



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPIL No. 14 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION **versus** THE
STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Order Sheet

01/04/2026	This is an office reference. Heard Shri Praveen Das, Additional Advocate General. Though the present PIL was directed to be listed on 15.04.2026, but a news report has been published on 31.03.2026 in Hindi Daily Newspaper "Navbharat", Bilaspur Edition, with a Heading that "जेल मे दस कैदियों की मौत से छत्तीसगढ़ मे बिलासपुर अब्बल" reporting Bilaspur as top in the State of Chhattisgarh with death of 10 inmates in Jail. It further states in the said News Paper that within a year, 33 prisoners have died in various jails at Chhattisgarh. Surprisingly, the highest number of these ten

death is from Bilaspur Central Jail alone. All these prisoners were sent to SIMS Bilaspur or Ambedkar Hospital Raipur when they fell ill. Their condition did not improve after treatment and they lost their lives. Postmortem reports for most of these prisoners have not yet been released. Some reports cite heart failure, kidney failure, or other vital organ failure as the cause of death of those inmates.

The state Home Department has released a report on prison deaths over the past year. It shows that Bilaspur Central Jail tops the list with the highest number of death i.e. 10, followed by Durg Central Jail, where eight inmates died in a single year. Furthermore, five inmates died in Ambikapur Central Jail, 2 each at Jagdalpur and Gariyaband Jail and one each at Dhamtari, Balrampur, Mungeli, Korba, Raigarh and Kanker. As per reports, one inmate of Durg Jail died on 27.02.2025, however till date no postmortem report has been received by Jail Department. Further, out of 33 total deaths, postmortem report of 22 jail inmates have not been received by the department. In some cases Magisterial Enquiry has been ordered.

It is further reported in the News item that National

Human Right Commission has requested a detailed report from the Chief Secretary and Director General (Prison) on death of jail inmates over the past two years. The Commission also questions medical facilities available for inmates.

Though the State counsel submits that the said news is incorrect, but considering the fact that it is a case of death of inmates of jail, we deem it proper that an affidavit with respect to news item published on 31.03.2026 be filed by the Director General (Prison), State of Chhattisgarh.

Accordingly, let the Director General (Prison) Govt. of Chhattisgarh, shall file his personal affidavit in respect of said news clipping dated 31.03.2026.

List this case on 15.04.2026.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice