhi-110 057
In the matter of Application for Khandukhal/Rampura Transmission Limited for Inter-State Transmission License with Central Transmission Utility of India Limited

NOTICE

(Under sub-section (2) of section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003)

1. Khandukhal/Rampura Transmission Limited, having its Registered Office at 2nd Floor, Nityat Bhawan, Rao Tularam Marg, Vasant Vihar, Opposite Army Hospital & Referral, New Delhi-110 057, is incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 of India.

2. In the matter of Application for Khandukhal/Rampura Transmission Limited for Inter-State Transmission License with Central Transmission Utility of India Limited

3. Details of which are given below:

S.No	Name of Lines/Substations	Approximate Capacity	Levelised Transmission Charges	Commissioning Schedule	Remarks
1	400 KV D/C Khandukhal(Srinagar) - Rampura (Kashipur) line (Twin HTLS)	195 KM (Approx)			
2	1x800MVA switchable line reactor at Rampura (Kashipur) end on each circuit of Khandukhal(Srinagar) - Rampura (Kashipur) line. Switching equipment for 420 KV/80 MVAR switchable line reactor - 2 nos. 420 KV/80 MVAR Switchable line reactor - 2 nos.		Rs.587.20 Million	30.09.2024	
3	1 no. of 400 KV line bay at Rampura (Kashipur) S/S 400 KV line bay - 1 no.				
4	Upgradation of existing 400KV bays at Khandukhal(Srinagar) - Upgradation works for 400 KV line bays - 2 nos.	400 KV			
5	Upgradation of existing 1 no. of 400 KV diameter comprising line bay and ICT bay along with associated Tie Bay at Rampura (Kashipur) - Upgradation works for 400 KV line bay - 1 no. - Upgradation of Tie Bay - 1 no.				

2. Complete application and other documents filed before the commission are available on the website <http://ntrl.in/> for access by any person. The application can also be inspected at the registered office of the company as mentioned above by Mr. Pravin Sharda/Director or official/library of the commission in accordance with the specified by the commission.

3. Objections or suggestions, if any, be filed before the secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd Floor, Chandrabhag Building, Jangpoh, Connaught Place, New Delhi, 110001 with a copy of the objection(s) suggestion(s) to be Applicant or its authorized agent within 30 days of the publication of the notice in the newspaper.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 13.10.2022

Pravin Sharda
Director

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