

**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR****WPIL No. 69 of 2025**

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation Based On News Item, Published In Daily Newspaper Dainik Bhaskar, Bilaspur Bhaskar Namely, Hathiyaro Ka Khula Bazar - 100 Se 500 Rupaye Me Aasani Se Uplabdh Designer Chaku, Bhaskar Ke Sting Operation Me Khulasa, Paan Dukan Se Lekar General Store, Gift Shop Me Khule Aam Bik Rahe Button Chaku, Panch Va Khatarnak Hathiyar

... Petitioner(s)

versus

- 1** - State Of Chhattisgarh Through Chief Secretary, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur C.G.
- 2** - Director General Of Police Police Headquarter, Sector -19, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur C.G.
- 3** - The Inspector General Of Police Bilaspur Range Bilaspur C.G.
- 4** - Collector Bilaspur, Distt. Bilaspur C.G.
- 5** - Superintendent Of Police Bilaspur, Distt. Bilaspur C.G.

... Respondent(s)

Order Sheet

14.08.2025	This is an office reference. This suo moto Public Interest Litigation has been registered on the basis of a news report published in “बिलासपुर भास्कर” on 14.08.2025 with following heading; “पान दुकान से लेकर जनरल स्टोर, गिफ्ट शॉप में खुले आम बिक रहे बटन चाकू, पंच व खतरनाक हथियार” And sub-heading "हथियारों का खुला बाजार - 100 से 500 रुपए में आसानी से उपलब्ध डिजाइनर चाकू, भास्कर के स्टिंग ऑपरेशन में खुलासा". The aforesaid news report goes to state with regard to the easy availability of sharp weapons in <i>paan</i> shops, general stores, and gift shops which is contributing to an increase in stabbing incidents. The investigation disclosed that knives were readily sold in various locations, including Gol Bazar, without shopkeepers asking any questions. At one General Store, the team purchased three knives, including a
--------------------------	--

sharp and thin folding knife, after telling the shopkeeper they were for a school drama. The payment was made via UPI the shopkeeper's account. Similarly, at another Gift Shop, the team bought a folding knife and a button knife without any issues, making the payment to the shopkeeper's account. This easy access to sharp weapons raises concerns about public safety and the need for stricter regulations on their sale.

The news further states that on the name of kitchen knife and opener, deadly weapons are being sold openly.

From perusal of the aforesaid news report, it transpires that sharp weapons are easily available in local shops, such as *paan* shops, general stores, and gift shops, without proper scrutiny or any regulation. The news further reveals that shopkeepers are willing to sell knives to anyone, including minors, without asking questions or verifying the buyer's intentions. This lack of oversight and regulation can contribute to an increase in violent incidents, such as stabbing, and raises concerns

about public safety. Further, the news item goes to show that Bilaspur has witnessed an alarming and disturbing trend of stabbing incidents, with 120 cases reported in just seven months, resulting in seven fatalities and 122 injuries. Despite police efforts, the city continues to grapple with this issue, with incidents occurring due to minor disputes. The police have registered cases across various months, with notable incidents in Civil Line and Sarkanda areas. Furthermore, the easy availability of knives, both online and in local shops, exacerbates the problem. The authorities have taken action under the Arms Act, but a more effective strategy is needed to curb this trend. As such, stricter regulations and enforcement are necessary to prevent the misuse of sharp weapons.

Mr. Prafull N. Bharat, learned Advocate General along with Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Deputy Advocate General for the State/respondents states that even in online websites, various knives are being sold and the State has taken action for selling of such knives and further, so far as the shopkeeper whose photograph

has been shown in the above mentioned news item selling variety of knives is concerned, he prays for and is allowed time to seek instructions in the matter.

Since the Department of Police is directly under the control of the Home Department of the State, this Court deems it appropriate that the Principal Secretary of the Department of Home, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur, be impleaded as party respondent No. 6, who shall file his personal affidavit with respect to the above news item and steps taken to curb the selling of such knives easily.

It is ordered accordingly. Necessary incorporation may be done in the array of the parties within a period of three days.

Let the matter be listed again on **25.08.2025**.

The learned Advocate General shall communicate this order to the Principal Secretary, Department of Home, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur, forthwith.

Sd/-
(Bibhu Datta Guru)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice

Manpreet