



## HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

### WPIL No. 92 of 2024

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation

**Versus**

State Of Chhattisgarh & Others

### Order Sheet

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| <b>16/12/2025</b> | <p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>Heard Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Deputy Advocate General appearing for the State/respondents No. 1, 3 to 8. None appears on behalf of respondent No. 2.</p> <p>On the last date of hearing i.e. on 10.12.2025, it was informed by the learned State counsel that no new instance of poaching was brought to the notice of the respondent authorities and as such, the matter was directed to be listed in the month of March, 2026. However, this Court was constrained to prepone the listing of this case and directed it to be listed today as a news report has been published in Hindi Daily, Hairbhoomi, with a heading “बघवा पर शिकारी भारी, दो बाघ, एक तेंदुए की मौत, दो के</p> |

नाखून-दांत गायब!” and sub-heading “सूरजपुर वनमंडल में मिला टाइगर का शव, खैरागढ़ वनमंडल में पाया गया तेंदुए का शव, कानन पेण्डारी जू में बाघिन ने तोड़ा दम ” and in English Daily, The Times of India, with a heading – ***Tiger found dead in CG reserve, electrocution, poaching suspected,*** and sub-heading “***canines and claws missing from carcass***” and the ***Times Nation*** with a heading “***Key tiger corridor hit; poaching feared as big cat carcass found***”.

The aforesaid news report goes to state that discovery of a tiger's carcass in the Revti forest of the Forest Range, Ghui under the Surajpur Forest Division has caused a stir among forest officials. The dead tiger's body bore severe injury marks and missing teeth and nails, suggesting it was poached. Villagers who visited the Revti forest under the Bhaisamunda circle of the Ghui Forest Range were stunned to discover the tiger's carcass. The villagers informed forest officials about the incident. Upon receiving the information, officials ranging from the Ranger to the Chief Conservator of Forests, along with veterinarians, arrived at the scene to assess the situation. The tiger's carcass had swollen and decomposition had begun. Based on the condition, it is believed the tiger died 3-4 days ago. The tiger's body was injured. Deep marks of bites have been

found and the teeth and nails of the tiger are missing. A sharp weapon has also been found nearby which is suspected to have been used to remove the nails and teeth of the tiger. On the basis of the available evidence, the officials are prima facie suspecting that the tiger was hunted. In view of the hunting of the tiger, the officials have called sniffer dogs and experts from Guru Ghasidas Sanctuary and Kanan Pendari so that necessary evidence can be collected in this regard.

According to the news report, as of late evening, Chief Conservator of Forests Dilraj Prabhakar, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF Wildlife) Venkat Chellam, and other Department officials remained at the scene, awaiting the arrival of experts and sniffer dogs from Guru Ghasidas National Park and Kanan Pendari. Expert veterinarians were also present at the scene, but the tiger's carcass has not been tampered with. Preparations were underway to conduct a post-mortem examination only after the sniffer dogs and experts have examined it.

An elderly tigress, who was ailing for the past several years at the Kanan Pendari Zoo in Bilaspur district, finally succumbed to her injuries. Doctors were treating the ailing tigress who was more agile than other tigresses even in her sick state. Doctors have attributed the tigress death to old age.

Another report relates to Khairagarh. An adult leopard was brutally killed in the forest village of Banbod, located between Khairagarh and Dongargarh. Poachers took away its claws, nails, and jaw teeth which this case directly points towards organized illegal hunting. According to the information, the dead body of a leopard was found in suspicious circumstances on Monday morning in Kopenavagaon-Mudhipar area of Khairagarh Forest Division. The dead body lying on revenue land at some distance from the forest created panic in the entire area. After the villagers saw the leopard in a dead state on Monday morning, the Forest Department was immediately informed. As soon as the information was received, the Departmental staff reached the spot and inspected the incident site. Some suspects have been detained and are being questioned. The scene has been sealed and guarded by security forces. Given the seriousness of the situation, dog squads have been included in the investigation, and suspicious activity in surrounding villages is being monitored. The Forest Department has conducted a post-mortem examination of the leopard under wildlife protection regulations.

These incidents are very serious in nature and very recently, the learned State counsel had informed this Court that

no new instance of poaching has come to light.

As such, we deem it appropriate to direct the respondent No. 4- Principal Chief Conservator of Forest-cum-Wild Life Warden, Government of Chhattisgarh, to file his personal affidavit with respect to the above news item.

Let this matter be listed again on **19<sup>th</sup> December, 2025**.

Learned State counsel is directed to communicate this order to the respondent No. 4, forthwith.

Sd/-  
(Bibhu Datta Guru)  
**JUDGE**

Sd/-  
(Ramesh Sinha)  
**CHIEF JUSTICE**

Amit