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HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPIL No. 19 of 2025

In The Matter of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation, Regarding News Item Published In Navbharat, My City, Bilaspur Dated 28th January, 2025, Namely, Sirgitti Mukhya Marg Par Sharab Bhatthi Bani Ji Ka Janjal

... Petitioner

versus

- 1 - The State of Chhattisgarh Through Chief Secretary, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, (C.G.)**
- 2 - Secretary Excise Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)**
- 3 - The Collector Bilaspur, District Bilaspur (C.G.)**
- 4 - The Superintendent of Police Bilaspur, District Bilaspur (C.G.)**
- 5 - Commissioner Excise, Bilaspur (C.G.)**
- 6 - Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur (C.G.)**
- 7 - District Excise Officer Bilaspur, District Bilaspur (C.G.)**

... Respondents

Order-Sheet

28/01/2025	This is an office reference. Heard Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Deputy Advocate General for the State/respondents. Also heard Mr. Ashish Tiwari,
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learned counsel, appearing on behalf of the Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur, i.e. respondent No.2.

This suo moto public interest litigation petition has been registered on the basis of a news report published on 28.01.2025 in Hindi Daily newspaper, namely Navbharat with a heading “सिरगिट्टी मुख्य मार्ग पर शराब भट्टी बनी जी का जंजाल” and sub-heading “यातायात नगर के एप्रोच रोड से हटाई गई शराब दुकान परन्तु सरगिट्टी मुख्य मार्ग से नहीं हटी शराब की दुकानें”.

The aforesaid news-report relates to the condition of the people living in the Sirgitti Tarbahar area of Bilaspur District. The liquor shop located at Sirgitti Tarbahar has become a cause of trouble for the people. On the one hand, said liquor distillery is being run by flouting the Government rules as the same distillery is located near the under bridge and there is a gathering of drunkards in the evening, due to which, the people commuting from there including women have to face a lot of problems. There was a demand to remove the said liquor distillery but it seems that nobody is interested in it. The Indian and English liquor distillery located at the side of the Tarbahar under-bridge has caused lots of problems to the people,

especially women, are facing a lot of problems because at times, some drunkards are seen behaving indecently with women and sometimes a situation of dispute arises there. If people are to be believed, the liquor distillery has been opened against the rules of the Government as compared to other liquor distilleries because the said distillery is at a mere distance of temple and also the residential complex.

A representation was made to the Collector requesting removal of the liquor distillery, but till date, neither distillery has been removed nor the problems of the people have been reduced.

An enclosure has been constructed inside the same liquor distillery, due to which people buy liquor and sit in the enclosure and consume it. The further problem is that the drunkards park their motorcycles on the main road, due to which a situation of congestion is being created on the road every day.

Looking to the aforesaid situation, at this stage, we deem it appropriate to direct the respondent No. 2 i.e. Secretary Excise, Government of Chhattisgarh as well as respondent No.5 i.e. Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur to file their

respective personal affidavits in the matter before the next date of hearing.

Let this matter be listed again on **6th February, 2025**.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice