ITEM NO.32

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

SMW (C) No(s). 6/2021

IN RE : CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS

(IA No. 65924/2022 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 60182/2022 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 53637/2022 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA NO. 25345/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 6462/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 6393/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 25655/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 165478/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 25546/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 64697/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 25476/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 19193/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA NO. 2125/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA NO. 25540/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA NO. 23340/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING OTT. IA NO. 42125/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA NO. 42123/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION IA NO. 26600/2022 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA NO. 20000/2022 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT IA NO. 42135/2022 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON)
IA NO. 42135/2022 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON)
WITH
SMW(C) No. 4/2020 (PIL-W)
(IA NO. 86654/2021 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA NO. 64373/2021 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA NO. 0437372021 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS IA NO. 106490/2021 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA NO. 106490/2021 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS IA NO. 74294/2020 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA NO. 66078/2021 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA NO. 8020/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 29795/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 103990/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 139238/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 74139/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 79258/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 29743/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 66077/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 103479/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 137902/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 76604/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 14581/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 103339/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 137767/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 6264/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 61484/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 76104/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 14448/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA NO. 65469/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT

IA No. 87334/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 134784/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA NO. 164115/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 59084/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 75739/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 14077/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 65158/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 106492/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 155722/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 75234/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 13962/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA NO. 155677/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 74593/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 9708/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 56612/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 66729/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA NO. 105604/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA NO. 148051/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 9678/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 66079/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 105407/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 139251/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 30270/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. IA No. 74135/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM PAYING COURT FEE IA No. 74292/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION IA No. 66075/2021 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION IA No. 86651/2021 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION IA No. 58712/2020 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT) Date : 09-05-2022 These matters were called on for hearing today. CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE L. NAGESWARA RAO HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI For the parties : By Courts Motion, AOR Mr. Gaurav Agrawal, AOR (A.C.) FOR NCPCR Mr. K.M. Nataraj, Ld. ASG Ms. Swarupama Chaturvedi, AOR Mr. Rajesh Kumar Das, Adv. Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv. Ms. Saumya Kapoor, Adv. Ms. Himanshi Goel, Adv. Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Sr Adv Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, AOR Mr. Abishek Jebaraj, Adv. Ms. Sanjana Grace Thomas, Adv. Ms. A. Reyna Shruti, Adv. Ms. Aarti Krupa Kumar, Adv.

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, Ld ASG Mr. S.S.Rebello, Adv. Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, Adv. Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, Adv. Ms. Chinmayee Chandra, Adv. Mr. Piyush Beriwal Adv. Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR Mr. B. V. Balaram Das, AOR Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR Nishanth Patil, AOR Mr. Abhishek Atrey, AOR Mr. Shekhar Raj Sharma, Dy. AG Mr. Sanjay Kumar Visen, AOR Mr. Paras Dutta, Adv. Mr. Navin Gupta, Adv. Mr. Shalen Bhardwaj, Adv. Mr. Suresh Kumar Bhan, Adv. Ms. Preeti Singh, AOR Mr. Sibo Sankar Mishra, AOR Mr. Niranjan Sahu, Adv. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Nayak, Adv. Ms. Uttara Babbar, AOR Mr. Raj Bahadur Yadav, AOR Mr. Anmol Rattan Siddhu, AAG Mr. R.K. Rathore, Adv. Mr. Raghav Gulati, Adv. Mr. Shiv Kumar Sharma, Adv. Ms. Jaspreet Gogia, AOR Mr. Krishnanand Pandeya, AOR Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR Mr. Mahfooz Ahsan Nazki, AOR Mr. Polanki Gowtham, Adv Mr. Shaik Mohamad Haneef, Adv Mr. T. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, Adv Mr. K.V. Girish Chowdary, Adv Ms. Rajeswari Mukherjee, Adv Mr. Ankit Goel, AOR

Ms. Ayushma Awasthi, Adv.

Ms. Anindita Pujari, AOR Mr. Azad Bansala, Adv. Mr. Siddhartha Srivastava, Adv. Ms. Prakriti Rastogi, Adv. Mr. Mohit Kaushik, Adv. Mr. Arjun Garg, AOR Mr. Aakash Nandolia, Adv. Ms. Sagun Srivastava, Adv. Mr. Raghvendra Kumar, Adv. Mr. Anand Kumar Dubey, Adv. Mr. Nishant Verma, Adv. Mr. Rajiv Kumar Sinha, Adv. Mr. Simanta Kumar, Adv. Ms. Rajlakshmi Singh, Adv. Mr. Sunil Saraogi, Adv. Mr. Narendra Kumar, AOR Mr. Narendra Kumar, AOR Ms. Amiy Shukla, AOR Mr. Chirag M. Shroff, AOR Mr. Amandeep Mehta, Adv. Mr. Ajay Pal, AOR Mr. Kunal Chatterji, AOR Ms. Maitrayee Baneerjee, Adv. Mr. Rohit Bansal, Adv. Dr. Monika Gusain, AOR Mr. Romy Chacko, AOR Mr. Sudesh Kumar Singh, Adv. Ms. Diksha Rai, AOR Mr. Ankit Agarwal, Adv. Mr. Prateek Bhardwaj, Adv. Applicant-in-person, AOR Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR Mr. Upendra Mishra, Adv. Mr. T.K. Nayak, Adv. Mr. P.S. Negi, Adv. Mr. S.R. Kochhar, Adv. Mr. K.V. Kharlyngdoh, Adv. Ms. Meenakshi S. Kamble, Adv. Mr. Hitesh Kumar Sharma, Adv. Mr. S.K. Rajora, Adv. Mr. Subhash S. Kadam, Adv.

Ms. Kavya S. Lokande, Adv. Mr. Akhileshwar Jha, Adv. Mr. Naresh Kumar, AOR Mr. Suhaan Mukerji, Adv. Mr. Raghent Basant, Adv. Mr. Nikhil Parikshith, Adv. Mr. Vishal Prasad, Adv. Mr. Abhishek Manchanda, Adv. Mr. Sayandeep Pahari, Adv. Mr. Tanmay Sinha, Adv. M/S. PLR Chambers And Co., AOR Mr. Naresh K. Sharma, AOR Mr. Himanshu Tyagi, AOR Mr. Amrish Kumar, AOR Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR Ms. Eliza Bar, Adv. Mr. Ramendra Mohan Patnaik, AOR Mr. Amit Kumar, Adv. Mr. Ziya Ahmad, Adv. Mr. S. Udaya Kumar Sagar, AOR Ms. Sweena Nair, Adv. Mr. P. Mohith Rao, Adv. Mr. Siddhesh Kotwal, Adv. Ms. Ana Upadhyay, Adv. Ms. Manya Hasija, Adv. Mr. Akash Singh, Adv. Ms. Preeti Singh, Adv. Mr. Nirnimesh Dube, AOR Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR Ms. Anu K. Joy, Adv. Mr. Alim Anvar, Adv. Mr. Sachin Patil, AOR Mr. Rahul Chitnis, Adv. Mr. Aaditya A. Pande, Adv Mr. Geo Joseph, Adv. Ms. Shewtal Shepal, Adv. M/S. Manoj Swarup And Co., AOR Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR Mr. Kabir Shankar Bose, Adv. Mr. Ishaan Borthakur, Adv. Mr. Nikhil Goel, AOR Ms. G. Indira, AOR

Mr. Manish Kumar, AOR Mr. Ankur S. Kulkarni, AOR Mr. Gopal Singh, AOR Mr. Gopal Jha, AOR Mr. G.R. Pandey, Adv. Mr. Nishant Verma, Adv Mr. Krishnanand Pandey AOR Mr. V. Krishnamurthy, Sr. Adv./AAG Dr. Joseph Aristotle S., AoR. Ms. Nupur Sharma, Adv. Mr. Shobhit Dwivedi, Adv. Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Mahara, Adv. Ms. Jessica Bhardwaj, Adv. Mr. G. Prakash, AOR Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv. Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, AOR Ms. Chubalemla Chang, Adv. Mr. Gautam Narayan, AOR Ms. Pragya Barsaiyan, Adv. Mr. V. N. Raghupathy, AOR Md. Apzal Ansari, Adv. Mr. Aravindh S., AOR Ms. C. Rubavathi, Adv. Mr. Sumeer Sodhi, AOR Mr. Arjun Nanda, Adv. Mr. Gaurav Arora, Adv. Mr. Sharan Thakur Adv Mr. Mahesh Thakur AOR Mr. Siddhartha Thakur Adv Mr. Bishwendra Singh, Adv. Mr. Ajay Kanojia Adv Ms. Vipasha Singh Adv Mr. Saurabh Trivedi, AOR Mr. Tanmay Agarwal, Adv Ms. Mukti Chowdhary, AOR Ms. Shobha Gupta, AOR

Mr. Rajendra Kr. Panigrahi, Adv. Mr. Nishant Bahuguna, Adv. Mr. Shubham Jalan, Adv. Ms. Prachi Sharma, Adv. Ms. Sakshi Tiwari, Adv. Mr. Vidit Agarwal, Adv. Dr. Manish Singhvi, Sr Adv Mr. Arpit Parkash, Adv Mr. Sandeep Kumar Jha, AOR M/S. Knc, AOR Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv. Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv. Mr. Wahengbam Immanvel Meitei, Adv. Ms. Garima Prasad, Sr. Adv./AAG Mr. Rohit K. Singh, AOR Mr. Pritam Bishwas, Adv. Mr. Akshay Chowdhary, Adv. Mr. Parth Yadav, Adv. Mr. M. Yogesh Kanna, AOR Mr. Bharat Singh, Adv. Mr. Pashupathi Nath Razdan, AOR Mirza Kayesh Begg, Adv. Mr. Prakhar Srivastav, Adv. Mr. Astik Gupta, Adv. Mr. Malak Manish Bhatt, AOR Ms. Tanishka Khatana, Adv. Mr. Pai Amit, AOR Mr. G.M. Kawoosa, Adv. Ms. Taruna Ardhendumauli Prasad, AOR Ms. Pinky Behera, AOR Ms. Pragya Baghel, Adv. Ms. Pallavi Langar, AOR Ms. Radhika Gautam, AOR Ms. Archana Pathak Dave, Adv. Ms. Deepanwita Priyanka, AOR Mr. Neeraj K. Sharma, Ad.v

Mr. Harsh Singhal, Adv. Mr. Prahil Sharma, Adv. Ms. Priyanka Sharma, Adv. Mr. G.S. Makker, AOR Mr. Mukesh Kr.Verma, Adv Ms. Mrinal Elkar Mazumdar, Adv Mr. Neeraj Kr.Sharma, Adv Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv. Mr. G.S. Makker, AOR Mr. S.K.Singhania, Adv Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv. Mr. Harish Pandey, Adv. Mr. Anil Hooda, Adv. Ms. Sanskriti Pathak, Adv. Mr. Jitender Hooda Adv. Mr. Shafik Ahmed Adv. Mr. Raj Kumar Prasad Adv. Mr. Tota Ram Adv. Mr. Ajay Sharma Adv. Mr. Anuraag Tripathi Adv. Mr. G.S. Makker, AOR Mr. Anurag Tripathi, Adv. Mr. G.S. Makker, AOR Mr. Piyush Beriwal Adv. Mr. G.S. Makker, AOR Mr. Salir Ali Khan, AOR Ms. Ruchi Mandal, Adv IA 42125/2022 Mr. Salman Khurshid, Sr. Adv. Ms. Mohini Priya, Adv. Mr. Ashish Kumar, Adv. Ms Asifa Rashid Mir, Adv Ms. Sakshi Kotiyal, Adv.

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

SMW(C) No. 4/2020.

Considering the submissions made by the learned Amicus Curiae on 02.05.2022 that there are a large number of children who have dropped out of schools due to various reasons, we directed the NCPCR to examine the matter and give suggestions about the of action be taken course to by State Governments/Union Territories in ensuring the continuance of education of children, especially at the elementary school level.

The NCPCR has filed an affidavit on 07.05.2022, in which it has been stated that Standard Operating **Procedures (SOP) for implementation of Section 12(1)** (c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act, 2009) has been formulated in the year 2021. The information that was furnished by 13 State Governments/Union Territories in respect of 152 districts, shows that 1,25,052 children have dropped out of school or are not attending school regularly. The suggestions made by the NCPCR relating to the identification of children who have dropped out of school and measures for ensuring the continuance of education of such children, are as follows:

- "9.1.1.That the District Education Officers (DEOs) of the district should do the mapping of such children who have been absent from his/her school for 30 consecutive working days and that those children should be treated as drop out children.
- 9.1.2. That a child of 6-14 years of age should be considered out of school if he/she has never been enrolled in an elementary school or if after enrolment has been absent from school without prior intimation for a period of 30 days or more.

9.1.3. That child who has never been enrolled in

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school (as defined in Section 2(n) of RTE Act, 2009) for formal education should also fall under the category of out of school.

- 9.1.4. That child once enrolled into formal system of education/school, if does not complete 8 years of compulsory elementary education, should be treated as an out of school child.
- 9.1.5. That all children above the age of 14 years, who do not fall under the purview of RTE Act, 2009 but have had to drop out of school due to financial constraints during the COVID pandemic shall be treated as an out of school child.
- 9.1.6. That the District Education Officers and District Child Protection Officers should identify various reasons responsible for children being out of school should be done.
- 9.2.1. That in case of death of one or both parents of child and/or the earning member of the family and/or the parents/guardians have lost their livelihood and the child is studying in private school, the expenditure on elementary education of such children in the same school may be borne by the appropriate Government under Section 12(1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009.
- 9.2.2. That for this purpose, the child along with guardian/any member of the family where the child is studying shall approach the District Magistrate and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of the district.
- 9.2.3 That the children who have lost both or single parent or parents/guardians who have lost their livelihood can get their income certificate made through the district authorities. The District Child Protection Officers shall provide assistance to such children in procuring the income certificate. Based the on income certificate and the child's eligibility, the child shall be then admitted into a school under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009.
- 9.2.4 That all categories of schools entrusted

with the responsibility under Section 12(1) of the RTE Act, 2009 whether aided, unaided or private schools shall implement the provision of Section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act, 2009 and try to include children who have lost their both or either of the parent after April 2020 under the provision so as to ensure that their education is not disrupted.

- 9.2.5 That every school, including schools having minority institution status and all residential schools shall also follow the procedure and ensure that no such child is forced to leave the school in any manner against the child's choice and due to nonpayment of fees.
- 9.2.6 That for the classes above VIII (which is generally beyond RTE application), where children have lost one or both parents of the child and/or the earning member of the family and the child is studying in private school, the State Government shall devise guidelines for the schools and/or issue necessary directions and/or devise a policy for reimbursing the expenditure on education of these children.
- 9.2.7. That the District Child Protection Officers through the individual child care plan of examine the child can assess and the educational needs of the child. The data of children who need financial assistance education can be forwarded to the for District Education Officers. The District Education Officers can then provide these children with scholarships (as per their eligibility) and/or provide financial aid through donors, NGOs/CSOs etc."

Mr. Gaurav Agrawal, learned Amicus Curiae, submitted that the State Governments/Union Territories should comply with the suggestions made by the NCPCR without fail. We take note of the serious problem of discontinuance of education of children caused due to the pandemic as well as other situations therefrom which arising we cannot However, the facts that have been placed envisage. before us pertaining to the number of children who have discontinued elementary education would show that, for whatever reason, a worryingly large number of children have not been attending schools. There is an obligation on the part of the State Governments/Union Territories to ensure that education is not disrupted and in case of such disruption, steps be to taken by the State Governments/Union Territories are specified in the relevant statutes.

The State Governments/Union Territories are directed to comply with the suggestions made by the dated NCPCR in its SOP 25.06.2021 and the recommendations reproduced above. The NCPCR is directed to have a web portal on which the information relating to the action taken by the State Governments/Union Territories for continuance of the education of children is updated. The NCPCR is directed to file an affidavit after examining the State Governments/Union reports sent by the Territories within a period of 8 weeks from today. The State Governments/Union Territories may approach the NCPCR for any modification/clarification of the SOP.

One of the issues that is flagged by the NCPCR

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is that migration certificates are not being issued promptly by schools when the parents of children studying in schools are moving from one place to the other. The State Governments/Union Territories are directed to instruct the concerned authorities to ensure that migration certificates are issued to those children who are moving away from the place of their education.

For implementation of the suggestions made by the NCPCR, a nodal officer under Rule 2B(2) of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Rules, 2017 is required to be appointed, according to the NCPCR. The further suggestion that is made is that nodal officers should identify those children who are not attending and have dropped out of schools.

After hearing learned counsel for the parties, direct that the State Governments/Union we district-wise Territories shall appoint nodal officers, either from the Education Department or from the Women and Child Welfare Department, who in turn shall instruct Anganwadi workers, Asha workers, workers etc. to personally inform health those parents whose children have discontinued education about the recommendations made by the NCPCR and orders passed by this Court. The nodal officer shall also take appropriate action to place the children back in the schools from which they have dropped out,

so long as continuing in the same school is in the best interests of the relevant child. The status report about the appointment of nodal officers and the action taken for ensuring the continuation of the education of children shall be filed by the State Governments/Union Territories within a period of 6 weeks from today. The said information shall also be furnished to the NCPCR.

Wide publicity shall be given by the State Governments/Union Territories to the suggestions made by the NCPCR as well as orders passed by this Court.

List on 01.08.2022 at the end of the Board.

<u>SMW (C) No.6/2021</u>

After persuading the State Governments/Union Territories to identify Children in Street Situations (CiSS), have them produced before the Child Welfare Committees and to get their social investigation reports prepared as required under the SOP of the NCPCR, earlier directed the we have State Governments/Union Territories to frame policies for rehabilitation of such children. We are informed that the details of those children who have been identified to be in street situations have been furnished to the NCPCR.

Learned Amicus Curiae has brought to our notice the information that is provided by the State of

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Tamil Nadu, detailing the manner in which the State proposes to rehabilitate those children who have found begging, engaged in vending on the streets or rag picking. Learned Amicus Curiae has also brought to the notice of this Court that the other State Governments have also furnished information. The affidavits filed by the State of Tamil Nadu may be circulated to all the other Advocates-on-Record representing the State Governments, who are directed instructions from their respective State to get Governments/Union Territories and provide further information relating to the steps that are required for rehabilitation of these specific categories of Without waiting for further orders, the State CiSS. Governments/Union Territories are directed to take immediate steps for rehabilitation of the children, in accordance with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the rules made thereunder.

List on 01.08.2022 at the end of the Board.

IA No.53637/2022

List next week.

(Geeta Ahuja) Court Master (Anand Prakash) Assistant Registrar