

**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR****WPC No. 6307 of 2025****PRAMOD YADAV & OTHERS *versus* STATE OF CHHATTISGARH &
OTHERS****Order Sheet**

29.05.2026	Mr. S.C. Verma, Senior Advocate appears through video conferencing along with Mr. Pankaj Singh, Advocate, counsel for the petitioners. Mr. R.K. Gupta, Additional Advocate General for the State. Learned senior counsel for the petitioners would submit that the land which was allotted for the Police Station is a Oxygen Zone declared by the State Government, therefore, they cannot construct the Police Station as it may create hindrance for environment and will amount to damage trees also. This was vehemently objected/disputed by learned

Additional Advocate General for the State and would submit that this is not the notified under the master plan of the Raipur City as green land, but its a Oxygen zone prepared by the State Government. He would further submit that only 36 trees have been affected whereas they have already deposited Rs. 50,000/- towards the Hariyali Kosh managed by the State Government for the compensatory forestation as required under the notification issued by the Government in the year 2022.

The State has also placed on record the documents to demonstrate that demarcation of the land already has begun for construction of work.

I have learned counsel for the parties and perused the documents placed on record.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in **SLP(C) No. 25047/2018** decided on 08.02.2023 has directed in paragraphs 15 to 17 as under:

“15. The contest between development and environmental concerns is ever ongoing. While there is no doubt that ecology and environment need to be protected for the future generations, at the same time, development projects cannot be stalled, which are necessary not only for the economic development of the country, but at times for the safety of the citizens as well. No doubt that

the protection of environment and ecology are important. However, at the same time, it cannot be denied that human life is also equally important. On account of non-construction of ROB's, a number of accidents have taken place at Railway Crossings resulting in death of hundreds of human beings. The Report of the Committee itself would show that there is a congestion, on account of which, the construction of the project is necessary. They have given an alternative that instead of ROB's local over bridges can be constructed.

16. On account of the interim orders passed by this Court, the project has been stalled for a period of almost five years, it cannot be forgotten that every day's delay in execution of projects escalates their costs. At times, on account of delay in execution of such projects, their cost is multiplied.

17. On one hand, there is a necessity to protect the trees and in the event it is not possible to protect, to direct compensatory afforestation, and on the other hand, there is a need to have ROB's, which are part of Setu Bharatam Project."

In the light of observation made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and also considering the facts of the case, let the State clarify on the next date of hearing how they will carry out the construction of Police Station which is also necessary and essential for providing safety to the public at large preserving other trees implanted in the land and also specify in lieu of cutting 36 trees by the State how they will do plantation as per compensatory afforestation and also specify the plan of plantation with

the consultation of the Forest Department so that even during the construction newly planted trees will remain protected and shall not be adversely affected even at the stage of construction.

It is also expected that since rainy season is likely to be started very shortly, the respondent shall plan for plantation to be carried out in consultation with the Forest Department immediately.

Accordingly, it is directed that the construction work will be continued with the safeguards as directed by this Court in foregoing paragraphs.

Let this plan be placed on record by the State on the next date of hearing.

List this case on **9th July, 2026** for further hearing.

**Sd/-
(Narendra Kumar Vyas)
Judge**