

**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR****WPPIL No. 86 of 2024**

In the matter of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation

versus

State of Chhattisgarh & Others

Order Sheet

08/11/2024	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>Heard Mr. Prafull N. Bharat, learned Advocate General, assisted by Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Deputy Advocate General, appearing for the State and Mr. Vivek Sharma, learned counsel, appearing for respondents No. 4 to 6.</p> <p>Learned Advocate General submits that in compliance of the order dated 24.10.2024 passed by this Court, the Collector, Raipur, has filed his personal affidavit on 06.11.2024, which is on record. The relevant part of the same reads as under:</p>

“4. That, in compliance of the order passed by the Hon’ble Court dated 24.10.2024, the deponent respectfully submits as under:

a. That, the news item has been published in Dainik Bhaskar dated 24.10.2024 wherein it has been reported that after the immersion of the idols, the Kharun Pool (Kund) has not been cleaned and due to the debris, there is threat to the life of the children playing in the said Pool.

b. That, pursuant to the order passed by the National Green Tribunal and the directions issued by the State Government, the idols of Lord Ganesh and Goddess Durga are immersed in immersion pool (Visarjan Kund) which has been specifically constructed near Kharun River in Mahadeo Ghat, Raipur. The said immersion pool is a permanent structure and having dimension of 50 meters length, 30 meters width and 10 meters depth. That every year, the arrangement of tents, divers, drinking water and adequate lighting with the Police force are being made by the District administration at the time of immersion of the idols.

c. That, in order to efficiently manage the

	<p>immersion of Lord Ganesh idols, the officers and other staffs of Municipal Corporation, Raipur were deputed from 17.09.2024 to 23.09.2024 and this year also, total 1800 big idols and 5401 small idols of Lord Ganesh was immersed in the said pool. That, after immersion, the contract was given to the one contractor for removing the debris and other articles from the said pool and adjoining areas.</p> <p>d. That, for immersion of idols of Goddess Durga, similar arrangement was also made and the officials of the Municipal Corporation, Raipur were deputed from 12.10.2024 to 16.10.2024 and total 4600 Durga idols were immersed.</p> <p>e. That, after the immersion of the idols, the immersion pool (Kund) was emptied from 17.10.2024 to 22.10.2024 (total 06 days) and the waste water was sent to the Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP). It is submitted that for auction of remains after immersion, the bids were invited and on 24.10.2024 one M/s S.S. Infa-tech Solution was awarded the work order. The said contractor has lifted all the remains and has cleared the immersion pool (Kund) is duly treated in Chandandih</p>
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Sewerage Treatment Plant and the same is not poured directly in the Kharun River.

f. That, the cleaning of the Immersion Pool is complete and all the debris and the remains as well as the mud have been cleared. A copy of the latest photographs of the immersion pool taken on 29.10.2024 and 30.10.2024 is filed herewith as **Annexure A/1** collectively.

g. That, it is further submitted that, in Raipur District, there are total 2 Municipal Corporations namely Municipal Corporation, Raipur and Municipal Corporation, Birgaon and there are total 5 Municipal Councils and total 5 Nagar Panchayats. In all these local bodies, the idols of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Durga are immersed in the designated immersion pool/pond/place and after the immersion, the immersion places have duly been cleared by the respective local bodies. To demonstrate this fact, copies of the certificates given by the respective local bodies falling under District Raipur are filed herewith as **Annexure A/2** collectively.

h. That, the deponent respectfully submits

that from the aforesaid, it would be evident that after immersion, all the immersion places/pools/ponds falling under District Raipur have duly been cleared by deputing adequate manpower and engaging the agency for the same so that the unwanted incident does not take place.

i. That, the deponent respectfully submits that he being a responsible officer of the State, has the highest regard and respect for the lawful authority of this Hon'ble Court as well as its order and directions issued from time to time and is duty bound to adhere to and abide by the orders.”

From perusal of the above, it transpires that the idols which were immersed in the pond in question have been cleared and further photographs have also been annexed with the affidavit filed by the State and the Municipal Corporation has also filed a covering memo dated 07.11.2024 annexing the photographs and the copy of letter dated 29.10.2024 in this regard.

So far as the other Districts of the State are concerned, learned Advocate General submits that the

personal affidavit of Secretary, Urban Administration and Development Mantralaya, Government of Chhattisgarh is under preparation and the same would be filed by the next week.

In view of the submission made by the learned Advocate General, list this matter in the next week along with the report/affidavit of the Secretary, Secretary, Urban Administration and Development Mantralaya, Government of Chhattisgarh.

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

**Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice**