

**31.07.2025****SUO MOTO****HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KULDEEP MATHUR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAVI CHIRANIA**

1. This Court yesterday i.e. on 30.7.2025 came across news items published in Rajasthan Patrika, Jodhpur Edition, a perusal whereof reveals that atleast two incidents of stray dog bite in last one week at various places in Rajasthan were recorded. These are just two news reports published in newspaper, however, there are many such unpublished incidents of the same kind and more severe in nature also.

2. This Court finds that not only Rajasthan Patrika, Jodhpur Edition but two other Hindi local newspaper, namely, Dainik Bhaskar and Dainik Navjyoti have also reported such incidents on regular basis. As a matter of fact, on 30.7.2025, the local Hindi newspaper Dainik Bhaskar published certain figures regarding dog bite, which is based on a report published by the Press Information Bureau, which is further based on the information given by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy in Lok Sabha.

3. The report as published by the Press Information Bureau gives alarming figures regarding dog bite cases in India. The said data reflects dog bite cases reported in State of Rajasthan for the period between January, 2022 to December, 2024 and also in the month of January, 2025. The figures as noted by us from the report are reproduced as under :-





DOG BITE CASES REPORTED BY STATES/UTS AT IDSP (FROM 2022-25)

State/UT	2022 (Jan-Dec)	2023 (Jan-Dec)	2024 (Jan-Dec)	2025 (January)
Andhra Pradesh	192360	212146	245174	23180
Assam	39919	94945	166232	20900
Bihar	141926	241827	263930	34442
Gujarat	169363	278537	392837	53942
Karnataka	163356	232715	361494	39437
Kerala	4000	71606	115046	11649
Madhya Pradesh	66018	113499	142948	16710
Maharashtra	393020	472790	485345	56538
Odisha	65396	92848	166792	24478
Rajasthan	88029	103533	140543	15062
Tamil Nadu	364435	441796	480427	48931
Uttar Pradesh	191361	229921	164009	20478

4. This Court further finds that the stray dogs and cows have created menace not only on the city roads but also on State & National Highways, which declares these roads as highly unsafe for the citizens. The incidents due to stray dogs, cows and other such animals have increased immensely.

5. The Government of Rajasthan in the year 2018 published a report containing data of ten years from 2009-2010 to 2018. The data specifically contains figures regarding the deaths caused in the State of Rajasthan due to stray animals, which are more than 185 in the year 2018. Though the accidents are increasing day by day due to stray animals but the consolidated data has not been reported by the State Government after the year 2018.

6. In our Society, dogs and cows are the common pets and also they are the common stray animals on road and that too in big numbers due to their uncontrolled growth. A large section of Society





loves to have dogs either as a pet in their homes or feed them on regular basis because of personal attachment to these animals or under religious belief. There are two segments in the Society; one which loves to have them in their houses or in and around and the other due to fear or absence of attachment or even otherwise did not like them in the society.

7. As far as having a pet dog, the owner is responsible for his control and safety while ensuring that it may not cause any harm to the people. The pet lovers also go for a regular vaccination and other precautions for not only safety of the pet but also of the people around them. But not all of them having a dog as pet in their houses are discharging their pious obligation of maintaining them properly and, therefore, they are found abandoned on the road, which causes menace in the society.

8. This Court is seriously concerned about safety and well being of the citizens, therefore, we cannot allow not only our city roads, State and National Highways unsafe on account of public menace created by stray animals, which includes dogs and cows but also sheep, buffaloes, goats and camels etc.

9. The Government and various Agencies through their reports have time and again placed certain datas of accidents and other damages caused due to stray animals, however, they are always under-reported. The reason for under-reporting is to reflect that this position is not alarming, whereas the ground realities are otherwise. The figures are under-reported so that the conduct of





Municipal Corporation, Municipalities and other Local Authorities may not come into question.

10. Various Central and State Acts apart from the Municipal laws provide for various measures regarding safety of the citizens on the roads while controlling the stray animals so that the human lives can be saved while parallelly protecting the animal lives also.

11. Shri Ayush Gehlot, Associate to Mr. Rajesh Panwar, learned Additional Advocate General appearing before this Court on behalf of Municipalities submitted that though time and again drives are initiated by the Municipalities to deal with the problem of stray dogs and other animals including cows etc., but their owners and so called animal-lovers many a time obstruct them in performing their duties. Their Officers and staff have also faced physical abuse and attacks.

12. Shri Ayush Gehlot also informed us that to prevent road accidents due to stray animals and for other reasons, State Government drafted Rajasthan Road Safety Bill, 2022. He further stated that various provisions have been made in the Bill to control the menace caused by stray animals not only on the road but also on the Highways.

13. He sought time to inform this Court as to whether the Bill has taken the shape of Act or not, on the next date of hearing.

14. Be that as it may, we find that the above problem needs immediate attention of the responsible Officers and Authorities. Therefore, we take suo-moto cognizance of the news reports of Dainik Bhaskar dated 29.7.2025; Rajasthan Patrika dated 30.7.2025





and Dainik Navjyoti dated 30.7.2025 and for the above reason we direct that let notices be issued to :-

1. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
2. National Highways Authority of India, Sector-10, Dwarka, Delhi.
3. Department of Urban Development & Housing, Government of Rajasthan, Food Building, Secretariat, Jaipur-302005.
4. The Director, Local Bodies, Government of Rajasthan, Secretariat, Jaipur.
5. Municipal Corporation, Inside Polytechnic College Campus, Residency Road, Jodhpur-342001.
6. Municipal Corporation, Jaipur.
7. Municipal Corporation, Jodhpur.
8. Municipal Corporation, Udaipur.
9. State Transport Department through its Commissioner.

15. Shri Ayush Gehlot, Associate to Shri Rajesh Panwar, Sr. Advocate and Additional Advocate General, accepts notice on behalf of respondents no.3 to 9. Shri B.P. Bohra, Assistant to Shri Rajdeepak Rastogi, Additional Solicitor General, is directed to put in appearance on behalf of respondent nos. 1 & 2.

16. Dr. Sachin Acharya, Senior Advocate and Ms. Priyanka Borana & Ms.Heli Pathak, Advocates are appointed as Amicus Curiae in the matter to assist the Court.





17. Ms. Priyanka Borana & Ms.Heli Pathak, Advocates present before this Court submit that they will make a detailed investigation/ study in the matter and will place the relevant material before this Court on the next date of hearing.

18. The Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority, Jodhpur is directed to pass a formal order of appointment of Ms. Priyanka Borana & Ms.Heli Pathak, Advocates as Amicus Curiae, who shall be entitled to get fee for their assistance being provided to this Court as per the Scheme of appointment of Amicus Curiae.

19. Registry shall place the matter before Hon'ble the Chief Justice for seeking registration of suo-moto PIL petition.

20. Registry is further directed to reflect names of Shri Ayush Gehlot and Shri B.P. Bohra on behalf of the respective respondents and Ms. Priyanka Borana & Ms.Heli Pathak as Amicus Curiae in the cause-list.

21. List the matter on 11.08.2025.

(RAVI CHIRANIA), J.

(KULDEEP MATHUR), J.

Sanjay Singh

