

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

SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) No(s).1/2026

IN RE: CREATION OF SPECIAL EXCLUSIVE COURTS

Petitioner(s)

WITH

SLP(Crl) No. 8799/2025 (II-D)

IA No. 129923/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

Date : 20-07-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

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

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By Courts Motion, AOR

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

SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) No(s).1/2026

1. In continuation of the previous orders dated 24.03.2026, 20.04.2026, and 08.05.2026, further status reports have been filed by States/UTs of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana, giving details regarding establishments of exclusive Courts to try NIA cases.

2. As per these affidavits and the information given in a tabulated form by Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, the number of NIA cases pending at various stages of trial, including pre-chargesheet, along with the corresponding exclusive Courts designated in those States, are also presented, which is as follows:

Sl. No.	States/ UT's	No. of NIA cases pending at various stages of trial	No. of Exclusive Court designated	Current Status of Establishing Exclusive NIA Court

		including charge sheeted cases		
1	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya	18	1	NIA Special Court in Guwahati named "Special NIA Court at Guwahati" has been designated as an Exclusive Court for trial of NIA cases vide Gazette Notification dated 03rd July, 2026
2	Bihar	16	1	The Court of District & Additional Sessions Judge-XV, Patna has been designated as an Exclusive Court for trial of NIA cases vide Gazette Notification dated 08th January, 2026. The Central Government, vide letter dated 23.06.2026, has written to the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar seeking their consent/ comments on the Hon'ble High Court of Patna's letter dated 22.05.2026 vide which the consent of Hon'ble High Court was conveyed to designate the Court of District & Additional Sessions Judge-XXVI, Patna as Special Court exclusively for trial of NIA cases.
3	Chhattisgarh	24	1	The Court of Additional Sessions Judge (Special Court (NIA)) at Jagdalpur has been designated as an Exclusive Court for trial of NIA cases vide Gazette Notification dated

				30th May, 2026.
4	Delhi	50	0	In reference to Central Government's letter dated 23.06.2026, the Government of NCT Delhi, vide letter dated 16.07.2026, has conveyed the approval of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi to designate Special Exclusive Courts 01 to 03 as NIA Courts at Rouse Avenue Courts Complex. Earlier, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, vide letter dated 29.05.2026, has also given its consent to establish Special Exclusive Courts 01 to 03 as NIA Courts at Rouse Avenue Courts Complex under NIA Act for expeditious trial of NIA cases. In this context, further necessary action is being taken by the Central Government.
5	Gujarat	13	3	The Court of Additional Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Ahmedabad, NIA Court No.2 (Exclusive) and NIA Court No. 3 (Exclusive) have been designated as an Exclusive Courts for trial of NIA cases vide Gazette Notifications dated 17th March, 2026, 16th July, 2026 and 16th July, 2026 respectively.
6	Jammu & Kashmir	47	1	NIA court, Jammu has been designated as an Exclusive Court for trial of NIA cases

				vide Gazette Notification dated 25.10.2024.
7	Jharkhand	27	3	The Court of Additional Judicial Commissioner XVI, Ranchi, the Additional Judicial Commissioner-XVII and Additional Judicial Commissioner-XX, Ranchi have been designated as an Exclusive Courts for trial of NIA cases vide Gazette Notifications dated 24th May, 2024, 16th July, 2026 and 16th July, 2026 respectively.
8	Karnataka	27	0	Consent awaited from both the State Government and the Hon'ble High Court. The Central Government, vide letter dated 23.06.2026, has written to the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka and the Registrar General, Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka requesting them to consider constitution of Exclusive NIA Special Courts in Karnataka in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It has also been requested to provide names of the Courts to be designated as Exclusive NIA Court alongwith the consent of the Hon'ble High Court and the State Government.
9	Kerala	21	0	Consent from High

				Court has been received on 01.06.2016, consent awaited from State Govt. The Central Government, vide letter dated 23.06.2026, has written to the Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala and the Registrar General, Hon'ble High Court of Kerala requesting them to consider constitution of Exclusive NIA Special Courts in Kerala in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It has also been requested to provide names of the Courts to be designated as Exclusive NIA Court alongwith the consent of the Hon'ble High Court and the State Government.
10	Maharashtra	18	2	The Court of Sessions at City Civil Court, Bombay (Court No. 25) and the Court of Sessions at City Civil Court, Bombay (Court No. 26) have been designated as an Exclusive Courts for trial of NIA cases vide Gazette Notifications dated 28th March, 2025 and 11th July, 2026 respectively
11	Manipur and Nagaland	25	1	"Special Court Manipur" at 3rd floor of Annexe Court Building, Thoubal District Complex, Khangabok, Thoubal,

				Manipur has been designated as an Exclusive Court for trial of NIA cases vide Gazette Notification 05th June, 2026.
12	Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh	32	1	"NIA-I at SAS Nagar" has been designated as an Exclusive Court for trial of NIA cases vide Gazette Notification 03rd July, 2026.
13	Tamil Nadu	28	0	Consent awaited from both the State Government and the Hon'ble High Court. The Central Government, vide letter dated 23.06.2026, has written to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu and the Registrar General, Hon'ble High Court of Tamil Nadu requesting them to consider constitution of Exclusive NIA Special Courts in Tamil Nadu in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It has also been requested to provide names of the Courts to be designated as Exclusive NIA Court alongwith the consent of the Hon'ble High Court and the State Government.
14	West Bengal	21	0	Consent awaited from the State Government. The Central Government, vide letter dated 23.06.2026, has written to the Chief

				Secretary, Government of West Bengal seeking their consent on the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta letter's dated 20.02.2026 vide which Hon'ble High Court had approved the proposal for establishment of an Exclusive NIA Court within the City Sessions Court Complex at Bichar Bhawan, Calcutta as a temporary measure, till permanent set up for such court is provided. Furthermore, the Hon'ble Court, has also opined in favor of establishing one more Exclusive NIA Court in North Bengal preferably at Siliguri. It has further been stated that the direction and observation of the Hon'ble High Court has already been conveyed to the Government of West Bengal with request for sanction of post of Presiding office as well as support staff for the new exclusive NIA Court at Bichar Bhawan, Calcutta and also to explore and identify suitable space for another exclusive court NIA Court at North Bengal as per norms formulated by the Central Government.
15	Andhra Pradesh	08	0	Consent awaited from both the State Governments and the Hon'ble High Courts.

16	Rajasthan	10	0	The Central Government, vide letter dated 23.06.2026, has written to the Chief Secretaries, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana and the Registrar General, Hon'ble High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana requesting them to consider constitution of Exclusive NIA Special Courts in their respective States in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It has also been requested to provide names of the Courts to be designated as Exclusive NIA Court alongwith the consent of the Hon'ble High Court and the State Government.
17	Telangana	13	0	

2. We find that in some of the States no effective steps for establishment of NIA Courts have been taken. Furthermore, in Union Territories like Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, a singular exclusive Special Court is *ex facie* inadequate, in view of the total pendency of 47 trials.

3. Learned Additional Solicitor General of India submits that efforts are being made in coordination with State Governments and the High Court to comply with the fresh directions passed by us and set up the Courts at the earliest. She states that should this Court grant an additional time of four weeks, the necessary NIA

Courts shall stand established.

4. With regard to the exclusive Courts for trial of NDPS cases, it is pointed out by Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned ASG, that the total requirement that has been assessed by all States and Union Territories is for 394 exclusive Special Courts, out of which 113 have already been set up. She submits that, meanwhile, some more Courts may have been established. She seeks four weeks' time to give the latest status with respect thereto.

5. Accordingly, a separate status report with respect to exclusive Special Courts for trial and expeditious disposal of pending and upcoming NDPS cases be also filed before the next date of hearing.

6. In light of the above submissions, post this matter on 07.09.2026.

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7. De-tag this matter and list it for further hearing on 11.08.2026.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR