

225 CWP-PIL-9-2023 (O&M), CWP-27621-2013 (O&M)
RA-CW-259-2020, RA-CW-252-2020, RA-CW-261-2020,
RA-CW-268-2020 & RA-CW-69-2021 in CWP-18253-2009

**VINOD DHATTERWAL AND OTHERS
VS UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS**

Present: Mr. Aashish Chopra, Senior Advocate
with Ms. Rupa Pathania, Advocate,
Ms. Nitika Sharma, Advocate
and Mr. Varun Aryan Sharma, Advocate,
for the petitioner(s) in CWP-PIL-9-2023.

Mr. R.S. Khosla, Senior Advocate,
with Mr. Swarn Singh Tiwana, Advocate
and Mr. Yogender Verma, Advocate
for the petitioner(s) in CWP-27621-2013.

Mr. Satya Pal Jain, Additional Solicitor General of India,
with Mr. Dheeraj Jain, Sr. Counsel
Mr. Arun Gosain, Senior Panel Counsel,
for respondent No.1 and 10 – UOI and IIT, Roorkee
in CWP-PIL-9-2023 and in RA-CW-259-2020,
RA-CW-252-2020, RA-CW-261-2020, RA-CW-268-2020
& RA-CW-69-2021.

Mr. Brijeshwar Singh Kanwar, Senior Panel Counsel,
for respondent No.4 – UOI in CWP-27621-2013

Ms. Geeta Rani, Advocate
for Mr. K.D.S. Hooda, Advocate
for respondent No.5 (in CWP-27621-2013).

Mr. Amit Jhanji, Senior Standing Counsel,
with Mr. J.S.Chandail, Additional Standing Counsel,
and Ms. Zaheen Kaur, Advocate,
for respondent – U.T. Chandigarh.

Mr. Saurav Khurana, Additional Advocate General, Punjab,
Mr. J.S. Gill, Additional Advocate General, Punjab.

Mr. Deepak Balyan, Additional Advocate General, Haryana.

Mr. Gaurav Chopra, Senior Advocate,
with Mr. Anurag Chopra, Advocate,
Mr. Rajeev Anand, Advocate
and Ms. Seerat Saldi, Advocate,
for respondent No. 9 in CWP-PIL-9-2023.

Mr. Sandeep Khunger, Advocate,
for Municipal Council, Nayagaon,
in RA-CW-259-2020 & in CWP-18253-2009.

Mr. Rajeev Anand, Advocate,
for the review-applicant(s) (in RA-CW-252-2020).

Ms. Tanu Bedi, Advocate (Amicus-Curiae),
(through video conferencing)
Mr. Akhil Dadwal, Advocate,
Ms. Pooja Dahiya, Advocate (in RA-CW-259-2020,
RA-CW-252-2020, RA-CW-261-2020, RA-CW-268-2020
and RA-CW-69-2021).

Ms. Gurnoor Sandhu, Advocate,
for the applicant(s) (in RA-CW-259-2020).

1. This case was originally slated for 23.08.2024 but has been preponed and taken up on Board today after some disturbing events happened on 11.08.2024, when heavy showers led to inundation of the record room in the old District Courts building situated in Sector 17, Chandigarh, leading to destruction of hundreds of files.

2. Despite the Chief Architect and the Chief Engineer of UT, Chandigarh Administration having been apprised by the Registrar General of this Court, as early as in October, 2023 vide letter dated 04.10.2023, with repeat requests on 08.04.2024 and 23.05.2024, for taking remedial steps, no heed was paid.

3. It is pertinent to point out that old District Courts building in Sector 17, Chandigarh, houses record of the disposed of cases. Some of the records have been scanned but the remaining are yet to be scanned. The extent of damage is yet to be ascertained and in case the unscanned records have been destroyed due to inundation then it is an extremely serious matter where the responsibility would rests on the UT, Chandigarh Administration.

4. Learned Senior Standing counsel for UT, Chandigarh Administration seeks a short adjournment to seek instructions about remedial action taken. He further assures the Court that traffic circulation plan will be prepared and placed before this Court, on the next date of hearing, so as to ease the traffic congestion which takes place in the morning and evening in and around the High Court campus.

5. We also reiterate our order, which was passed on 09.08.2024, as regards the affidavit to be filed by Director, Survey of India, Chandigarh.

6. The Additional Solicitor General of India has apprised this Court that the task regarding heritage impact assessment has been assigned to IIT Roorke is nearing completion and the report is likely to be submitted by 15.10.2024.

7. Let the process be completed as expeditiously as possible and by all means by 15.10.2024.

8. List the matter on 23.08.2024 at 2:00 p.m. for respondents to report compliance of earlier orders and this order.

(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

13.08.2024
rekha

(ANIL KSHETARPAL)
JUDGE