

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s). 364/2025

RAJIYA ALI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 314584/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 225820/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

WITH

W.P.(Cr1.) No. 9/2026 (X)
(IA No. 9849/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 13-07-2026 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

For Petitioner(s) : M/S. Varun Thakur & Associates, AOR

Mr. Prashant Bhushan, Adv.
Mr. Manish Pratap Singh, Adv.
Mr. Anurag Tiwari, Adv.
Mr. Mohan Kumar, AOR

Mr. Narendra Hooda, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Manish Pratap Singh Chauhan, Adv.
Mr. Mohan Kumar, AOR

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Rajkumar Bhaskar Thackre, A.S.G.

Mr. Rohit Khare, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Shankar Dixit, Adv.
Mr. Ishaan Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Vijay Awana, Adv.
Mr. S.N. Terdal(aor), Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR

Mr. S.V. Raju, A.S.G.
Mr. Sridhar Potaraju, A.A.G.
Mr. D.S. Parmar, A.A.G.
Mr. Harmeet Singh Ruprah, AOR
Mr. Saurabh Singh, Adv.

Ms. Vibha Datta Makhija, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Vibha Datta Makhija, Adv.
Mr. Amit Dwivedi, AOR
Mr. Padmesh Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Rohini Narayanan, Adv.
Ms. Lv Sri Nehaol, Adv.
Mr. Aman Verma, Adv.

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

1. These writ petitions under Article 32 of the Constitution of India have been filed by Rajiya Ali, widow of Salman Khan and Kunwar Vikram Singh @ Nati Raja seeking transfer of investigation of FIR Nos.321/2023 and 322/2023 dated 17.11.2023 and 19.11.2023 registered at P.S. Khajuraho, District Chhatarpur (Madhya Pradesh) to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or an independent Special Investigation Team (SIT).

2. The petitioner's husband (Salman Khan) was working as a Driver with one Kunwar Vikram Singh @ Nati Raja, the then MLA and was a contesting candidate of the Congress party. It is alleged that one Arvind Pateria, a candidate of the BJP, and his associates deliberately ran a vehicle over Salman Khan during election campaigning, as a result of which he suffered injuries and eventually died an unnatural death. This incident led to the registration of the subject FIRs. The petitioner, however, alleges that due to alleged political influence, there was no fair investigation in the matter. During the course of the hearing, it is pointed out that there are four eyewitnesses to the occurrence besides the complainant, and their version has not been recorded by the investigating authority. These witnesses are also stated to have given their affidavits to the police.

3. On the other hand, Mr. S.V. Raju, learned Additional Solicitor General of India representing the State of Madhya Pradesh, has strongly refuted the allegations as, according to him, the investigation has been conducted fairly, independently and impartially. He submits that the investigation is near completion.

4. We have heard learned counsel for the parties. Having regard to the nature of allegations and counter-allegations, it seems to us, in the interest of justice and fair play, that the subject FIRs should be investigated by a team of senior officers.

5. We, consequently, direct the Director General of Police, Madhya Pradesh, to constitute an SIT, comprising three officers, one in the rank of Senior Superintendent of Police (IPS Cadre) and two officers, not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and Inspector of Police. The officer heading the SIT shall be from the IPS cadre of Madhya Pradesh, but he should not belong to the State of Madhya Pradesh. The officers to be included in the SIT shall be outside the jurisdiction of Chhatarpur district. The SIT shall be constituted within two days, and shall then take over the entire record from the current investigating authority and shall proceed afresh in accordance with law.

6. It goes without saying that the affidavits/statements of persons who are alleged to be eyewitnesses shall also be duly recorded and taken into consideration before submitting a report to the Court of competent jurisdiction.

7. The SIT shall also examine the version of the other side and shall complete the investigation dispassionately. It is directed that the investigation shall be completed within two months.

Further consequences shall depend upon the outcome of the investigation.

8. It is clarified that we have not expressed any opinion on the merits of the allegations or counter-allegations.

9. The Writ Petitions stand disposed of with pending application(s), if any.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR