

**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR****WPPIL No. 12 of 2025**

In the matter of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation Based on News Item Published in Daily News Paper Navbharat, Bilaspur, My City, dated 17.01.2025 The News items as follows "Railway Ki Dono Sadak Puri Tarah Jarjar, Awagaman Khatare Se Khali Nahi Andekhi : Dhul Bhari Sadak Par Hanf Rahi Jindagi

... Petitioner(s)**versus**

- 1** - Union of India Thorough The Secretary, Ministry Of Railway, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi
- 2** - Government of Chhattisgarh Through Principal Secretary Public Works Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur (C.G.)
- 3** - General Manager South Eastern Central Railway New G.M. Building, Bilaspur Zone, Bilaspur (C.G.)
- 4** - Assistant General Manager South Eastern Central Railway Bilaspur (C.G.)
- 5** - Divisional Railway Manager South Eastern Central Railway Bilaspur (C.G.)
- 6** - Collector Bilaspur, District Bilaspur (C.G.)
- 7** - Commisioner Municipal Corporation Bilaspur (C.G.)
- 8** - Chief Engineer Public Works Department, Bilaspur (C.G.)

... Respondent(s)**Order Sheet**

17/01/2025	The present Public Interest Litigation has been taken <i>suo moto</i> cognizance by this Court on the basis

of the news item published in Hindi Daily News Paper namely, Nav Bharat, My City dated 17.01.2025 with a heading “अनदेखी : धूल भरी सड़क पर हांफ रही जिंदगी” and sub-heading “रेलवे की दोनों सड़क पूरी तरह जर्जर, आवागमन खतरे से खाली नहीं”.

The aforesaid news report goes to state that the road adjacent to the Bilaspur Railway Station has become a menace for the people of Bilaspur as its condition is very pathetic. The local people have many a times approached the authorities of the Railways, but they have turned deaf ears. Therefore, the commuters on that road as well as the residents living around the road are forced to live amidst dust. It has been reported that the road from Gajra Chowk to Sharda Mandir near Bilaspur Railway Station has completely collapsed. The big potholes visible from one end to the other on this road are screaming and telling the story of their plight. While the said road had turned into a pond during the rains, at present the dust flying behind the vehicles is disrupting the daily life. The condition is such

that 24 hours a day people are reaching the city or the Railway Station through this dusty road. There are not just one but countless big potholes on this road due to which people are forced to travel on this road risking their lives because not only the people of Nayapara but also the villagers of dozens of villages including Kormi, Basiya, Hardikala Tona have to travel on this road. For the last two years, the road has been damaged by the rain, but no one is paying any attention to the problems of the people nor does anyone care. Similarly, other roads in the Railway area are in same condition and the road going from Tarbahar gate towards Gajra Chowk is slowly deteriorating. The asphalt has been torn to pieces which is making the journey difficult for the people. These are the only two roads to reach the Railway Station from the rural areas including Sirgitti, but people avoid coming on this route. It has become a compulsion for the people to use these two dilapidated roads.

Along with the said news item, three photographs are also published with sub-titles that 'A layer of dust

accumulates on vehicles parked outside', 'People are scared commuting on road' and 'Mud in the rain and dust in the dry days is a compulsion'.

Besides the present case, another news item has been published in Daily News Paper, Haribhoomi, Bilaspur Bhoomi, dated 17.01.2025 with a heading "यात्रियों के लिए बने स्टेशन में मालगाड़ियां", and sub-heading "अधिक भीड़ होती है प्लेटफार्म 2 से 5 तक", regarding the inconvenience which is being caused to the passengers, who are coming to Bilaspur Railway Station, whereby in the Platform No.1, the Goods Trains are being allowed to pass whereas the Passenger Trains are being sent to other Platforms i.e. Platform No.2 to 5.

Registry is directed to tag the aforesaid News item also along with the present case.

Looking to the above facts and situation, it would be appropriate to direct the Respondent No.5 / Divisional Railway Manager to file his personal affidavit

with regard to the above two news items.

Let the matter be listed again on **29th of January, 2025.**

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice