

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK
W.P.(C) No.7118 of 2021

In Re Olive Ridley Turtles *Petitioner*
Mr. Mohit Agarwal
Amicus Curiae

-versus-

Principal Secretary *Opposite Party*
Mr. M.S. Sahoo
Additional Government Advocate

CORAM:
THE CHIEF JUSTICE
JUSTICE SAVITRI RATHO

Order No.

ORDER
31.05.2021

11. 1. This matter is taken up by video conferencing mode, in the Vacation Court.
2. The DFO, Rajnagar is present before this Court by virtual mode and seeks to explain the action taken in respect of the ten other pending complaints against the family members of the principal accused involved in the recent incident. However, the Court is not satisfied with the explanation given by the DFO, Rajnagar. In particular, there is no convincing explanation for the delay in taking a decision on granting sanction for prosecution in two of the cases still pending with him.
3. The Court is not also satisfied with the response given today by virtual mode by the Superintendent of Police, Kendrapara as

regards the follow up action on the past complaints as well as the progress as regards the most recent FIR.

4. This Court has impressed upon both Mr. Ashok Parija, learned Advocate General and Mr. M.S. Sahoo, learned Additional Government Advocate, that effective steps are required to be taken in a concerted manner so that there are tangible results as far as strengthening and enforcing the rule of law on the ground. Both of them have assured the Court that effective steps will be taken in this regard and will be reported to this Court on the next date.

5. Mr. Mohit Agarwal, learned Amicus Curiae, pointed out that the nesting period of the Olive Ridley turtles has come to an end as far as the present season is concerned. He has rightly pointed out that the other measures as noted by this Court in the order dated 15th March, 2021 should be implemented without further delay.

6. The Court directs both the Union of India and State of Odisha to file separate affidavits on the steps taken with respect to the implementation of the directions issued by the Court in its order dated 15th March, 2021 and the orders thereafter on the various aspects. The affidavits be filed by them on or before 19th July, 2021.

7. List on 3rd August, 2021.

8. As the restrictions due to resurgence of COVID-19 situation are continuing, learned counsel for the parties may utilize a printout of the order available in the High Court's website, at par with certified copy, subject to attestation by the concerned advocate, in

the manner prescribed vide Court's Notice No.4587, dated 25th March, 2020 as modified by Court's Notice No.4798, dated 15th April, 2021.

(Dr. S. Muralidhar)
Chief Justice

(Savitri Ratho)
Judge

S.K. Jena/P.A.

