

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH
AT JABALPUR

WP No. 19398 of 2026

(SUBIT CHAKRABARTI Vs UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS)

Dated : 09-07-2026

*Shri Anshuman Singh and Shri Prateek Rusia - Advocates for
petitioner.*

*Shri Suneel Jain - Senior Counsel/Additional Solicitor General with
Shri Suyash Mohan Guru - Deputy Solicitor General for respondent nos.1
and 2 (through Video Conferencing).*

*Smt. Janhvi Pandit- Additional Advocate General for the State-
respondent nos.3 to 5.*

Today, respondent nos.3 to 5-State filed reply/action taken report. The same is taken on record. Senior counsel for respondent-Union of India seeks four weeks' time to file reply.

2. Counsel appearing for State elaborates the steps taken in respect of preventing spread of Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) prevailing in Kanha Tiger Reserve. She mentions the fact that more than 2000 (around 2500) dogs have been vaccinated and suitable measures have been taken to check the disease. According to her, now the tigers are more or less safe. The departments are constantly watching the movements and their well being.

3. Counsel for petitioner refers judgment of Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India, 2025 SCC Online SC 2460, and refers certain directions issued by Hon'ble Apex Court in para 50, especially in para 50.3.3. According to counsel for petitioner, adequate staff

is required to be posted at different national parks to take care of wildlife prevailing into. It is further submitted that Human Resources Development for Tiger Reserves is need of the hour so that the issues raised can be addressed. He refers different directions issued by Hon'ble Apex Court in this regard.

4. One issue raised by counsel for petitioner is regarding funding pattern. According to him, Central Government has to disburse more funds and allocate to the State Government for maintenance of Tiger Reserves. It is not a question of only Kanha Tiger Reserve but eight other Tiger Reserves also in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Since the State of Madhya Pradesh is a "Tiger State", therefore focus is required accordingly.

5. At this stage, counsel for petitioner refers to the earlier direction given by this Court for plantation of 25 saplings and submits that the said direction is complied with. 25 saplings have been planted in the new campus of M.P. State Judicial Academy.

6. Compliance/gesture is appreciated in the interest of environment/wildlife.

7. Senior counsel for respondent nos.1 and 2 seeks four weeks' time to file reply and to take appropriate remedial measures in this regard, as directed by Hon'ble Apex Court.

8. Considering the submissions, it is expected that respondents shall rise to the occasion and will keep vigilance over all Tiger Reserves and whenever and wherever vaccination is required, said drive be undertaken so that the cat family be saved from onslaught of such natural/health calamities.

9. List this matter in the week commencing 17.8.2026 for further orders.

(ANAND PATHAK)
JUDGE

(B. P. SHARMA)
JUDGE

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