



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPIL No. 7 of 2025

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation Based On News Item, Published In Daily Newspaper Haribhoomi, Bilaspur Regional, Dated 09th January, 2025 As Under- Moolbhut Suvidhao Ko Taras Raha Kshetra Ka Paryatan Sthal Madku Dweep & Danik Bhaskar Bilaspur Aanchalik, Bilaspur Dated 09th January, 2025 As Under- Paryatan Sthal Madku Moolbhut Suvidha Se Joojh Raha.

... Petitioner(s)

versus

- 1** - State Of Chhattisgarh Through Chief Secretary, Mahanadi Bhawan, Mantralay, Raipur Chhattisgarh
- 2** - Secretary (Tourism / Culture) Government Of Chhattisgarh, Chhattisgarh Tourism Board, Raipur Chhattisgarh
- 3** – Secretary, Forest And Climate Change, Government Of Chhattisgarh, Mahanadi Bhawan, Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- 4** - Managing Director Chhattisgarh Tourism Board, Raipur Chhattisgarh
- 5** - Collector Mungeli, District Mungeli Chhattisgarh
- 6** - Divisional Forest Officer Bilaspur, Division Bilaspur Chhattisgarh

... Respondent(s)

Order Sheet

09/01/2025	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>The present Public Interest Litigation has been registered suo moto on the basis of a news item published on 09.01.2025 in Haribhoomi Regional Newspaper with a heading “मूलभूत सुविधाओं को तरस रहा क्षेत्र का पर्यटन स्थल मदकू द्वीप” and and sub-heading “शौचालय की सुविधा से वंचित हैं घूमने आने वाले लोग” and in Dainik Bhaskar Bilaspur Aanchalik Newspaper with a heading “पर्यटन स्थल मदकू मूलभूत सुविधा से जूझ रहा” and sub-heading “प्रशासनिक उदासीनता – बड़ी संख्या में पर्यटकों के आने के बाद भी जिम्मेदार ध्यान नहीं दे रहे”.</p> <p>Heard Mr. Y.S.Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the State/respondents.</p> <p>It has been reported in Haribhumi Regional Newspaper that Madku Dweep, which is an island located in Mungeli District, is not as merely island but also a major tourist destination of the State of Chhattisgarh. It is yearning for basic facilities due to administrative apathy. Madku Dweep is the land of penance of sage Mandukya and the</p>
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only river island of the State which is deprived of even the basic facility of a toilet today. It is not that there is no toilet here, three toilets were built by the Government on the island area but due to the toilets being kept locked, they are lying unused. Earlier when the State Government had sanctioned the budget for development work, the Forest Department constructed CC road, rest house, renovation work, grill installation work in forest, awareness centre and three units of toilets at different places in the island area, but since their construction, those toilets are locked till date. Due to lack of toilet facilities, tourists, especially the women, visiting the area have to face problems. Earlier, there was no drinking water facility for tourists, but the problem of drinking water has been solved to some extent after the installation of solar water tanks.

Two photographs in Haribhoomi and three photographs in Dainik bhaskar have also been published which shows a very pathetic condition as the place is full of garbage and wastes. It has also been reported in the news item that the said island which full of natural beauty has become a heavenly abode for the drug addicts and alcoholic people. Anti social elements often come to the said place

and throw the empty bottles of liquor either in the river or in the open places.

In the newsreport published in Dainik Bhaskar, it has been stated that though the number of tourists visiting the said island is quite good, but still the authorities are not taking any interest. The benches are broken, the faucet of the taps have been stolen by the thieves and despite making various requests to the authorities, no heed is being paid towards maintenance or betterment of the said place. In the month of February, a fair (Mela) of the people belonging to Christian faith is to take place in which people from different Districts would be reaching.

Shri Harihar Kshetra Kedar Madku island is located at a distance of four kilometers from Baitalpur on Raipur-Bilaspur National Highways. The road from Baitalpur to Madku Dweep has turned into potholes. A few months ago, the road was repaired, but the road has again turned into potholes. There is a borewell arrangement for drinking water in the Madku Dweep area, but due to low voltage and absence of all three phases, tourists have to wander here and there for water.

The version of Ram Singh Rathiya, Sub Divisional

Officer (Forest) Mungeli has been published who has stated that budget has been requisitioned as there is no fund for carrying out the repair works. Only after allotment of the funds, the repair works would be started.

Considering the aforesaid facts situation, the respondent No.5 i.e. the Collector, Mungeli is directed to file his personal affidavit with respect to the aforesaid news items published in Haribhoomi and Dainik Bhaskar newspapers.

As has been stated by learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the respondents-State that some funds were allocated for its beautification etc. way back in the year 2006 and 2013 and the public money which appears to have been spent has been wasted without completing the entire beautification and the learned Additional Advocate General also expresses lament with the situation.

The respondent No.2 i.e. the Secretary, Tourism / Culture, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur shall also file his personal affidavit with respect to the funds allocated to the tourist places of the State of Chhattisgarh for the maintenance and beautification including the place for which

the news item has been published in the aforesaid two newspapers i.e. Madku Dweep situated in District Mungeli.

List the matter on **28.01.2025**.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
JUDGE

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
CHIEF JUSTICE