

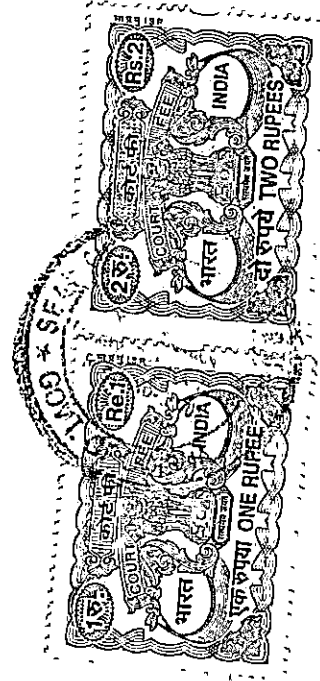
IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA: CUTTACK

W.P.(C) NO.14706 OF 2022

GITA ROUT ... Petitioner

-Versus-

STATE OF ODISHA & OTHERS ... Opp. Parties



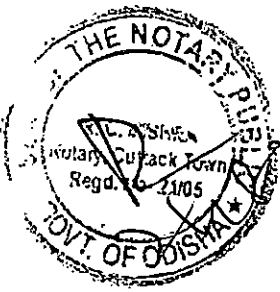
AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF OPPOSITE PARTY No.4 IN COMPLIANCE OF ORDER DATED 08.08.2022

I, Sunil Kumar Bansal, aged about 60 years, S/o. Shri Jyoti Prasad Bansal, working as Director General of Police, Odisha, Cuttack, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That I am serving as the Director General of Police, Odisha and am competent to swear in this affidavit in my official capacity.
2. That the present affidavit is being filed in compliance of the order passed by the Hon'ble Court on 08.08.2022, wherein this Hon'ble Court has passed the following direction:

"5. The Court considers it appropriate to call for an affidavit from the Director General of Police for his views as to how the problem should be tackled. In particular, how the

Sunil Kumar Bansal
(S. K. Bansal)
Director General of Police
Odisha, Cuttack



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investigations can be expedited, the accused arrested, the filing of the charge sheets and the conduct of the trials be expedited.”

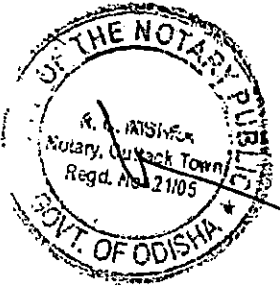
3. That in pursuance of the above direction, a High Level Meeting under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government of Odisha was convened on 17.08.2022, along with Senior Officers of Police and Forest Department.

4. That, after thorough deliberations, several decisions *inter alia* constitution of a dedicated Joint Task Force to undertake investigations pertaining to different cases of unnatural deaths of elephants in the State, were taken in order to tackle the menace in the State. The copy of the Minutes of Meeting dtd.17.08.2022 is annexed herewith and marked as Annexure-A/4. The details of the decisions taken in the high level meeting are as follows:

A. That, a Joint Task Force comprising officers from Forest and Police departments will be constituted to investigate different cases of unnatural deaths of elephants in the State. The Joint Task Force will work under the PCCF, Wildlife in his office. The Director General of Police, Odisha will provide required number of police officers of different ranks to act as members

Sud Kumar Ransal

(S.K. Bansal)
Director General of Police
Odisha, Cuttack



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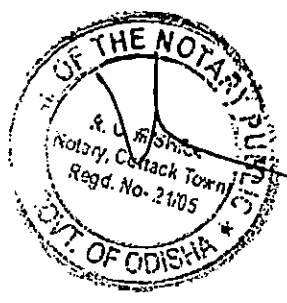
of the Task Force. The composition of the Joint Task Force will be decided jointly by DGP, Odisha and PCCF, Wildlife at the earliest.

- B. That, the Task Force will also look into the cases of poaching of Tigers and Leopards and illegal trade of Pangolins.
- C. That, the cases having involvement of inter-state gangs or overseas connection will be investigated by the STF of Crime Branch as is the practice now.
- D. That, in order to expedite the trials pertaining to wildlife offences, specifically cases of poaching, pending before the Trial courts, one Public Prosecutor in each district will be entrusted with the handling of these cases.
- E. That, the Hon'ble High Court will be moved to designate Chief Judicial Magistrate/Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate in every district to deal with wildlife offence cases.
- F. The State Govt. will take special measures to create awareness about protection of wildlife among all the stakeholders.

That, the Opposite Party craves leave of this Hon'ble Court to make further submissions and file further affidavits, in the

Sud Kumar Bansal

**(S.K. Bansal)
Director General of Police
Odisha, Cuttack**

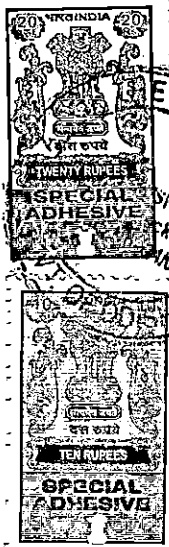


[Signature]

24/8/22

interest of justice and effective adjudication by this Hon'ble Court.

6. That, the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge, belief and based on available records.



Identified by:

Surendra Bhuyan
24/8/22

A.C. A.G's Office
Place: Cuttack
Date: 24/8/22

Smt Suman Bansal
24.08.22
DEPONENT (S.K. Bansal)
Director General of Police
Odisha, Cuttack

Certified that Cartridge papers are not available

[Signature]
ADDL STANDING COUNSEL

Solemnly affirm on in oath by the Deponent
at Cuttack on... being identified
by...
Advocate/Adv's Clerk/SC, AG'S Office/Notary
Personally, in the facts stated above are
true to the best of his/her knowledge.

RAMA CHANDRA MISHRA, NOTARY
CUTTACK TOWN, ODISHA, REG. NO. 102105


**Proceedings of the Meeting on the Protection of Elephants Held Under the
Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Odisha on 17.08.2022**

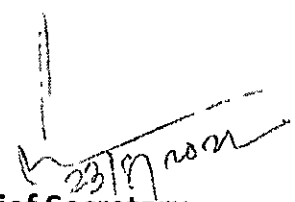
A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Govt of Odisha to discuss about the recent deaths of elephants in different districts of the state and devise a mechanism for their protection. List of the officers who attended the meeting is at Annexure-A.

After through deliberations the following decisions were taken.

1. A Joint Task Force comprising officers from Forest and Police departments will be constituted to investigate different cases of unnatural deaths of elephants in the State. The Joint Task Force will work under the PCCF, Wildlife in his office. The Director General of Police, Odisha will provide required number of police officers of different ranks to act as members of the Task Force. The composition of the Joint Task Force will be decided by DGP, Odisha and PCCF, Wildlife together at the earliest.
2. The Task Force will also look into the cases of poaching of Tigers and Leopards and illegal trade of Pangolins.
3. The cases having involvement of inter-state gangs or overseas connection will be investigated by the STF of Crime Branch as is the practice now.
4. In order to expedite the trials pertaining to wildlife offences, specifically cases of poaching, pending before the Trial courts, one Public Prosecutor in each district will be entrusted with the handling of these cases.
5. The Hon'ble High Court will be moved to designate Chief Judicial Magistrate/Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate in every district to exclusively deal with wildlife offence cases.
6. The State Govt. will take special measures to create awareness about protection of wildlife among all the stakeholders.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and participating members.

True Copy Attested.

Kumar Bansal
(S.K. Bansal)
Director General of Police
Odisha, Cuttack


23/8/2022
Chief Secretary,
Odisha

Annexure-A

Joint Meeting of Police and Forest Officials for containing the rising cases of Elephant Poaching

Members Present in the meeting on 17.08.2022 at 7.00 PM

Chief Secretary, Odisha	Sri Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, IAS
DG, Police	Sri Sunil Bansal, IPS
PCCF	Sri Shashi Paul, IFS
ADG, CID, CB, Crime	Sri Aarun Bothra, IPS
ADG, Headquarters	Sri R K Sharma, IPS
DIG, STF	Shri J N Pankaj, IPS
CCF	Sri Manoj Nair, IFS
CF	Sri Bikash Ranjan Dash, IFS
Addl Govt. Advocate	Sri Debakanta Mohanty
Addl. Standing Counsel	Sri Ishwar Mohanty

True copy attached
V
/ S. N. R. (M)
DySP - STF - BBSP