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

+ W.P.(C) 7824/2017 & CM APPL. 56144/2024

PRASHANT MANCHANDAPetitioner

Through: Petitioner in person
Ms. Nancy Shah, Mr. Angad Singh,
Mr. Nimit Bhimiyani, Mr. Rohan
Pratap Singh Ms. Sheenu Priya,
Advocates.

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ORSRespondents

Through: Ms. Bharathi Raji, SPC for R-1/UIO
and Delhi Police.
Mr. Sanjeev Sabharwal, Standing
Counsel with Ms. Shweta Singh,
Advocate for MCD.
Mr. Pushkar Sood, Ms. Shikha Sood,
Ms. Monika Saini and Mr. Nikhil,
Advocates for R-4/DMRC.
Mr. Mohinder JS Rupal, Mr. Hardik
Rupal and Ms. Aishwarya Malhotra,
Advocates for University of Delhi.
Mr. Ashu Bidhrut, Mr. Swapnam
Prakash Singh, Mr. Hemant Baisla
and Mr. Hemant Kumar, Advocates
for R- 8 & 9.

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+ W.P.(C) 13538/2024 & CM APPL. 56641/2024

AKHILESH KUMAR MISHRA AND ORSPetitioners

Through: Mr. Govind Jee, Mr. Omanakuttan
K.K., Ms. Rambha Singh and Mr.
Abhinav Singh, Advocates



versus

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI AND ORS

.....Respondents

Through: Ms. Monika Arora, CGSC with Mr. Subrodeep Saha and Ms. Radhika Kurdukar, Advocates for UOI.
Mr. Mohinder JS Rupal, Mr. Hardik Rupal and Ms. Aishwarya Malhotra, Advocates for University of Delhi.

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TUSHAR RAO GEDELA

ORDER

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21.10.2024

1. Today, Mr. Mohinder J.S. Rupal, learned counsel for Delhi University has handed over the status report dated 19th October, 2024 prepared by the Chief Election Officer, DUSU Elections 2024-25. In para 9 of the said status report, it is stated that “*it has been found that more than 90 per cent of the colleges/departments/institutions/centres have made their campus free from any defacement.*” Mr. Rupal, learned counsel for Delhi University states that the aforesaid statement has been made on the basis of the responses received from the Colleges, Departments, Institutions and Centers.

2. The said statement is vehemently disputed by Mr. Prashant Manchanda, the petitioner who appears in-person, as well as by learned counsel for MCD and DMRC. Learned counsel for the MCD goes to the extent of saying that Delhi University should be asked to pay Rupees One Crore to the MCD on account of expenses incurred by it for cleaning the properties defaced during DUSU Elections in twelve Zones.



3. Learned counsel for respondent nos. 8 and 9 has filed a status report and handed over certain photographs to show that efforts have been made by respondent nos. 8 and 9 to remove the posters/banners/hoardings in Ramjas College and Law Center-II. From the photographs handed over, it seems with the wall of democracy in Arts Faculty in *Chhatra Marg* has been repainted by the University in collaboration with the students.

4. Mr. Manchanda, who appears in person, has played some videos and handed over additional photographs in Court which show that all posters and graffiti have not been removed till date. He alleges that major defacement has been carried out by the following candidates, namely, Bhaanu Pratap Singh, Lokesh Chaudhary, Ronak Khatri, Yash Nandal, Mr. Rishabh Chaudhary, Rahul Singh Dedha, Aman Kapasia, Deepika Jha, Aman Kapasia, Shivam Maurya, Himanshu Nagar, Aaryan Maan, Rishi Raj Singh, Yash Panwar, Rahul Jhansla and Priyanshu Chaudhary.

5. Though this Court appreciates the efforts put in by respondent nos. 8 & 9, yet keeping in view the photographs and videos on record, it is of the opinion that both the North and South Campus are yet to recover from the 'election excesses' and they continue to look shabby as a large number of posters/hoardings/banners/graffiti are yet to be removed and boundary walls of a number of colleges are still to be repainted.

6. Consequently, on the oral prayer of the petitioner, Bhaanu Pratap Singh, Ronak Khatri, Yash Panwar, Rishabh Chaudhary, Lokesh Chaudhary, Yash Nandal, Rahul Singh Dedha, Aman Kapasia, Deepika Jha, Aman Kapasia, Shivam Maurya, Himanshu Nagar, Aaryan Maan, Rishi Raj Singh, Rahul Jhansla and Priyanshu Chaudhary are impleaded as respondents, with a direction to remove the balance posters/banners/hoardings/graffiti and



repaint the walls that had been defaced in collaboration with the Delhi University/colleges. Delhi University is directed to inform the newly impleaded respondents by WhatsApp as well as by E-mail to appear before this Court on the next date of hearing.

7. Delhi University, Delhi Police and MCD are directed to file fresh status reports before the next date of hearing. Pen Drive filed by the petitioner be kept in safe custody of Deputy Registrar (Writ). List on 28th October, 2024.

MANMOHAN, CJ

TUSHAR RAO GEDELA, J

OCTOBER 21, 2024
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