

2024 LiveLaw (SC) 43

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

DR. D.Y. CHANDRACHUD; CJI., J.B. PARDIWALA; J., MANOJ MISRA; J.

Miscellaneous Application No.1852/2019 In Crl.A. No.1101/2019; 16-01-2024

SMRUTI TUKARAM BADADE versus THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA & ORS.

Vulnerable Witnesses Deposition Centres (VWDCs) - All the High Courts to take necessary steps for setting up of VWDCs in all districts. This exercise must be completed on or before 30 April 2024. (Para 2)

(Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 23-07-2019 in Crl.A. No.1101/2019 passed by the Supreme Court of India)

For Petitioner(s) Ms. Vibha Dutta Makhija, Sr. Adv. Ms. Jaikriti S. Jadeja, AOR Mr. Amaan Shreyas, Adv. Mr. Praveen Gautam, Adv. Ms. Bani, Adv. Ms. Yashashwini Chauhan, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Ms. Deeplaxmi Subhash Matwankar, AOR Mr. Aniruddha Deshmukh, Adv. Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv. Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR Mr. Bharat Bagla, Adv. Mr. Sourav Singh, Adv. Mr. Aditya Krishna, Adv. Ms. Raavi Sharma, Adv. Ms. Enakshi Mukhopadhyay Siddhanta, AOR Mr. Sovon Siddhanta, Adv. Mr. K. G. Kannan, Adv. Ms. Manisha Ambwani, AOR Mr. Shovan Mishra, AOR Ms. Bipasa Tripathy, Adv. M/s. Arputham Aruna & Co. Mr. Arjun Garg, AOR Mr. Sanjay Kr. Pathak, AOR Mr. Arvind Kumar Pripathi, Adv. Mrs. Shashi Pathak, Adv. Mr. Gopal Jha, AOR Mr. P.I. Jose, AOR Mr. Gautam Narayan, AOR Ms. Asmita Singh, Adv. Mr. Harshit Goel, Adv. Mr. Sujay Jain, Adv. Mr. K.V. Vibhu Prasad, Adv. Mr. Ashok Mathur, AOR Mr. V.N. Raghupathy, AOR Mr. R. Neduraman, AOR Ms. Radhika Gautam, AOR Mr. Sandeep Sudhakar Deshmukh, AOR Mr. Jagjit Singh Chhabra, AOR Ms. Uttara Babbar, AOR Mr. Shovan Mishra, AOR

ORDER

1 Since the work of setting up and monitoring the Vulnerable Witnesses Deposition Centres (VWDC) is under way, we extend the term of appointment of Hon'ble Ms Justice Gita Mittal, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir until 31 July 2024.

2 All the High Courts to take necessary steps for setting up of VWDCs in all districts. This exercise shall be completed on or before 30 April 2024.

3 The Chairperson of the Committee may accordingly prepare a fresh updated status report and submit it to this Court by the first week of May 2024 indicating the status of compliance.

4 The attention of the Court has been drawn to the fact that two High Courts are yet to implement the VWDC guidelines based on the model of 2022 circulated by Justice Gita Mittal.

5 The State of Odisha is yet to implement the guidelines insofar as civil cases are concerned. In terms of the expanded definition of vulnerable witnesses, the State of Tamil Nadu has not taken any action at all. We permit Justice Gita Mittal to draw this fact to the attention of the Registrars General of the High Courts of Odisha and Madras together with the copy of this order so as to ensure that both the High Courts take necessary steps positively on or before 30 April 2024.

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