

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No. 14706 of 2022

AND

W.P. (C) Nos. 19625 of 2015 and 9056 of 2013

W.P.(C) No.14706 of 2022

*Gita Rout*

....

*Petitioner*

Mr. Ashis Kumar Mishra, Advocate

W.P. (C) No.19625 of 2015

*Mrinalini Padhi*

....

*Petitioner*

In person

W.P.(C) No.9056 of 2013

*Balagopal Mishra and another*

....

*Petitioners*

None

-versus-

*State of Odisha and others*

....

*Opposite Parties*

Mr. Debakanta Mohanty, AGA

Mr. Ishwar Mohanty, ASC

Mr. Manoj Nair, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) &  
Chief Wildlife Warden, Bhubaneswar

**CORAM:**

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE**

**JUSTICE M.S. RAMAN**

**ORDER**

**13.12.2022**

**Order No.**

10.

1. Today's hearing has been advanced on account of a development that has caused deep concern. This is the discovery of a carcass of a poached male elephant, which took place around 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. The evidence of theft of the tusks was made to disappear by the burning of the carcass by Forest Officials of the Jenabil Range, Similipal South Division. The Court has been given a written status report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Joint Task Force stating *inter alia* that all they could find were few bones and flesh of the

animal from a waterfall/stream wherein the alleged burnt matter was disposed of by the said Forest Staff. It is stated that three Forest Officials have been placed under suspension by the Field Director (STR). The said report and the letters dated 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 placed today are taken on record.

2. Mr. Manoj Nair, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden (PCCF) is present in virtual mode. He states that he is right now stationed in Similipal itself to ensure the inquiry is taken to a logical conclusion. The Court has impressed upon Mr. Naik that it would like to be assured that preventive steps that were planned by Joint Task Force (JTF) are actually being put in place immediately.

3. An affidavit listing out the precise preventive measures taken will be filed before the next date. This will include the names of the “Gaja Sathis”, who are said to have been deployed and the map showing the elephant corridor routes in State of Odisha with the names of villagers that fall in and around the corridors. The affidavit will also set out the details of the FIR registered in connection with the above incident.

4. List on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2022 at 10.30 am. Mr. Nair will remain present in virtual mode on the next date.

**(Dr. S. Muralidhar)**  
**Chief Justice**

**(M.S. Raman)**  
**Judge**