

31.01.2022.
Court No.13
Item No. 18
ap

**W.P.A. No. 1352 of 2022
(Through Video Conference)**

**Sri Rakesh Kumar Singh
Versus
Director, Alipore Zoological Garden & Ors.**

Mr. Billwadal Bhattacharyya,
Mr. Suryaneel Das,
Mr. Anish Kumar Mukherjee,
Mr. Amrit Sinha,
Mr. Surojit Saha.

...For the petitioner.

Mr. S. N. Mookherjee, Id. Advocate General,
Mr. Anirban Ray, Id. Government Pleader,
Mr. Amitesh Banerjee, Id. Sr. Standing Counsel,
Ms. Chaitali Bhattacharya,
Mr. Raja Saha,
Mr. Kartick Kapas.

..For the State.

Ms. Sreyashee Biswas.

...For the respondent no.1.

Mr. Srijib Chakraborty.

....For the Intervenor.

Affidavit-of-service filed in Court today by the
Counsel for the petitioner be taken on record.

The issue concerns the Kolkata Zoological
Garden maintained by the Government of India. On
24th January, 2022 about 600-700 persons are stated
to have forcefully entered the Zoo premises.

The Zoo was not open for the public due to the
Corona Pandemic.

Admittedly there are about 80 permanent
employees in the Zoo and about 130 temporary
employees in the Alipore Zoo. There is only one Trade
Union having 74 members called "Kolkata Zoological

Garden Employees Association". The majority members are affiliated to one political party as confirmed by the Zoo Authorities. Counsel for the State disputes the same.

Upon receiving information of a likely attack by the rival political group to take over the Employees Trade Union, the petitioner and the employees warned the Management and Police but in vain.

It is submitted that on the fateful date, a group of about 600-700 persons some of them with firearms and weapons, barged into the Alipore Zoo primarily through its main gate after breaking open its padlocks. Others jumped in over the surrounding walls. It is further submitted that as on date, zoo of such trespassers are still available and found inside the Zoo premises and are staying illegal threat.

Counsel for the Zoo Administration confirmed that in view of Pandemic, the Zoo is functioning only with about 50% staff.

This Court is inclined to know from the police as to steps taken pursuant to the complaints received, inter alia, from the petitioner, the Zoo Management on the adjourned date, and one Poonam Thapa.

The Director of Zoo, shall inspect the entire Zoo premises today and tomorrow and submit a report of what he sees including the outsiders. All such

outsiders shall be identified, from the regular employees.

The video footage of CC TV Camera, from 23rd January, 2022 till 28th January, 2022 shall be examined and a detailed report shall be submitted by the Police. A separate report shall also come from the Zoo Management after scrutiny of the CC TV Footage at their end. The CCTV Footage of police of 24th January, 2022, shall be made available in an unedited appropriate medium to the Zoo Authority by the Alipore/Watgunge Police.

The reports and comments of the Zoo Authority shall be based not only on the footage received from the police but also from the footage of their own sources as available.

Needless to mention that Alipore and Watgunge Police Stations shall ensure that there is no breach of peace and shall attend to any request or complaint made in that regard.

Let the report as above be placed before this Court day after tomorrow (02.02.2022) at 11:00 A.M.

All parties shall act on the server copy of this order duly downloaded from the official website of this Court.

(Rajasekhar Mantha, J.)

