IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

W.P.(Cr.) No. 639 of 2026

Steel Authority of India Limited, Bokaro Steel Plant, a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 having its registered office at Lodhi Road, P.O. & P.S. Lodhi Road, District New Delhi, through its General Manager (Law) and Constituent Attorney, John Tapan Kongari, aged about 59 years, son of Late P.L. Kongari, working for gain as General Manager Law, (SAIL) having its office at Ispat Bhawan, Bokaro Steel Plant, P.O. and P.S. Bokaro Steel City, District Bokaro, Jharkhand.

… … Petitioner

Versus

1. The State of Jharkhand through Chief Secretary, having its office at Project Building, Dhurwa, P.O. Dhurwa, P.S. Jagannathpur, District Ranchi.
2. Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro, having its office Bokaro Collectorate, P.O. & P.S. Bokaro Steel City, District Bokaro, Jharkhand.
3. Sub Divisional Magistrate, Chas Bokaro, having its office Chas, P.O. & P.S. Chas, District Bokaro, Jharkhand.
4. Superintendent of Police, Bokaro, having its office at Bokaro, P.O. & P.S. Bokaro Steel City, District Bokaro, Jharkhand.
5. Officer-in-Charge, B.S. City Police Station having its office at B.S. City, P.O. & P.S. B.S. City, District Bokaro, Jharkhand.
6. Officer-in-Charge Marafari Police Station, having its office Marafari, P.O. & P.S. Marafari, District Bokaro, Jharkhand.
7. Officer-in-Charge Harla Police Station, having its office Harla, P.O. & P.S. Harla, District Bokaro, Jharkhand.
8. Officer-in-Charge Sector-IV Police Station Bokaro, having its office Sector-IV, Bokaro, P.O. & P.S. Sector-IV, District Bokaro, Jharkhand.
9. Smt. Sweta Singh, MLA Bokaro, wife of Mr. Sangram Singh, resident of Sector-III, P.O. & P.S. B.S. City, Bokaro, District Bokaro, Jharkhand.
10. Visthapit Apprentice Sang (VAS) through its General Secretary, through its Central President Niwaran Diggar, son of not known to the petitioner having office at rehabilitation area Tupkadih, P.O. & P.S. Tupkadih, District Bokaro, Jharkhand.

… … Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUJIT NARAYAN PRASAD

For the Petitioner : Mr. Indrajit Sinha, Advocate
Mr. Bibhash Sinha, Advocate
Mr. Rishav Raj, Advocate

For the Respondents : Mr. Jai Prakash, AAG-IA
Mrs. Omiya Anusha, AC to AAG-IA

03/Dated: 28th October, 2026

1. This writ petition is under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking therein the following reliefs: -

> *"(i) For issuance of an appropriate writs/orders/directions particularly writ of mandamus commanding upon the respondent no.1 to 8 to take immediate appropriate steps/measures to ensure maintenance of law-and-order situation at the Plant gates of the petitioner company situated at Bokaro by deploying adequate number of Police Personnel at all the gates of ingress and egress gates and around the township of the petitioner company at Bokaro including obstruction free supply/movement of essential manpower and services.*
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> *And*
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> *(ii) For issuance of an appropriate writs/orders/directions particularly writ of mandamus commanding upon the respondent no.2 and 3 to forthwith act upon the Petitioner's representation dated 15.10.2026 and to ensure immediate opening of plant gates of SAIL-BSL and further to maintain public peace and harmony at the Plant gates & premises of the petitioner company situated at Bokaro as there is imminent threat of complete blockage at the entrance of the plant premises which will cause destruction of company's properties and pose life threat to the employees working at the plant including the local inhabitants residing around the Plant Premise of the petitioner.*
>
> *AND/OR*
>
> *(iii) For issuance of any other appropriate writ(s)/order(s)/direction(s) as Your Lordships may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case."*

2. The writ petition was filed during the Puja Holidays (Durga Puja) based upon the urgency of closure of all eleven gates of the Bokaro Steel Plant, a subsidiary Unit under the control of Steel Authority of India Limited.

3. A motion was made for notification of the case during the closure of the Court due to Puja Holidays (Durga Puja).

4. Based upon the said motion, the Hon'ble Chief Justice had directed the learned Registrar General to notify the case to be listed before the Bench presided over by Myself (Mr. Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad, J.).

5. Accordingly, the matter was heard on 18.10.2026. The relevant part of the order which was passed on 18.10.2026 needs to be referred

hereinbelow taking the background of notifying the case in course of closure of the Court due to Puja Holidays: -

> ***1.*** *The instant writ petition has been notified for its hearing during ensuing Puja holidays. The Court is closed for Puja Holidays and is to reopen on 26.10.2026.*
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> ***2.*** *The background of notifying this case is that a letter has been sent by the learned counsel representing the Bokaro Steel Limited, a unit under the Steel Authority of India Limited by addressing the learned Registrar General of this Court that a situation of complete blockade has been created at all the gates of the Bokaro Steel Plant by the local MLA of Bokaro, along with agitators of the Visthapit Apprentice Sang (VAS). The situation was warranted due to their interruption caused in entry and exit of the employees, maintenance staff, raw materials, and essential supplies have been severely obstructed. These instances had created jeopardy in the continuous operation of the plant smoothly.*
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> ***3.*** *It has also been reported therein that the plant has never been shut down since its inception and that any forced shutdown, without the procedure of at least seven days, would risk the solidification of approximately 12,000 tons of molten steel in the blast furnaces, causing equipment damage running into thousands of crores of rupees, besides posing serious environmental hazards and potential threats to human life. It has also been pointed out that several portions of the plant constitute a restricted/protected area under the Bihar Gazette Notification dated 13.10.1969 and Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923.*
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> ***4.*** *The grievance of the writ petition is that even though the representation was made by the SAIL/BSL to the District Administration, Chas, Bokaro on 15.10.2026 but the same has remain unattended. The police and the local administration have failed to discharge their duty to maintain law and order.*
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> ***5.*** *The learned Registrar General of this Court, immediately after receipt of the said communication from Mr. Indrajit Sinha learned counsel representing the writ petitioner, has brought the same to the notice of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice by making out three proposals for consideration of the Hon'ble The Chief Justice.*
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> ***6.*** *The Hon'ble the Chief Justice has directed the learned Registrar General of this Court to constitute*

> *a Bench so that the appropriate consideration on the grievance of the content of the representation so made by the learned counsel representing the SAIL/BSL be made, thereby, the present Bench has been constituted by notifying the case for its hearing at 02:15 p.m.*
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> ***7.*** *The minutes of assignment is available on record along with approval received by the learned Registrar General of Hon'ble the Chief through WhatsApp."*

8. The Court had taken note of argument advanced on behalf of the petitioner that the Bokaro Steel Plant is having eleven gates and interruption has been caused by the displaced persons who have formed an Association, Visthapit Apprentice Sangh (VAS). Consequence thereof, the interruption occurred in production in the factory. The threat has also been caused in the minds of the employees both executive and non-executive cadre, who were to discharge duties and because of closure of the gates, they have been forced not to come out from the factory premises.

9. The consequence has been pleaded in the writ petition that what loss will be caused to the nation due to closure of the factory.

10. When the matter was taken upon on 18.10.2026, Mr. Jai Prakash, learned AAG-IA has appeared along with Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro and the S.P., Bokaro who have joined the Court proceeding through virtual mode.

11. The Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro had ensured to maintain the law and order in and around the factory premises so that there may not be interruption in ingress and egress of the employees, who were to discharge their duties inside the Unit. Such statement has been recorded by this Court, as would be evident from paragraph-24 of the order dated 18.10.2026, for ready reference, the paragraphs-24 is being quoted as under: -

> *"24. The Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro has reiterated before this Court not only once but thrice that the apprehension of disruption shall not be permitted to emerge. He has assured that all effective measures will be adopted to prevent*

any obstruction in the ingress and egress of employees and executives to and from the unit at the commencement and conclusion of their duty shifts. Appropriate measures will be taken to dispel any fear from the minds of the employees in the discharge of their official duties, thereby enabling them to enter the unit and thereafter return to their respective residences without apprehension."

12. This Court has posted the matter for today, i.e., 28th October, 2026 with a direction upon the Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro and the S.P., Bokaro to file an affidavit bringing on record the statement, which has been recorded by this Court on 18th October, 2026 as quoted and referred hereinabove.

13. The Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro, in pursuant to the order dated 18.10.2026, has filed an affidavit by serving copy thereof to the learned counsel for the petitioner.

14. The petitioner has also filed supplementary affidavit to bring to the notice of this Court that what consequence the nation is to face due to closure of the Unit, which has already been suffered by the petitioner by showing the total loss, as would be evident from the tabular chart in para-II of the supplementary affidavit, for ready reference, the tabular chart is being referred hereinbelow: -

"Assessment of loss on account of lower production on 17th and 18th October 2026

	Qty loss (Ton)	*NSR(Rs./T)*	*VC/TC(Rs./T)*	*Loss(Rs./T)*	*Loss in Rs.Crores*
BF Coke	*4537*	*39032*	*33144*	*5888*	*2.67*
Hot Metal	*19990*				
Crude Steel	*19296*	*48750*	*36206*	*12544*	*24.20*
HR Coil	*23368*	*59284*	*47384*	*11900*	*27.81*
Saleable Steel					

-HR Plate/Sheet	*1682*	*58876*	*50523*	*8353*	*1.40*
-Cr Saleable I/II	*1304*	*64048*	*56269*	*7779*	*1.01*
-Cr Saleable III	*1715*	*65575*	*58963*	*6612*	*1.13*
Total Loss	*47365*				*58.24*

15. In addition thereto, the consequences, both technical and operational, has also been highlighted in paragraph-(iii) of the supplementary affidavit.

16. It has also been brought to the notice of this Court that if continuing threat of re-assembly of the agitators inside the plant exists, then, the loss is gone to occur which will not be beneficial for anybody, rather, loss to the nation.

17. Mr. Jai Prakash, learned AAG-IA has submitted by referring to factual background that what led the Visthapit Apprentice Sangh (VAS) to agitate.

18. It has been stated in the affidavit that the grievance of the Visthapit Apprentice Sangh (VAS) is that even in spite of assurance given by the BSL to appoint 50 apprentices in a year, the same is not being carried on which resulted into agitation. He, however, has submitted that agitation which has been carried out to put hindrance in smooth functioning of the Unit, has immediately been taken care of by the Law Enforcement Agency under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro and the S.P., Bokaro.

19. It has been submitted that Section 163 B.N.S.S. was implemented in and around the factory premises and different gates of the BSL plant which was later on revoked considering the situation except the main gate.

20. It has been stated by referring to the statement made at paragraph-15 that all the gates were opened one by one on 18.10.2026, starting with the main gate (Gate No.1) at 5:00 a.m., without use of any police force.

21. It has further been stated at paragraph-16 of the counter affidavit that all the effective measures had been taken to disperse the persons assembled in an around the periphery of the plant, particularly in an around its 11 gates.

22. It has also been stated in the said paragraph that Gate No.1 had been opened and all the employees who were inside the plant had been allowed to go to their residences and other 10 gates had also been opened.

23. It has further been stated at paragraph-17 that all the eleven gates of the Bokaro Steel Plant were opened on 18.10.2026 and the entry and exit of employees, executive, vehicles and essential supplies is continuing without obstruction.

24. The further statement has been made at paragraph-18 that the District Administration, BSL management and the Visthapit Apprentice Sangh (VAS) had reached to an agreement on 21.10.2026 to end the hunger strike, which subsequently, was ended by the leaders of the displaced persons.

25. Mr. Jai Prakash, learned AAG-IA, therefore, has submitted that the grievance of the writ petitioner has already been redressed.

26. At this juncture, Mr. Indrajit Sinha, learned counsel for the petitioner assisted by Mr. Bibhash Sinha, learned counsel, has submitted that although, the agitators have been removed from the area in an around the plant but by referring to the pleading made in paragraph-16 of the writ petition, has submitted by highlighting that the issue of protest by the agitators had been reported to the District Administration, i.e., the Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro on 15.10.2026 itself but for 2-3 days, there was no action on their part, which resulted into loss, as has been reflected in the tabular chart at paragraph-15 to the writ petition.

27. It has been submitted that loss has already been caused to the extent of Rs.58.24 crores which is irreparable. If the District Administration

would have acted promptly, then, such loss would not have been caused.

28. Therefore, the submission has been made that henceforth, if any complaint is being made, in such a situation, then, it is incumbent upon the Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro having the Magisterial power also to act promptly so as not to cause any loss to the plant.

29. The aforesaid submission has been agreed by the learned AAG-IA, who in all fairness, has submitted that henceforth, if any such situation will arise and if any complaint will be made before the Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro, then, without adopting the dilly-dallying tactics, the Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro will act promptly so that there may not be any loss in the production.

30. This Court, having heard the learned counsel for the parties, based upon the stand *inter alia* taken in the counter affidavit, the statement of the Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro and now there is no hindrance in and around all eleven gates of the plant, as per the statement made in the counter affidavit, as also, the fair submission made by the learned AAG-IA that in future, in such a situation, there will be no slackness on the part of the Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro in handling the situation, is of the view that the instant petition needs to be disposed of.

31. Accordingly, the instant writ petition stands disposed of.

32. Pending interlocutory application(s), if any, also stands disposed of.

(Sujit Narayan Prasad, J.)

28th October, 2026

Rohit/-