



CGHC010203582017

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR**WPPIL No. 37 of 2017**Kamal Kumar Dubey (Died) Through Lrs **versus** Union of India and others**WPPIL/67/2017****Order Sheet**

29-07-2026	Heard Mr. Ashish Shrivastava, learned Senior Advocate along with Mr. Rahul Ambast, learned counsel for petitioners in WPPIL No. 37/2017 as well as Mr. Sudeep Shrivastava, learned counsel for petitioners in WPPIL No. 67/2017. Also heard Mr. Suraj Patel on behalf of Mr. Shobhit Mishra, learned counsel for Indigo Airlines, Mr. Anumeh Shrivastava for Airport Authority of India, Mr. Shobhit Koshta, learned counsel for Alliance Air (Air India), Mr. Praveen Das, learned Additional Advocate General for the State and Mr. Ramakant Mishra, learned Deputy Solicitor General with Ms. Anmol Sharma, learned CGC for Union of India. In compliance of the Courts order dated 20.04.2026, the Director, Directorate of Aviation, Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Mahanadi Bhawan, Mantralaya, Capital

Complex, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar, Distirct Raipur (CG.) has filed affidavit dated 24.07.2026, relevant part of which is as under:-

“2. It is respectfully submitted that, as regards the defence land admeasuring 290.80 acres at villages Tilsara and Rehangji, District Bilaspur, required for upgradation of Bilaspur Airport: the handing/taking over of physical possession was completed on 06.04.2026 between the representatives of the Local Military Authority, Raipur, the Defence Estates Officer, Jabalpur and the Collector, Bilaspur, and a Memorandum of Understanding for the handing and taking over of the said land was executed on 06.04.2026, upon payment of Rs. 50,64,48,908.18 (Rupees Fifty Crore Sixty-Four Lakh Forty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Eight and Paise Eighteen only) to the Ministry of Defence. Copies of the Handing/Taking Over Certificate dated 06.04.2026, the Memorandum of Understanding dated 06.04.2026 and the plan of the transferred land are filed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE A/1 (COLLY)**.

3. That, as regards the sanctioned development works at Bilaspur Airport, the progress is as under: —

(a) Extension of Apron — The civil work was completed on 28.12.2025, and a completion certificate has been issued by the Public Works Department (B/R) Division No. 1, Bilaspur, (**ANNEXURE A/2**). The associated electrical work is presently in progress, while the tender process for bay design and marking is underway.

	(b) Construction of boundary wall on the Airport Perimeter— Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) No. 005/TC/26-27 was issued on 02.04.2026. The tender has been accepted, and the execution of the contract is presently under process by the Public Works Department. (c) Asphaltting of the Perimeter Roads — Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) No. 1076/TC was issued, and the tender has been accepted. The execution of the contract is presently under process by the Public Works Department. (d) Runway Re-carpeting — The first tender call, vide Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) No. 941/TC/25-26, was cancelled as only a single bid was received. Thereafter, a second tender call was published vide NIT No. 513/TC/26-27 dated 17.06.2026. The bids were scheduled to be opened shortly, and the tender is presently under finalisation. A copy of the status memo bearing No. 4904/Works/26-27 dated 15.07.2026 issued by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department (B/R) Division No. 1, Bilaspur, along with copies of the aforesaid NITs, is filed herewith and marked as <u>ANNEXURE A/3 (Colly.)</u>. 4. It is respectfully submitted that, with regard to manpower, in furtherance of the recruitment process reported in the affidavit dated 16.04.2026 (Advertisement No. 303/BDKAB/नो.अधि./2025-26 dated 03.12.2025), appointment letters have been issued for the posts of Chief Security Officer, Assistant Executive
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	and Accountant. The selected candidates are expected to join their respective posts by 01.08.2026. Further, approximately 85 police personnel, under the supervision of the Chief Aerodrome Security Officer (CASO), have been deployed for the security of the airport, including the entry points, terminal building, security hold area, vehicle gate, main gate, the entire airport perimeter, and other vital installations. 5. That, as regards the operationalisation of the upgraded 3C All-Weather (IFR) licence granted by the DGCA vide order dated 06.02.2026, it is respectfully submitted that all the conditions stipulated therein stand duly complied with. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the preventive maintenance schedule for the electrical and visual aids have already been put in place, and the manpower assessment with reference to the expected flight operations has also been completed. Further, the aerodrome information relating to Bilaspur Airport has been promulgated through the e-AIP (Electronic Aeronautical Information Publication) vide Supplement No. 185/2024 dated 25.07.2024, thereby disseminating the upgraded 3C IFR status of Bilaspur Airport to the aviation community across the country. It is further submitted that the Instrument Flight Procedure (RNP Approach for Runway 35) has been approved by the DGCA vide Letter No. ANSS/2024/IFP/Bilaspur Airport/VEBU/RNP RWY35 Procedure/002362 dated 09.07.2024. The airport is equipped with Aeronautical Ground Lights (AGL) and SAPL facilities for night operations. In fact, two night
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	operations were successfully conducted on 20.05.2026 and 17.06.2026. At present, Alliance Air is operating late-evening flights, with scheduled landing at about 19:30 hours and departure at about 19:55 hours. Copies of the DGCA approval dated 09.07.2024 and the e-AIP Supplement are filed herewith and collectively marked as <u>ANNEXURE A/4 (Colly.)</u>. 6. It is respectfully submitted that, as regards the food and beverage outlet in the Security Hold Area of the terminal building, the approval of the floor plan for business establishments/concessionaires in the Security Restricted Area of the airport has been received from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security vide letter File No. Floor Plan/Raipur Airport/2025/BCAS (E-285188) dated 09.06.2026; the License Agreement with the concessionaire, M/s Black Diamond Restaurants Pvt. Ltd., has been executed vide Agreement No. 02/BDK Airport/Agreement/F&B/SHA/BSP/2026-27 signed on 16.06.2026; and the outlet has become commercially operational on 22.06.2026, having been inaugurated by the Regional Director, BCAS. Copies of the BCAS approval, the agreement and photographs of the functional outlet are filed herewith and marked as <u>ANNEXURE A/5 (colly)</u>. 7. That, the State Government is making earnest and continuous efforts to persuade the Airports Authority of India to take over Bilaspur Airport for its operation, management, and further development. In continuation of the earlier requests made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister vide Letter No. 2777 dated 12.12.2025 and
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	Letter No. FINACC-3602/1686/2025 dated 11.02.2026, the Secretary (Aviation), Government of Chhattisgarh, has issued a detailed reminder to the Chairman, Airports Authority of India vide Letter No. ESTB/10248/2025/471 dated 14.07.2026, requesting the Airports Authority of India to take over Bilaspur Airport at the earliest. A copy of the aforesaid letter dated 14.07.2026 is filed herewith and marked as <u>ANNEXURE A/6</u>. 8. That, as regards scheduled flight operations, Alliance Air continues to operate flights from Bilaspur Airport under the CG-VAYU Scheme of the State Government, providing connectivity to Delhi, Kolkata, Prayagraj and Ambikapur. The airport possesses the requisite infrastructure and slot capacity to cater to the operational requirements of any scheduled airline. However, no other scheduled airline operator has, as yet, evinced interest in commencing commercial operations from/to Bilaspur Airport. It is respectfully submitted that the State Government is extending financial support to the existing flight operations by providing Viability Gap Funding under the CG-VAYU Scheme and has disbursed an amount exceeding Rs. 53 crore to Alliance Air for the period from March, 2024 till date. Further, with a view to encouraging additional commercial flight operations from Bilaspur Airport, the Director, Directorate of Aviation, Government of Chhattisgarh, has, vide Letter No. DoA/Commercial Operation/2026-495 dated 20.07.2026, formally invited six scheduled
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	airline operators, namely, Air India, IndiGo (InterGlobe Aviation Ltd.), SpiceJet, Akasa Air, Star Air and FLY91, to evaluate the operational feasibility of commencing commercial flight services from Bilaspur Airport. A copy of the aforesaid letter dated 20.07.2026 is filed herewith and marked as <u>ANNEXURE A/7</u>. 9. It is respectfully submitted that, the State Government has, till 30.06.2026, spent approximately Rs. 106 crore on the development, maintenance and operation of Bilaspur Airport. The State Government has paid more than Rs. 52 crore as Viability Gap Funding to Alliance Air for the period from March 2024 till date. This is in addition to the sum of Rs. 50,64,48,908.18 paid to the Ministry of Defence for the 290.80 acres of land as stated hereinabove. 10. That the Collector, Bilaspur has been regularly inspecting the airport to oversee the works and the maintenance of passenger amenities; inspections were carried out on 05.01.2026, 26.01.2026, 28.02.2026, 29.03.2026, 15.05.2026 and 14.06.2026, and the observations made therein have been attended to. Copies of the inspection reports are filed herewith and marked as <u>ANNEXURE A/8 (colly)</u>. 11. It is respectfully submitted that the State Government is committed to the expeditious development and full operationalisation of Bilaspur Airport and to full compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Court, and further progress in the matter shall be duly reported to this Hon'ble Court."
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It is stated by the learned counsel for petitioners that the public utility building is still under construction.

The Chief Secretary shall take personal attention with respect to public utility building which is outside the terminal and under construction and all efforts shall be made to get it constructed within a period of three months.

The Director, Directorate of Aviation, Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Mahanadi Bhawan, Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh is directed to file his personal affidavit informing further progress in the matter by the next date of hearing.

It has been informed that yet respondent No.2/ Airport Authority of India has not responded the letters issued by the State, which are mentioned in paragraph No.7 of the above affidavit dated 24.07.2026 filed by the State.

In view of the above, respondent No.2/Airport Authority of India is directed to file affidavit informing that what specific steps have been taken in pursuant to the letter dated 12.12.2025 and 11.02.2026 issued by the State.

Let the matter be again listed on 24.08.2026.

Sd/-

(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-

(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice