

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL ORIGINAL/APPELLATE JURISDICTION

Writ Petition (Criminal) No 231 of 2019

Ajay Bhardwaj

... Petitioner

Versus

Union of India & Ors

... Respondents

WITH

Writ Petition (Criminal) Nos 33, 132, 159, 196, 207, 221, 222, 238, 259, 240, 241, 254, 296, 330, 357, 353 & 361 of 2019, 115, 116, 205 & 208 of 2020, 530 of 2021, 94, 96 & 107 of 2022 and 547, 557 & 565 of 2023

AND

Miscellaneous Application Nos 2043 and 2082 of 2022 in Writ Petition (Crl) No 304 of 2018 and Miscellaneous Application Diary No 40673 of 2022

O R D E R

- 1 Having heard learned counsel for the petitioners, we are of the considered view that the allegations which have been levelled in the FIRs merit investigation.
- 2 Among other reliefs, a direction was sought to the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate all the offences alleged against the petitioners in connection with the following FIRs :

- “(i) FIR No. 60/2018, dated 29.01.2018, P.S. Prashant Vihar, Rohini, New Delhi under Sections 406, 420 read with 34 of IPC;
- (ii) FIR No. 61/2018, dated 15.05.2018, P.S Special Cell (SB) Delhi, under Sections 406, 420 and 120B of IPC;

- (iii) FIR No. 181 of 2018, P.S. Nigdi, Pune, dated 15.03.2018 under section 406, 420, 34 of IPC, Section 66(d) IT Act, 2000, Section 4 and 5 Chit Fund Act 1982, Section 3 Maharashtra Investors (Second) Act, 1999;
- (iv) FIR No. 0124 of 2018 P.S. Central Sector 17, Chandigarh dated 24.04.2018 under section 406, 420, 120B IPC;
- (v) FIR No. 1167 of 2018 P.S. Cyber Crime, Bengaluru City dated 19.04.2018 under Section 66 (d) IT Act;
- (vi) FIR No. 0231 of 2018 P.S. Khadakpada dated 16.06.2018 under Section 406, 420, 120B, 34 IPC, S.66 (d) Information Technology Act, 2000; S.4 Chit Fund Act, 1982 Section 3 and 4;
- (vii) FIR No. 142 of 2018 P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi dated 26.05.2018 under Section 420 and 34 of IPC;
- (viii) FIR No. 118 of 2018 P.S. Alipore, Kolkata dated 25.04.2018 under section 406, 420, 467, 468, 471, 477 A, 120B IPC;
- (ix) FIR No. 14931013180062 of 2018, Serial No. 62, P.S. Crime Branch Srinagar dated 22.12.2018, u/S 120B, 420 of Ranbir Penal Code SVT 1989; and
- (x) FIR No. 74 of 2019, P.S. Civil Lines, Police Commissionerate Amritsar, u/S 420, 406, 120B of IPC dated 10.04.2019."

3 The petitioner(s) had sought anticipatory bail during the pendency of the Petitions under Article 32 of the Constitution.

4 On 30 August 2019, a Bench of this Court while directing the issuance of notice, passed the following order :

"Issue notice.

"For the grounds stated in the writ petition, the

petitioner is granted anticipatory bail if he deposits a sum of Rs. 1 crore in the Registry of this Court within a period of six months from today, which amount shall be kept in an interest bearing short term fixed deposit of a nationalised Bank.

Needless to say that for this period of six months, no coercive steps shall be taken against the petitioner.”

- 5 Similar orders have been passed in the batch of cases granting ad-interim relief subject to deposit of varying amounts. The amounts which have been deposited in the Registry of this Court are set out in the following tabulated chart :

SR. NO.	CASE TITLE AND CASE NUMBER	AMOUNT DEPOSITED
1	AJAY BHARDWAJ v UOI W.P. (CrI.) No. 231/2019	1 CRORE
2	DR. VIVEK KUMAR BHARDWAJ v UOI W.P. (CrI.) No. 33/2019	1 CRORE
3	PANKAJ ADLAKHA v UOI W.P. (CrI.) No. 132/2019	25 LAKHS Passport in Supreme Court
4	ARVIND SEHMAY v UOI W.P. (CrI.) No. 222/2019	15 LAKHS
5	NAVIN PATHAK v UOI W.P. (CrI.) No. 240/2019	15 LAKHS
6	VYAS NARHARI SAPA v UOI W.P.(CrI.) No. 254/2019	25 LAKHS
17	SANJAY DUA v UOI W.P. (CrI.) No. 296/2019	35 LAKHS
18	AMIT BIR v UOI W.P. (CrI.) No. 115/2020	15 LAKHS
19	ROY JAGDISHBHAI v UOI W.P. (CrI.) No. 208/2020	15 LAKHS
10	AMIT BHARDWAJ v UOI	10 CRORE

	MA 2043/2022 in W.P. (Crl.) No. 304/2018	
11	MAHENDRA KUMAR BHARDWAJ v UOI W.P. (Crl.) No. 159/2019	1 CRORE
12	HEMANT BHOPE v UNION OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND ORS. W.P. (Crl.) No. 207/2019	15 LAKHS Passport in Supreme Court
21	SURINDER SINGH ALAGH v UOI W.P.(Crl.) No. 196/2019	15 LAKHS
14	AASHISH KUMAR DABAS v UOI W.P. (Crl.) No. 221/2019	15 LAKHS
15	GAUTAM KHANNA v UOI W.P. (Crl.) No. 241/2019	15 LAKHS
16	TEJINDER PAL SINGH @ T.P.S KALRA v UOI W.P. (Crl.) No. 238/2019	15 LAKHS
17	AKASH KANTILAL SANCHETI v UOI W.P. (Crl.) No. 259/2019	13 LAKHS
18	BALJEET SAINI v UOI W.P. (Crl.) No. 330/2019	15 LAKHS
19	PRADEEP KUMAR ARORA @ASHOK KUMAR @ BUNTY v UOI W.P. (Crl.) No. 357/2019	15 LAKHS
20	ASIF MALKANI v UOI W.P. (Crl.) No. 353/2019	15 LAKHS
21	ASHOK GOYAL @ ASHOK JAIPURIA v UOI W.P. (Crl.) No. 361/2019	15 LAKHS
22	BHAVESH KUMAR KARAMSHIBHA I BAGADIYA v UOI	15 LAKHS

W.P. (CrI.) No. 205/2020	
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- 6 Bearing in mind the magnitude of the controversy and all the relevant facts and circumstances, we are of the considered view that it would be inappropriate to entertain the Writ Petitions under Article 32 of the Constitution for the grant of anticipatory bail. However, considering that all the FIRs have similar allegations and are directed against Variabletech Pte Ltd, which had allegedly extended false promises on investment in Bitcoins, we are of the considered opinion that all these FIRs should be directed to be investigated by a common agency. We, therefore, deem it appropriate to direct the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate all these FIRs. During investigation, it shall be open to the CBI to club/consolidate any one or more of the FIRs. It is further clarified that in the event that charge sheets have already been filed by the local Police in connection with any of the FIR, this shall not preclude the CBI from conducting further investigation and thereafter file charge sheets or supplementary charge sheets, as the case may be.
- 7 The amounts deposited before this Court pursuant to the interim orders shall stand transferred to the CBI Court, Rouse Avenue, New Delhi along with the interest, if any, accrued thereon.
- 8 Any accused apprehending arrest in connection with the FIRs would be at liberty to approach the CBI Court for the grant of appropriate reliefs.
- 9 In view of the above directions, the interim orders which were passed by this

Court shall stand vacated, save and except for the direction for the transfer of the funds deposited in the Registry of this Court to the CBI Court, Rouse Avenue, New Delhi.

- 10 Wherever, passports have been deposited in the Registry of this Court, they shall be transferred to the CBI Court, Rouse Avenue, New Delhi.
- 11 The Writ Petitions and the Miscellaneous Applications are, accordingly, disposed of.
- 12 Pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

.....CJI.
[Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud]

.....J.
[J B Pardiwala]

.....J.
[Manoj Misra]

New Delhi;
December 13, 2023
GKA

ITEM NO.10

COURT NO.1

SECTION X

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

Writ Petition(s)(Criminal) No(s). 231/2019

AJAY BHARDWAJ

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

([THREE-JUDGE BENCH MATTER]

(IA No. 68575/2022 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION IA No. 127278/2019 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS IA No. 197643/2022 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS IA No. 105264/2022 - CANCELLATION OF BAIL IA No.45387/2022 - CANCELLATION OF BAIL IA No. 82439/2020 - CANCELLATION OF BAIL IA No. 90520/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 127279/2019 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. IA No.197646/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. IA No. 197640/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. IA No. 60640/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION IA No. 232846/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT IA No.197638/2022 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT IA No. 187812/2022 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT IA No. 70231/2022 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES IA No. 44710/2022 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

WITH

W.P.(CrI.) No. 547/2023 (X)

(FOR ADMISSION and IA No.227578/2023-EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 565/2023 (X)

(FOR ADMISSION and IA No.230803/2023-EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 557/2023 (X)

(FOR ADMISSION and IA No.229188/2023-STAY APPLICATION and IA No.229185/2023-EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 33/2019 (X)

(IA No. 49410/2022 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION IA No. 67085/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 146324/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. IA No. 67081/2020 - MODIFICATION IA No. 146322/2022 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 132/2019 (X)

(IA No. 16846/2022 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS IA No.95147/2019 - DOCUMENT TAKEN ON RECORD IA No. 74236/2019 - EX-PARTE STAY IA No. 16848/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 85395/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 58546/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT IA No. 85391/2020 - MODIFICATION OF COURT ORDER IA No. 85790/2019 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ ANNEXURES)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 222/2019 (X)

(IA No. 28509/2022 - DISCHARGE OF ADVOCATE ON RECORD)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 240/2019 (X)

(IA No. 132377/2019 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 254/2019 (X)

(FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 24153/2021 FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. ON IA 24156/2021 FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 159590/2021 FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. ON IA 159592/2021 FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 121637/2023 FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. ON IA 121638/2023 IA No. 24153/2021 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS IA No. 121637/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS IA No. 159590/2021 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS IA No. 24156/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. IA No. 121638/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. IA No. 159592/2021 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 296/2019 (X)

(164488/2019- APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, 76187/2020-APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION, 76191/2020-EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT) (FDR matter) IA No. 76187/2020 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION IA No.164488/2019 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS IA No. 76191/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 116/2020 (X)

(FOR STAY APPLICATION ON IA 46986/2020 FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. ON IA 46987/2020 IA No. 46987/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. IA No. 46986/2020 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 115/2020 (X)

(I.A 46809/2020-APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS I. A. 144833/2022- APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION(F.D.R matter) IA No. 144833/2022 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION IA No. 46809/2020 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 208/2020 (X)

(IA No. 71039/2020 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS IA No.80104/2021
- PERMISSION TO REPLACE THE PAGE)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 530/2021 (X)
(IA No. 165876/2021 - GRANT OF BAIL)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 107/2022 (X)
(FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 38103/2022 FOR ADDITION /
DELETION / MODIFICATION PARTIES ON IA 85256/2022 IA No. 85256/2022
- ADDITION / DELETION / MODIFICATION PARTIES IA No. 38103/2022 -
APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 96/2022 (X)
(IA No. 85251/2022 - ADDITION / DELETION / MODIFICATION PARTIES IA
No. 59663/2022 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING IA No. 36004/2022 -
PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 94/2022 (X)
(FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 35465/2022 FOR
ADDITION/DELETION / MODIFICATION PARTIES ON IA 85247/2022 IA No.
85247/2022 - ADDITION / DELETION / MODIFICATION PARTIES IA No.
35465/2022 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS)

MA 2043/2022 in W.P.(CrI.) No. 304/2018 (X)
(FOR impleading party ON IA 171549/2022
FOR INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT ON IA 171549/2022
FOR APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION ON IA 171924/2022
IA No. 171924/2022 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 171549/2022 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

MA 2082/2022 in W.P.(CrI.) No. 304/2018 (X)
(FOR APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION ON IA 185997/2022
FOR impleading party ON IA 185999/2022
FOR INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT ON IA 185999/2022
IA No. 185997/2022 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 185999/2022 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

Diary No(s). 40673/2022 (X)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 159/2019 (X)
(IA No. 49354/2022 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION IA No. 85910/2019 -
CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION IA No. 146329/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING
O.T. IA No. 146327/2022 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 207/2019 (X)
(FOR EX-PARTE STAY ON IA 112634/2019)

IA No. 112634/2019 - EX-PARTE STAY)

**W.P.(CrI.) No. 196/2019 (X)
(FOR EX-PARTE STAY ON IA 107830/2019)**

**W.P.(CrI.) No. 221/2019 (X)
(FOR DISCHARGE OF ADVOCATE ON RECORD ON IA 14360/2022)**

**W.P.(CrI.) No. 241/2019 (X)
(FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 132389/2019 IA
No.132389/2019 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS)**

**W.P.(CrI.) No. 238/2019 (X)
(I.A No. 132194/2019 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS)**

**W.P.(CrI.) No. 259/2019 (X)
(FOR STAY APPLICATION ON IA 141211/2019)**

**W.P.(CrI.) No. 330/2019 (X)
(FOR EX-PARTE STAY ON IA 177218/2019 FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
ON IA 177219/2019 FOR EXEMPTION FROM PERSONAL APPEARANCE ON IA
48607/2020 FOR EXTENSION OF TIME ON IA 64119/2020 IA No.
177218/2019 - EX-PARTE STAY IA No. 177219/2019 - EXEMPTION FROM
FILING O.T. IA No. 48607/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM PERSONAL APPEARANCE
IA No. 64119/2020 - EXTENSION OF TIME)**

**W.P.(CrI.) No. 357/2019 (X)
(FOR EX-PARTE STAY ON IA 191565/2019 FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
ON IA 191574/2019 FOR EXEMPTION FROM PERSONAL APPEARANCE ON IA
60438/2020 FOR APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION ON IA 60556/2020 IA No.
60556/2020 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION IA No. 191565/2019 - EX-
PARTE STAY IA No. 191574/2019 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. IA No.
60438/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM PERSONAL APPEARANCE)**

**W.P.(CrI.) No. 353/2019 (X)
(FOR EX-PARTE STAY ON IA 191192/2019 FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
ON IA 191193/2019 FOR EXEMPTION FROM PERSONAL APPEARANCE ON IA
60434/2020 FOR PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/
ANNEXURES ON IA 80475/2020 IA No. 191192/2019 - EX-PARTE STAY IA
No. 191193/2019 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. IA No. 60434/2020 -
EXEMPTION FROM PERSONAL APPEARANCE IA No. 80475/2020 - PERMISSION
TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)**

**W.P.(CrI.) No. 361/2019 (X)
(FOR EX-PARTE BAIL ON IA 193299/2019 FOR EX-PARTE STAY ON IA
193300/2019 FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. ON IA 193303/2019 FOR
EXEMPTION FROM PERSONAL APPEARANCE ON IA 60386/2020 FOR APPLICATION**

FOR PERMISSION ON IA 60553/2020 FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 90014/2020 IA No. 60553/2020 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION IA No.90014/2020 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS IA No. 193299/2019 - EX-PARTE BAIL IA No. 193300/2019 - EX-PARTE STAY IA No.193303/2019 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. IA No. 60386/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM PERSONAL APPEARANCE)

W.P.(CrI.) No. 205/2020 (X)

(FOR CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION ON IA 69886/2020 FOR PERMISSION TO REPLACE THE PAGE ON IA 80117/2021 IA No. 69886/2020 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION IA No. 80117/2021 - PERMISSION TO REPLACE THE PAGE)

Date : 13-12-2023 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Krishnan Venugopal, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Deepak Prakash, AOR
Mr. Pawan Kr. Dabas, Adv.
Mr. Kamal Singh Bisht, Adv.
Mr. Raneev Dahiya, Adv.
Mr. Nachiketa Vajpayee, Adv.
Ms. Divyangna Malik, Adv.
Ms. Merlyn J. Rachel, Adv.
Ms. Vishnu Priya, Adv.
Mr. Shyam Nair, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Lakhera, Adv.
Mr. Vardaan Kapoor, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Suresh, Adv.

Mr. Nagarkatti Kartik Uday, AOR

Mr. Ankit Verma, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Mishra, Adv.
Mr. S S Bandyopadhyay, Adv.
Mrs. Archana Kumari, Adv.
Mr. Ved Prakash Verma, Adv.
Mr. Ram Kishan, Adv.
Ms. Niti Singh, Adv.
Mr. Abhaya Nath Das, Adv.
Mrs. Barnali Basak, Adv.
Mr. V K Shukla, Adv.

Ms. Riya Soni, Adv.
Mr. Satish Kumar, AOR

Mr. Siddhartha Dave, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Jayant Mohan, AOR
Ms. Adya Shri Dutt, Adv.
Mr. Dawneesh Shaktivats, Adv.

Mr. Sriram Praakkal, Adv.
Mr. M.S. Vishnu Sankar, Adv.
Mr. Keshy John, Adv.
Mr. Subash Chaudhary, Adv.
Ms. Athira G. Nair, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Santosh, Adv.
M/S. Lawfic, AOR

Mr. Chayan Sarkar, Adv.
Ms. Anzu. K. Varkey, AOR
Mr. Karan Bindra, Adv.
Mr. Karanbindra, Adv.
Mr. Shailendra Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Sumeer Sodhi, AOR
Mr. Pratik Rajopadhye, Adv.
Mr. Yash Gupta, Adv.

Mr. Swastik Singh, Adv.
Mr. Atul Singh, Adv.
Mr. Mohit D. Ram, AOR
Mr. Anubhav Sharma, Adv.

By Courts Motion, AOR

Dr. Sushil Balwada, AOR

For Respondent(s) Mr. Raj Bahadur Yadav, AOR
Mr. Amrish Kumar, AOR

Mr. Shubhranshu Padhi, AOR
Mr. Niroop Sukrithy, Adv.
Mr. Jay Nirupam, Adv.
Mr. D.girish Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Chirag M. Shroff, AOR
Mr. Amandeep Mehta, Adv.
Mrs. Mahima C Shroff, Adv.

Mr. Nachiketa Joshi, A.A.G.
Mr. Yashraj Singh Bundela, AOR
Mr. Pawan, Adv.
Ms. Jyoti Verma, Adv.

Mr. Gopal Jha, AOR
Mr. Sachin Patil, AOR
Mr. Nishant Ramakantrao Katneshwarkar, AOR

Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR
Mr. Bharat Bagla, Adv.
Mr. Sourav Singh, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Krishna, Adv.
Mr. Raavi Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Raavi Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Yamini Singh, Adv.

Mr. Neeraj, A.A.G.
Mr. Piyush Beriwal, Adv.
Mr. Ankit Raj, Adv.
Ms. Damini Garg, Adv.
Ms. Anandita Aggarwal, Adv.
Mr. Vedansh Anand, Adv.
Dr. Monika Gusain, AOR

Dr. Joseph Aristotle S., AOR
Ms. Manju Jetley, AOR

Ms. Madhumita Bhattacharjee, AOR
Ms. Urmila Kar Purkayastha, Adv.
Ms. Srima Choudhury, Adv.

Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR
Mr. Himanshu Chakravarty, Adv.

M/S. Plr Chambers And Co., AOR

M/S. Gorkela Law Office, AOR

Mr. Mohit Mathur, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Kohit Mathur, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Karan Sharma, AOR

Mr. Harsh Gautam, Adv.

Mr. Siddharth Mittal, AOR

Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Mr. B. Krishna Prasad, AOR

Mr. D. L. Chidananda, AOR

Mr. Viresh B. Saharya, AOR

Mr. S.V. Raju, A.S.G.

Mrs. Aishwariya Bahti, A.S.G.

Mr. K.M. Nataraj, A.S.G.

Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR

Mr. Kanu Agarwal, Adv.

Mrs. Swarupma Chaturvedi, Adv.

Mr. Swarupama Chaturvedi, Adv.

Mr. Zoheb Hussain, Adv.

Mr. Apoorba Kurup, Adv.

Mrs. Ruchi Kohli, Adv.

Ms. Shradha Deshmukh, Adv.

Mr. Bhuvan Mishra, Adv.

Mrs. Rukmini Bobde, Adv.

Mr. Gautam Bhardwaj, Adv.

Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Raman Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Akshey Amritanshu, Adv.

Mr. B.K. Satija, Adv.

Mr. Manish, Adv.

Mrs. Sarica Raju, Adv.

Mr. Tadimall Bhaskar Ghowtham, Adv.

Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Adv.

Mrs. Shardha Deshmukh, Adv.

Mr. Vatsal Joshi, Adv.

Mrs. Nisha Bagchi, Adv.

Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.

Ms. Aakanksha Kaul, Adv.

Mr. Shyam Gopal, Adv.

Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.

Ms. Monica Benjamin, Adv.

Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.

Mr. B.k. Satija, Adv.

Mr. Diyanish H. Rathi, Adv.

Mr. Akshit Pradhan, Adv.

Mr. Shailesh Madiyal, Adv.
 Mr. Annam Venkatesh, Adv.
 Ms. Manisha Chava, Adv.

Ms. Pallavi Pratap, AOR
 Mr. Nischal Kumar Neeraj, AOR
 Mr. Ajay Pal, AOR

Ms. Kamakshi S. Mehlwal, AOR
 Mr. Lohit Kumar Bimal, Adv.
 Ms. Pallavi Parmar, Adv.
 Mr. Rinku Mathur, Adv.
 Ms. Gauri Goburdhan, Adv.
 Mr. Anand Prakash Yadav, Adv.

Mr. P.S. Sudheer, AOR
 Mr. Rishi Maheshwari, Adv.
 Ms. Anne Mathew, Adv.
 Mr. Bharat Sood, Adv.
 Ms. Miranda Solaman, Adv.

Mr. Kedar Nath Tripathy, AOR
 Mr. B. Krishna Prasad, AOR

Mr. Devashish Bharuka, AOR
 Ms. Sarvshree, Adv.
 Ms. Swati Mishra, Adv.

Ms. Pallavi Pratap, AOR

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

- 1 The Writ Petitions and the Miscellaneous Applications are disposed of in terms of the signed order operative part of which reads as under :

“6 Bearing in mind the magnitude of the controversy and all the relevant facts and circumstances, we are of the considered view that it would be inappropriate to entertain the Writ Petitions under Article 32 of the Constitution for the grant of anticipatory bail. However, considering that all the FIRs have similar allegations and are directed

against Variabletech Pte Ltd, which had allegedly extended false promises on investment in Bitcoins, we are of the considered opinion that all these FIRs should be directed to be investigated by a common agency. We, therefore, deem it appropriate to direct the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate all these FIRs. During investigation, it shall be open to the CBI to club/consolidate any one or more of the FIRs. It is further clarified that in the event that charge sheets have already been filed by the local Police in connection with any of the FIR, this shall not preclude the CBI from conducting further investigation and thereafter file charge sheets or supplementary charge sheets, as the case may be.

- 7 The amounts deposited before this Court pursuant to the interim orders shall stand transferred to the CBI Court, Rouse Avenue, New Delhi along with the interest, if any, accrued thereon.
- 8 Any accused apprehending arrest in connection with the FIRs would be at liberty to approach the CBI Court for the grant of appropriate reliefs.
- 9 In view of the above direction^{16s}, the interim orders which were passed by this Court shall stand vacated, save and except for the direction for the transfer of the funds deposited in the Registry of this Court to the CBI Court, Rouse Avenue, New Delhi.
- 10 Wherever, passports have been deposited in the Registry of this Court, they shall be transferred to the CBI Court, Rouse Avenue, New Delhi.
- 11 The Writ Petitions and the Miscellaneous Applications are, accordingly, disposed of."

2 Pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

(GULSHAN KUMAR ARORA)
AR-CUM-PS

(SAROJ KUMARI GAUR)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

(Signed order is placed on the file)