

ITEM NO.2

COURT NO.9

SECTION II-D

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

Criminal Appeal No. 1425/2025

AMIT KUMAR & ORS.

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

[MS. APARNA BHAT, AMICUS CURIAE]

Date : 28-07-2025 This appeal was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN

For Appellant(s) :

Mr. Mehmood Pracha, Adv.
Mr. R. H. A. Sikander, AOR
Mr. Jatin Bhatt, Adv.
Mr. Sanawar, Adv.
Mr. Kshitij Singh, Adv.
Ms. Nujhat Naseem, Adv.
Mr. Sikander Raza, Adv.
Ms. Sadiya Sultan, Adv.
Mr. Chirag Verma, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :

Mr. Shyam Divan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Snehpreet Kaur, Adv.
Mr. Kaushal Gautam, Adv.

Mr. K.M. Nataraj, A.S.G.
Mr. Chitransh Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Vatsal Joshi, Adv.
Mr. Anuj Srinivas Udupa, Adv.
Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

Ms. Mrinal Gopal Elker, AOR
Ms. Chhavi Khandelwal, Adv.

Mr. Brijender Chahar, A.S.G.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Mr. Abhijit Pandove, Adv.
Mr. Amit Sharma Ii, Adv.
Mrs. Bani Dikshit, Adv.
Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.
Mr. Gaurang Bhushan, Adv.
Mr. Jagdish Chandra, Adv.

Mr. E. C. Agrawala, AOR

Ms. Aparna Bhat, Amicus Curiae, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Mayank Sapra, AOR
 Ms. Karishma Maria, Adv.
 Ms. Madhulika Mohta, Adv.
 Ms. Lalima Das, Adv.
 Mr. Kunal Vajani, Adv.
 Mr. Kunal Mimani, AOR
 Ms. Afshaa Hakim, Adv.
 Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR
 Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
 Mr. T.K. Nayak, Adv.
 Ms. Marbiang Khongwir, Adv.

Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR
 Mr. Santhosh K, Adv.

Mr. Sanpreet Singh Ajmani, AOR
 Mr. Amit Kumar, Adv.
 Ms. Shivani A., Adv.

Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR
 Mr. Krishna Rastogi, Adv.
 Ms. Ripul Swati Kumari, Adv.
 Mr. Rahul Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Brijender Chahar, A.S.G.
 Mr. Sudarshan Lamba, AOR
 Mr. Abhijeet Pandove, Adv.
 Mr. Amit Sharma B, Adv.
 Mr. Gaurang Bhushan, Adv.
 Ms. Bani Dikshit, Adv.
 Mr. Jagdish Chandra, Adv.
 Mr. Karan Chahar, Adv.

Ms. Vidushi Bajpai, AOR

Mr. M.R. Shamshad, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Amith Krishnan H, AOR

Mr. K.M. Natraj, A.S.G.
 Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.
 Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR

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

1. Our order dated 21-7-2025 reads thus:-

1. Taking into consideration the averments made in the Interlocutory Application No.158510/2025 filed by the learned Amicus seeking exemption from liability of deduction of tax at source (TD) on payment made by the National Task Force, the

relief in terms of prayer in the said application is allowed.

2. Heard Ms. Aparna Bhat, the learned Amicus and Mr. K.M. Nataraj, the learned Additional Solicitor General appearing for the Union of India and the State of Rajasthan.

3. Taking into consideration the averments made in the Interlocutory Application No.167294/2025 filed by the learned Amicus praying for directions on disbursal of funds from the Registry, the said application is allowed and the Registry is directed to disburse the amounts lying earmarked to the National Task Force as and when a requisition authorized by the Chairperson is forwarded by the learned Amicus to the concerned Registrar and physically hand-over the cheque to the learned Amicus or electronically transfer to the account mentioned in the requisition.

4. We direct the Ministry of Education to support the NTF in opening the bank account by issuing letters as required by the Bank.

5. Let this exercise should be completed within a period of four weeks from today.

6. We exempt the NTF from providing Permanent Account Number (PAN) and AADHAR to the Bank for opening its account.

8. IA stands disposed of.

9. It is the first day of the week and we have started it on a extremely sad note.

10. Two more suicides have been reported, one from the IIT, Kharagpur and another from a Medical College situated in Greater Noida.

11. A 4th year mechanical engineering student of the IIT, Kharagpur was found dead in his hostel room last Friday morning. He committed suicide three days after he returned to the Institute after a 2 month summer break. He was pursuing a 5 year dual degree programme.

12. It is the 4th unnatural death at the Institute in past 7 months.

13. The second incident is reported from Sharda University in Greater Noida, Knowledge Park, U.P. A 21 year old bachelor of dental surgery (BDS) second year student in the hostel of Sharda University is said to have committed suicide leaving behind a suicide note.

14. We request the learned Amicus to provide us with all necessary information as regards the two suicides.

15. We would like to know how promptly the FIRs were registered in both the cases. We would also like to know who

registered the FIRs. We would also like to know how promptly the Management of the IIT, Kharagpur and Sharda University acted no sooner they learnt about the suicides. We would also like to know what has the preliminary investigation undertaken so far revealed in both the cases.

16. Let an appropriate Report be filed in this regard.

17. List on 28-7-2025 on top of the Board.

18. Issue notice to the Sharda University, Greater Noida, returnable on 28-7-2025.

2. Heard Ms. Aparna Bhat, the learned *Amicus*, Mr. Shyam Divan, the learned Senior counsel appearing for the Sharda University, Mr. K.M. Nataraj, the learned Additional Solicitor General appearing for the Union of India and the State of Rajasthan respectively, Mr. M.R. Shamshad, the learned counsel appearing for the IIT, Kharagpur and all other learned counsel appearing in this litigation.

3. We are informed that so far as the incident which occurred at Sharda University is concerned, the FIR came to be lodged by the father of the deceased and the investigation is in progress. Let this investigation proceed in accordance with law and in the right direction.

4. So far as the incident which occurred at IIT, Kharagpur, West Bengal is concerned, we are informed that within half an hour from the time the Management learnt about the suicide, they lodged a formal complaint with the territorial police station and the complaint was thereafter reduced into a First Information Report. Investigation in this regard is also in progress.

5. Let the investigation in both the incidents, referred to above, proceed further expeditiously in accordance with law and in the right direction.

6. We are informed by the learned counsel appearing for the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi that he has filed the compliance report so far as the main petition is concerned.

7. The learned counsel appearing for the original petitioners would like to look into the report and respond by the next date of

hearing. He is permitted to do so.

8. We are informed by the learned counsel appearing for the Sharda University that he would be filing the status report in the course of the day which may kindly be taken on record. It is ordered accordingly.

9. As per our judgment dated 24.03.2025, the NTF has commenced its field work and has been visiting various Higher Education Institutes (HEIs).

10. We are informed that the Universities are not fully co-operating with the NTF inasmuch as a cross section of students/faculty, taking into account the diversity of their backgrounds are not meeting the NTF. The NTF faced challenges with respect to "access" despite prior information. We are further informed that one of the NTF members was even considering withdrawing from the NTF, in view of this apathy exhibited by the University.

11. In view of the same, without naming any university as requested by the NTF, directions are passed to all HEIs that they shall appoint a senior person (either faculty or on the administrative side) as a Nodal officer who will ensure that the NTF is able to conduct its field visit without any hurdle. It is further directed that all universities will keep the data about the students admitted under various reservation quotas readily available during the visit by the NTF and they shall permit these students to interact with the NTF without any hesitation.

12. We expect the HEIs to fully co-operate. The Ministry of Education shall communicate this order to all the universities within 2 days.

13. Post this matter on 4-8-2025 on top of the Board to report further progress in the matter.

(VISHAL ANAND)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(POOJA SHARMA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)