



**HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE FOR RAJASTHAN
AT JODHPUR**

D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 19427/2026
CNR: RJHC010822732026 | URN: CW / 33109U / 2026

Suo Moto, Structural Integrity, Safety And Imminent Peril To Human Lives Arising Fro The Central Dome And Allied Defects In The Building Of The Rajasthan High Court, Principal Seat, Jodhpur.

-----Petitioner

Versus

1. The State Of Rajasthan, Through The Chief Secretary, Government Of Rajasthan, Jaipur Raj.
2. The Principal Secretary, Public Works Department, Government Of Rajasthan, Jaipur Raj.
3. The Principal Secretary, Department Of Finance, Government Of Rajasthan, Jaipur Raj.
4. The Principal Secretary, Law And Legal Affairs Department, Government Of Rajasthan, Jaipur Raj.
5. The Union Of India, Through The Secretary, Department Of Justice, Ministry Of Law And Justice Government Of India, New Delhi.
6. The Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Limited (Rsrdc), Through Its Managing Director, Rsrdc, Jhalana Doongri, Jaipur Raj.
7. The Director General Of Police, Rajasthan, Jaipur Raj.
8. The Registrar General, Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur Raj.

-----Respondents

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. G.R. Punia, Sr. Adv. Assisted by
Mr. Mahaveer Bhanwariya.
Mr. Manish Shishodia, Sr. Adv.
Assisted by Mr. Dipesh Birla.
Mr. Rajesh Joshi, Sr. Adv. Assisted by
Ms. Kamini Joshi.
Mr. Anand Purohit, Sr. Adv. Assisted
by Mr. Kapil Purohit.
Mr. Ravi Bhansali, Sr. Adv. assisted by
Mr. Vipul Dharnia
Mr. J.S. Choudhary, Sr. Adv. assisted
by Mr. Pradeep Choudhary
Mr. Dhirendra Singh, Sr. Adv. Assisted
by Mr. Jagdish Singh.
Mr. Vikas Balia, Sr. Adv. Assisted by
Mr. Priyansh Arora.

Mr. Dilip Singh Udawat, Adv.
(President, RHC Lawyers' Assn.)



Mr. Arun Kumar, Secretary, Adv.
(Secretary, RHC Lawyers' Assn.)
Mr. Ranjeet Joshi, Adv.
(President, RHC Advocates' Assn.)
Mr. Vijay Choudhary, Adv.
(Secretary, RHC Advocates' Assn.)
Mr. Sheetal Kumbhat
Dr. Nikhil Dungawat
Mr. Vikas Bishnoi
Mr. Naman Bhansali
Mr. Prakash Choudhary
Mr. Vinod Choudhary
Mr. Priyank Kewalia
Mr. Dilip Kumar Jani

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Rajendra Prasad, A.G. assisted by
Mr. Anirudh Singh Shekhawat.
Mr. Rajesh Panwar, Sr. Adv. & AAG
assisted by Mr. Ayush Gehlot &
Mr. Rakesh Sharma.
Mr. Mahaveer Bishnoi, AAG assisted
by Mr. Harsh Vardhan Singh.
Mr. B.L. Bhati, AAG assisted by
Mr. Deepak Chandak, Mr. Sandeep
Soni, Ms. Sulochana Bishnoi and
Mr. Sukhdev Sharma.
Dr. Sachin Acharya, Sr. Adv. assisted
by Mr. Chayan Bothra & Mr. Sarthak
Asopa for Raj. High Court.
Mr. Devkinandan Vyas
Mr. Kuldeep Prajapat

Mr. Vaibhav Galaria, Finance
Secretary, Government of Rajasthan
(through VC);

Mr. Praveen Gupta, Additional Chief
Secretary, Public Works Department,
Government of Rajasthan;

Mr. Anand Shrivastav, Director
General of Police (SOG), Rajasthan,
Jaipur;

Mr. Anshuman Bhomiya,
Commissioner of Police, Police
Commissionerate, Jodhpur;

Mr. Satyendra Singh, Managing
Director, RSRDC;

Mr. Yogendra Sharma, Dy.GM, RSRDC



Mr. Jitendra Chouhan, Project Director, RSRDC;

Ms. Komal Shekhawat, Dy. Commissioner of Police (West), Jodhpur.

Mr. Himanshu, Asstt. Commissioner of Police (West), Jodhpur.

Mr. C.S. Katara, Addl.GM (Legal), RSRDC.

Mr. Mookesh Bhati, Chief Engineer, PWD.

Mr. D.R. Meghwal, Sec. PWD.

Mr. Kaushlendra Bhardwaj, Chief Engineer.

Prof. Sauvik Banerjee (through VC)- Nominee of IIT, Bombay;

Mr. Bipin Dimri, Nominee of IIT, Bombay;

Dr. P. Ravi Prakash (Asst. Prof.) & Dr.Shrijith Krishnan (Asstt.Prof.), Nominees of IIT, Jodhpur;

Mr. Dilip Mase, Nominee of M/s. P.T. Mase.

HON'BLE DR. JUSTICE PUSHPENDRA SINGH BHATI
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE REKHA BORANA

Order

24/08/2026

1. This Court, being gravely concerned with the precarious condition of the building of the Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court, Principal Seat, Jodhpur, was constrained to take suo motu cognizance of the issue on 10.08.2026 and to direct the officers of the State respondents and the stakeholders concerned to report to this Court as to the circumstances in which such sub-standard construction and material defects in the design and building of the



Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court have occurred. The building in question is not merely a physical structure; it is a Temple of Justice, a symbol of the rule of law, and a reflection of the Constitution and of democracy itself. The precarious condition of such an institution, therefore, transcends the concern of a mere building and directly implicates the safety, confidence and faith of all those who enter its precincts in pursuit of justice. It is this state of affairs that has caused grave concern and anxiety amongst the public at large and the law fraternity, for *salus populi suprema lex esto* — the safety of the people is the supreme law.

2. Vide order dated 10.08.2026, this Court had directed certain officers to remain personally present before the Court to answer the questions framed by this Court. In relation to the said direction, the Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur, has today moved an application seeking exemption from personal appearance. For the reasons stated therein, the exemption is granted; however, the Chief Secretary shall be required to remain personally present on the next date of hearing.

2.1. The Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Government of Rajasthan has likewise moved an application seeking exemption from personal appearance, but Mr. Vaibhav Galaria, Finance Secretary, Government of Rajasthan is present through video conferencing. The application of Principal Secretary, Finance Department for exemption from personal presence today is accepted, but he shall also remain personally present on the next date.



2.2. The Director General of Police, Rajasthan, Jaipur, has also moved an application seeking exemption from personal appearance; however, Mr. Anand Shrivastav, Director General of Police (SOG), Rajasthan, Jaipur, is present in person and represents the team. The application of the Director General of Police, Rajasthan, Jaipur, for exemption from personal appearance is accepted, but he too shall remain present on the next date.

2.3. Apart from the aforesaid, Mr. Praveen Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Government of Rajasthan; Mr. Anshuman Bhomiya, Commissioner of Police, Police Commissionerate, Jodhpur; Mr. Satyendra Singh, Managing Director, Rajasthan State Road Development Corporation Limited (RSRDC); Mr. Jitendra Chouhan, Project Director, RSRDC; Prof. Sauvik Banerjee (through VC), Nominee of IIT, Bombay; Mr. Bipin Dimri, Nominee of IIT, Bombay; Dr. P. Ravi Prakash (Asstt. Prof.) & Dr. Shrijith Krishnan (Asstt. Prof.), Nominees of IIT, Jodhpur and Mr. Dilip Mase, Nominee of M/s. P.T. Mase are present before this Court today. They have rendered their assistance, but shall be required to remain present before this Court on the next date of hearing.

3. Mr. Rajendra Prasad, learned Senior Advocate & Advocate General assisted by Mr. Anirudh Singh Shekhawat; Mr. Rajesh Panwar, Sr. Adv. & AAG assisted by Mr. Ayush Gehlot; Mr. Mahaveer Bishnoi, AAG assisted by Mr. Harsh Vardhan Singh; Mr. B.L. Bhati, AAG assisted by Mr. Deepak Chandak, opened the submissions by informing the Court that all necessary measures



for rectification and redressal of the grave situation are being undertaken by the State, and that every necessary step is being taken to enable the experts to restore the strength of the building and ensure its structural safety.

3.1. Learned Advocate General further apprised the Court that two meetings were held, the Minutes whereof are dated 12.08.2026 & 19.08.2026, the outcome whereof was that reports were called for from all stakeholders/agencies at the highest level. Such reports have been filed today and indicate that necessary and strict action is being taken by the State machinery to ensure the expeditious resolution of the matter.

3.2. Learned Advocate General further assured the Court that, wherever any stakeholder has defaulted, necessary action is being taken, and that as many as nine persons have already been charge-sheeted, with proceedings under the CCA Rules presently in progress.

3.3. Learned Advocate General submitted that, although the situation is precarious, the prompt action being taken by the State shall restore both public confidence and the structural integrity of the building, and that all necessary steps in this regard shall continue to be taken.

4. Thereafter, Dr. Sachin Acharya, learned Senior Counsel, assisted by Mr. Chayan Bothra, appearing for the Rajasthan High Court, made certain video and pictorial presentations reflecting an alarming state of affairs, showing the pillars and the roof structure



to be in a highly delicate and dilapidated condition, and underscoring the sensitivity of the situation for all stakeholders.

4.1. Learned Senior Counsel further placed before the Court the relevant facts and figures concerning the correspondence continuously addressed since the year 2023, and submitted that, at the highest level, an FIR and other necessary measures have been taken by the High Court to redress the situation. It was, however, submitted that the concern of the High Court remains that the respondent stakeholders did not display the degree of sensitivity that was warranted, resulting in a prolonged and continuing deterioration of the building and of the situation as a whole.

5. Mr. Ranjeet Joshi, President, Rajasthan High Court Advocates' Association, expressed grave anxiety on behalf of the law fraternity as well as the common citizenry, submitting that the risk involved has created a pall of fear and concern amongst lawyers and the public at large, inasmuch as reports over recent years have indicated that structural deficiencies have occurred on a massive scale and have now reached a critical juncture.

5.1. Mr. Joshi further submitted that he had personally visited the building shortly after its inauguration and, again some months thereafter along with other office-bearers, had on each occasion found serious lapses reflecting defects and deficiencies in the structure that were apparent even to the naked eye.

6. Mr. Dilip Singh Udawat, President, Rajasthan High Court Lawyers' Association, submitted that the condition of the Dome,





being the principal area through which the Court's functions and passage occur, is a matter of grave concern for all lawyers, and that any risk to the Dome could extend to other parts of the building, with potentially serious consequences for structural safety.

6.1. Mr. Udawat further pointed out that the lawyers' chambers are likewise beset with structural and safety-related difficulties, and suggested that the restructuring exercise be extended to the building housing the lawyers' chambers and be addressed with immediate effect.

7. This Court was further addressed by Mr. Manish Shishodia, learned Senior Counsel, Mr. Vikas Balia, learned Senior Counsel, Mr. G.R. Punia, learned Senior Counsel, and Mr. Dharendra Singh, learned Senior Counsel, who raised their concerns and cautioned the Court regarding the grave issues involved, whereby the life and safety of the common man stand imperiled.

7.1. They submitted that the due assistance of experts is urgently required and that immediate measures be taken to redress the precarious situation in question without further delay.

8. This Court also takes note of the structural audit report dated 20.08.2026 submitted by IIT Bombay in respect of the Central Dome, which records that the existing Dome is repairable and that its structural integrity can be restored to its original strength. As per the said report, the Central Dome area is presently at no immediate risk of collapse and, based on the localised visually observed issues, the Dome has not been



suggested to be demolished; however, it requires time-bound repairing in accordance with the National Building Code, 2005. The report further recommends that the repairing method be executed cautiously with proper support after strengthening of the first-floor mezzanine slab, which can take the load of the supporting frame for scaffolding.

9. The Court was also addressed by Mr. Bipin Dimri, Nominee of IIT, Bombay, who submitted that IIT, Bombay is in the process of preparing its final report, and that the building suffers from critical and wholly unsatisfactory structural defects, which are self-evident. It was submitted that, in the assessment of the experts, immediate redressal is called for, failing which the building may become unfit for safe habitation.

10. Dr. P. Ravi Prakash (Asst. Prof.) & Dr. Shrijith Krishnan (Asstt. Prof.) of IIT, Jodhpur, while addressing the Court, submitted that they have been engaged in the structural audit/structural reporting exercise since 2023, and that they had, from the very inception, red-flagged several issues, in particular "five points" identified as early as 2023, in respect of which serious remedial action was called for. The said five points read as under:

"(a) corrosion in steel reinforcement at the top,

(b) corrosion-induced cracking in concrete around confinement

(details of (a) and (b) are shown in Figure 2),

(c) patches of plastering on slabs,

(d) delamination of tiles near the construction joints, and



(e) cracking seals at the rooftop using some textile materials.”

They further submitted that, while restoration work is being undertaken, it would be preferable for the restoration plan to be implemented in a single comprehensive exercise rather than piecemeal, inasmuch as, out of a total area of 66,000 sq. ft., only 11,000 sq. ft. has been addressed thus far, and a composite view requires to be taken in respect of the remainder. They accordingly recommended a wholesome approach on the part of the experts, whereby the project of restoration/re-strengthening is undertaken in a single exercise in the interest of the safety and security of the building. They further suggested that it would be prudent to cordon off a two-feet strip along the outer periphery, so as to keep that area out of bounds for occupants, which measure, though onerous, is necessary for immediate safety and redressal.

11. This Court was thereafter addressed by Dr. Souvik Banerjee, Professor of IIT Bombay, through video conferencing, who submitted that he has rarely encountered such an unfortunate state of affairs in the country, and that, owing to the poor quality of construction and other mitigating factors, the building as a whole requires the immediate attention of experts. He submitted that the process of restoration needs to be expedited, and that nearly **sixty per cent of the building requires urgent and immediate attention.** He further submitted that a comprehensive approach on the part of the experts is necessary to immediately address the structural defects and to formulate long-



term solutions conducive to the building's continued and safe functioning.

12. Mr. Jitendra Chouhan, Project Director, RSRDC, presently overseeing the work at the site, submitted that, notwithstanding the high degree of challenge posed by the structural defects and deficiencies, efforts are being made in right earnest to restore the building, and that no harm has been caused to the public at large.

13. Mr. Yogendra Sharma, Deputy General Manager, RSRDC, submitted that all available scientific means, including chemical processes, are being employed to strengthen the roofs and to carry out re-fitting and restructuring thereof, with a view to extending their life and lending greater stability to the building.

14. Mr. Satyendra Singh, Managing Director, RSRDC informed the Court, in what this Court considers an unduly casual manner, that he had only recently assumed charge and was not aware of the manner in which chloride ingress and other structural defects had so severely affected the building. Not being satisfied with this response, the Court further inquired of him as to the comprehensive action being taken against the officers of the State (RSRDC and PWD) who supervised and monitored the construction of the building, being a public project executed at considerable public expense, and one that represents not merely a court but the Principal Seat of the Rajasthan High Court, regarded by the common citizen as a Temple of Justice, a symbol of the rule of law, and a reflection of the Constitution and of democracy itself. The Managing Director was unable to satisfactorily explain what steps



the organisation was taking to ensure that similar defects do not recur in other government buildings, or how RSRDC, which functions across a wide range of projects, proposes to ensure that such structural deficiencies, entailing grave risk and cost to the common man and the public exchequer, are not repeated.

15. The Court was thereafter addressed by Mr. Praveen Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, who submitted that the State stands firmly behind the ongoing redressal work and assured the Court that no effort would be spared in restoring the building to its intended strength and longevity. He further submitted that the Government is fully alive to the seriousness of the issue and to the safety of the common man and the law fraternity, and stands prepared to take all steps advised by the experts to ensure that no further harm befalls the building.

16. The Court was thereafter addressed by Mr. Vaibhav Galaria, Secretary, Department of Finance, who assured the Court that the Government stands firmly behind the endeavour and, notwithstanding the unfortunate state of affairs that has arisen, remains fully committed to its redressal.

17. Mr. Anand Shrivastava, Director General of Police (SOG), Rajasthan, and Mr. Anshuman Bhomia, Commissioner of Police, Jodhpur, submitted that the investigation involves voluminous records and specialist reports, on account of which it has remained pending for a considerable period.

17.1. This Court expressed its grave concern at the pace of the investigation and the lacklustre attitude displayed by the





investigating officers, whereupon both officers assured the Court that the investigation would be upgraded to the highest possible level and expedited, so as to yield prompt results strictly in accordance with law.

18. Thereafter, the learned Advocate General, along with the learned Additional Advocates General, reiterated the State's commitment to redressing the situation, expressed concern for the lives at stake, and affirmed that the matter is being accorded the highest priority and that all necessary steps shall be taken. It was, however, submitted that the final report of IIT Bombay is awaited, so that appropriate and firm measures may be taken and so that this Court may thereafter consider further directions for action against all those found responsible for the fiasco in question.

18.1. It was further submitted that all necessary resources shall be deployed to ensure the expeditious redressal of the safety of the building, being a Temple of Justice.

19. This Court has heard learned counsel for the parties, as well as the stakeholders, officers and professors present, and has perused the material available on record.

20. This Court is of the considered view that the gravity of the situation occasioned by the structural deficit of the building, which places at peril the lives of the common man and of the law fraternity, calls for immediate and urgent attention. The time-bound action proposed by the State, as reflected in the two meetings held and placed on record, must be given effect to at the earliest, and, if possible, before the next date of hearing.





21. This Court would ordinarily be loath to pass an order of such a stringent nature; however, it is constrained to direct that no Court in the State of Rajasthan shall pass any order granting protection, of any nature, to any person or officer in respect of any civil or criminal liability arising out of the matters relating to the building of the Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court, Principal Seat, Jodhpur. Any such order, if passed, shall be deemed to be of no effect, unless it is passed by a Division Bench of this Hon'ble Court or by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which shall, of course, prevail. Any order passed for the purpose of protection, or which has the effect of impeding the investigation or proceedings initiated against persons found responsible, shall be viewed by this Court with utmost seriousness, and no such order shall operate until permitted by this Court.

22. This Court directs the concerned authorities to conduct the investigation, and to pursue all remedial steps presently underway, to the fullest extent of their capacity and in the best interest of the common man, and to report to this Court on the next date as to the redressal achieved and the action plan proposed. On the question as to whether the building of the Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court, Principal Seat, Jodhpur, remains worthy of continued repair and rehabilitation or requires reconstruction, learned Advocate General submitted that the same would depend upon the costs involved, that experts are presently working on this aspect, and that, should it become necessary, all appropriate steps would be taken strictly in accordance with the policy reflected in the aforesaid meetings; a final view in this





regard shall be taken only once the final report of the experts and the final costs are ascertained. Without prejudice to the foregoing, the learned Advocate General has assured this Court that the experts and the State team shall work in tandem to ensure that the building of the Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court, Principal Seat, Jodhpur, remains structurally fit and sound for at least the next fifty years. It is directed that necessary steps shall accordingly be taken, responsibility shall be fixed, appropriate action shall be initiated, and all proceedings presently pending against persons found responsible shall be carried to their logical conclusion in a time-bound manner and at the earliest.

23. The State shall further consider and respond to the suggestion made on behalf of the Bar as to whether a dedicated team of engineers, whether on deputation or independent appointment, may be constituted to oversee judicial infrastructure and to report to this Court, so as to avert any recurrence of such a situation in future and to ensure continued monitoring. In the meantime, this Court directs that regular monitoring, as suggested by the Professors of IIT, be carried out for safety purposes. The ambit of the remedial action being undertaken shall also extend to the lawyers' chambers.

24. All the officers concerned shall remain personally present before this Court on the next date of hearing, along with the record showing the action taken against the erring officials, the record of the rehabilitation and remedial measures undertaken, and the record of the future action plan. On the next date, this



Court shall contemplate passing strictures and also initiating Contempt proceedings against the erring officials, and the officers who by their inaction have not adequately dealt with such erring officials, on the basis of material on record.

25. List this matter on **15.09.2026**.

(REKHA BORANA),J

(DR.PUSHPENDRA SINGH BHATI),J

14/skant/zeeshan