

May 26, 2026

Editors of NBDA

Re: In Re: Alleged Institutional Bias and Procedural Discrepancies in the Unnatural Death of Young Woman at Matrimonial Home [SMW(Crl) 4/2026]

It has come to the attention of NBDSA that the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in the captioned matter, on 25.05.2026, requested the media to avoid recording statements of the persons who are likely to be potential witnesses or accused, as it may unnecessarily prejudice the outcome on certain issues, which are yet to be investigated. In this regard, please find attached the Order dated 25.05.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Accordingly, Members are directed to observe and adhere to the observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Furthermore, while reporting on the death of Ms. Twisha Sharma, Members are requested to keep in mind NBDSA's Advisory dated 06.11.2020 concerning "Media Trial" and the Advisory dated 20.02.2021 pertaining to "Media Reporting during an Ongoing Investigation regarding a Crime or Criminal offence", which includes the stipulations laid down by the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in its judgment dated 18.01.2021 in the matter of Mahesh Narayan Singh & Ors. vs UOI & Ors., PIL (ST) No. 1774 of 2020.

The Members must strictly adhere to the above, and the reportage should be monitored at the highest editorial level to ensure compliance with the observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Kindly circulate the Advisory amongst all concerned, in particular the Editorial, for strict compliance.



Shreya Rastogi
For & on behalf of News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority

Encl: a/a

CC: Members & Legal Heads of NBDA

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) No(s).4/2026

IN RE: ALLEGED INSTITUTIONAL BIAS AND PROCEDURAL
DISCREPANCIES IN THE UNNATURAL DEATH OF A YOUNG
GIRL AT HER MATRIMONIAL HOME

Date : 25-05-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI

For Petitioner(s) : By Courts Motion, AOR

Mr. Tushar Mehta, SG
Mr. Prashant Karia, AG
Ms. Manisha Karia, AAG
Mr. D.S. Parmar, AAG
Ms. Silpi S. Swain, Adv.
Ms. Mrinal Gopal Elker, AOR

Mr. Onkar Singh, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Singh, Adv.
Ms. Shreya Singh, Adv.
Ms. Avni Singh, Adv.
Ms. Anamika Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Pragati Katiyar, Adv.

Mr. Siddharth Luthra, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Anurag Srivastava, Adv.
Mr. Abhijeet Sinha, AOR
Ms. Malvika Kapila, Adv.
Mr. Harbans Shinh, Adv.
Apporva Jain, Adv.
Mr. Kanishk Sachdev, Adv.
Mr. Vishwajeet Singh, Adv.
Mr. Sougat Pati, Adv.
Ms. Rushika Patil, Adv.
Ms. Ria Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Nav Teji, Adv.
Mr. Ankur Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Anuj Karnatak, Adv.
Ms. Rimmi Bharadwaj, Adv.
Mr. Sarthak Gaurav, Adv.
Mr. Gautam Matoria, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Siddhartha Dave, Sr. adv.
Mr. Yash Johri, Adv.

Mr. Kabir Singh, Adv.
Mr. Prashant Rawat, AOR

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

1. Ms. Twisha Sharma, a 33-year-old corporate professional and a former actor, unfortunately died an unnatural death at her matrimonial home in Bhopal on 12.05.2026. A news article published by India Today on 18.05.2026, followed by several media reports thereafter, alleged institutional bias and questioned the fairness and impartiality of the investigation being conducted by the State Police. The reason attributed to the alleged lack of impartiality was that the husband of the deceased is a practising lawyer and her mother-in-law is a retired District Judge.

2. It, thus, appears that the family members of the deceased questioned the response of the police authorities and alleged undue influence in the matter of investigation. A narrative was also created that a fair investigation was being denied on account of the involvement of the judiciary. It is in this backdrop that these *suo motu* proceedings have been initiated by us.

3. Meanwhile, certain developments have taken place. The Madhya Pradesh High Court *vide* an order dated 22.05.2026 took notice of one of the concerns raised by the family members of the deceased and directed that a second postmortem examination was necessary to clear all doubts from any quarter and to bolster the confidence of any common person in the entire process.

4. Shri Tushar Mehta, learned Solicitor General of India, representing the State of Madhya Pradesh, informs that in deference to those directions, a second autopsy was conducted by a team of

doctors from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, at Bhopal. Thereafter, the body was cremated yesterday.

5. The only issue as of now that survives for consideration is the consent and recommendations made by the State of Madhya Pradesh seeking to hand over the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation. Since the State Government has already recommended an investigation by CBI, the learned Solicitor General has assured us that he will take up the matter with the authorities so as to ensure that the CBI immediately takes over the investigation and makes an endeavour to complete the same promptly.

6. We would like to impress upon the family members of the victim, as well as the accused person(s), that instead of making statements in public or before media platforms, they should get their version recorded before the investigating agency so that no prejudice or adverse impact is caused to the ongoing investigation.

As already observed earlier, we also request the media to avoid recording statements of the persons who are likely to be potential witnesses or accused, as it may unnecessarily prejudge the outcome on certain issues, which are yet to be investigated. We will also request the general public to refrain from speculation and have trust and faith in one of the premier investigating agency, which, we are sure, in due course of time will take the investigation to a logical conclusion.

7. While making observations above, it is clarified that we have not expressed any opinion on the merits of the allegations or otherwise, and it is entirely left for the investigating agency to look into the different aspects/cross-versions of the parties.

Similarly, we have not expressed any opinion with respect to the rights or privileges of both sides, which they will be entitled to seek before an appropriate forum in accordance with the law.

8. With these observations and directions, the petition stands disposed of. Pending applications, if any, also stand closed.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR