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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

CNR No. DLHC010410622026

+ **W.P.(C) 12686/2026**

TAARAN CHANDNA

.....Petitioner

Through: petitioner in person.

Versus

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

.....Respondent

Through: Mr. Akash Chatterjee, SPC with Ms. Laavanya Kaushik, GP, Ms. Khyaati Bansal and Ms. Shivani Sethi, Advs. Mr. Sameer Vashisht, SC, GNCTD with Ms. Harshita Nathrani and Mr. Aryaman Vachher, Advs.

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TEJAS KARIA

ORDER

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02.09.2026

1. Issue notice. Mr. Akash Chatterjee, SPC appears and accepts notice on behalf of respondent Nos.1 and 2 whereas Mr. Sameer Vashisht, standing counsel has entered appearance and accepts notice on behalf of respondent No.3.
2. This public interest litigation primarily concerns itself with framing of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be followed by the Police and other investigating agencies at the time of arrest and personal search of



transgenders.

3. Our attention has been drawn to an advisory issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for ensuring the welfare of transgender persons which, inter alia, provides that “*A comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) may be developed for police and correctional institutions to guide the treatment of transgender and gender-diverse persons during arrest, detention, search, interrogation, and imprisonment, in conformity with human rights norms and judicial directions.*” It further enlists the issues to be addressed while framing such SOP.

4. Learned counsel representing the GNCTD, Mr. Vashisht has stated that so far as the transgender inmates in prison are concerned, adequate provisions have been made, such as provision for keeping them in separate cells/jails.

5. The petition, as already stated, is in relation to framing of SOP to be followed by the Police and other investigating agencies at the time of arrest, detention, interrogation, search etc. of the transgender persons.

6. Accordingly, we call upon the Union of India and Delhi Police, as also the State Government, to file their reply to the averments made in the writ petition.

7. In the meantime, we also direct that the Advisory issued by the NHRC in May, 2026 which is contained in Annexure P-13 of the writ petition, shall be considered and appropriate steps, which may be permissible under law, shall also be taken by the respondents. While filing the affidavit, the respondents shall indicate as to what steps have been taken by them to ensure compliance of the Advisory issued by the NHRC. The said affidavit shall be filed within a period of six weeks. Three weeks



thereafter shall be available to the petitioner to file a rejoinder.

8. List on 18.11.2026.

DEVENDRA KUMAR UPADHYAYA, CJ

TEJAS KARIA, J

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

N.Khanna