

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD
R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) (WRIT PETITION (PIL)) NO. 6 of
2023

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AMIT MANIBHAI PANCHAL
Versus
STATE OF GUJARAT & ORS.

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Appearance:

MR AMIT M. PANCHAL as PARTY IN PERSON(5000) for the
Applicant(s) No. 1
MS DEVANGI SOLANKI, AMICUS CURIAE
MR KAMAL TRIVEDI, ADVOCATE GENERAL with MR VINAY
BAIRAGRA, AGP for the Opponent(s) No. 1,3,4
MR MITESH AMIN, SR. ADVOCATE with MR HS MUNSHAW(495)
for the Opponent(s) No. 5
SIDDHANT R SHAH(8722) for the Opponent(s) No. 6
MS MANISHA L. SHAH, SR. ADVOCATE with SIDDHARTH S
RAMI(8342) for the Opponent(s) No. 8,9
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CORAM: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MRS. JUSTICE
SUNITA AGARWAL
and
HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE D.N. RAY

Date : 21/11/2025

ORAL ORDER
(PER : HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
MRS. JUSTICE SUNITA AGARWAL)

1. In compliance of the order dated 12.09.2025, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) have placed on record the initiatives taken by them to curtail and eliminate use of single-use plastic including prohibition on the use, sale and distribution thereof, as also for recycling plastic waste.

2. The circulars/orders issued by the AMC banning the

single-use plastic commodities including items made of polystyrene and expanded polystyrene with effect from 01.07.2022 have been placed on record. It is stated that Zonal Enforcement Squad comprising of the officers of the AMC has been assigned dedicated task of identifying, apprehending and confiscating the prohibited plastic products, which has resulted in issuance of 105561 notices, collection of fine of Rs. 3,04,67,383/-, seized plastic material of 6132.11 kg. between January 2025 to October 2025. Approx 16149 units have been sealed between the said period.

3. It is stated in the affidavit that cloth vending and bottle crushing machines have been installed at seven locations in the city of Ahmedabad and the description has been given of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) installed at various locations within Ahmedabad city, door to door distribution of cloth bags coupled with public awareness drive titled "My Thaili Abhiyan" by AMC.

4. During the course of deliberation, the GPCB has reported the initiatives taken by it such as installation of 250+ cloth bag vending machines at public places, such as vegetable markets, gardens and hospitals, resulting in the distribution of over 1.50 lakh cloth bags. About 2.27 lakh plastic bottles have been recovered and crushed with installation of 30+ plastic bottle reverse vending machines with CSR and industry support. 107 tones of waste plastic paper and RDF waste has been collected along three routes during Ambaji Padyatra-Swachh Paryavaran Yatra-2025. 10,000 reusable steel bottles have been distributed in

exchange of 1,10,250 used plastic bottles (1 steel bottle in exchange of 10 used plastic bottles). Around 1,35,400 plastic bottles have been recovered through 21 reverse vending machines installed at different camps in Yatrathams and 2500 cloth bags have been distributed.

5. To strengthen the monitoring of plastic waste management, the GPCB has developed a portal "Pratigya Portal", which enables real time tracking of ULB-wise plastic waste collection, progress of single-use plastic ban enforcement drive and plastic waste processors. The GPCB in collaboration with corporate partners and local NGOs, has launched a pilot initiative to make sabji mandi (Motera) and CTM market in Ahmedabad, plastic free zones. The AMC and GPCB, both have submitted that they are committed with sustained efforts for the structured implementation of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

6. While the efforts made by the AMC and GPCB are to be applauded, there is a consistent requirement to take up certain more initiatives to implement complete ban on single-use plastic in a strict manner. The cloth bag vending machines are to be installed in big vegetable and fruit markets and small vegetable and fruit vendors be provided with cloth bags and to be sensitised not to use plastic bags for sale of their commodities. In fact, a complete ban is required to be implemented in a phase-wise manner to ensure that in the first phase, the vegetable and fruit markets be made plastic-free and the vegetable and fruit vendors be prohibited from selling their commodities in single-use plastic bags

which are the major chunk of creation of plastic waste.

7. Mr. G.H. Virk, learned advocate appearing for the AMC gave assurance to the Court that the AMC will make efforts to implement ban of single-use plastic in the city of Ahmedabad with the strict imposition of ban in the vegetable and fruit markets and the sale by the vegetable and fruit vendors, in the first phase.

8. As regards the processing of plastic waste in strict compliance of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, the GPCB is required to submit a fresh report with regard to the Material Recovery Facilities in the local authorities and for engagement of the registered plastic waste processors by them in the area of their jurisdiction.

9. Both the learned advocates for the AMC and the GPCB are directed to file affidavits of the responsible officers on the next date fixed.

10. Put up this matter on 16.01.2026 at 12.30 PM.

(SUNITA AGARWAL, CJ)

(D.N.RAY,J)

BIJOY B. PILLAI