

**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 PANCHAL, PARTY IN PERSON(5000) for the Applicant(s) No. 1
MS DEVANGI SOLANKI, AMICUS CURIAE
MR KAMAL TRIVEDI, ADVOCATE GENERAL with MR VINAY
BAIRAGRA, ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT PLEADER for the
Opponent(s) No. 1,3,4
MR MITESH AMIN, SENIOR ADVOCATE with MR HS
MUNSHAW(495) for the Opponent(s) No. 5
SIDDHANT R SHAH(8722) for the Opponent(s) No. 6
MS MANISHA LAVKUMAR, SENIOR ADVOCATE with
SIDDHARTH S RAMI(8342) for the Opponent(s) No. 8,9
MR. G.H.VIRK, WITH MR. S.H.VIRK, ADV. WITH MS. NENCY P. SHETH,ADV. FOR
AMC

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CORAM:**HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MRS. JUSTICE SUNITA
AGARWAL**
and
HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE D.N.RAY

Date : 06/03/2026

ORAL ORDER

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

The personal affidavit dated 05.03.2026 of the Commissioner, Commissioner of Municipalities Administration, Gujarat on behalf of the State Government, as also the affidavit of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation in compliance of the order dated 16.01.2026 passed by this Court filed today in the Court, are taken on record.

2. Placing the personal affidavit of the Commissioner, Commissioner of Municipalities Administration, Gujarat dated 05.03.2026 before us, it is submitted by the learned Advocate General that with a view to ensure strict compliance of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, necessary instructions have been passed on to the concerned officials, with respect to launch of

State-wide awareness campaigns, exploring options of alternative carry bags, enforcement of ban on low-micron plastic carry bags, conducting regular inspection etc..

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 18.02.2026 in that regard has been placed on record, wherein all urban local bodies (ULBS') are directed to ensure time-bound installation and operationalisation of MRF facilities in their jurisdictional areas. Time-bound EPR portal registration and execution of agreement with an agency duly registered on EPR portal within stipulated timeline, has been directed to complete the aforesaid process.

4. It was resolved that the GPCB shall compile and analysis the data Urban local bodywise on the quantity of (i) plastic waste generated; (ii) collected; (iii) recycled/processed and (iv) identity gaps and deficiencies at the Urban local body level and submit an analytical report to the Urban Development and Urban Housing Department for corrective action.

5. Besides that, the GPCB has proposed for launching of focused State-wide awareness campaign on plastic waste management with emphasis on reduction of plastic use, source segregation, and responsible and sustainable consumption. The GPCB highlighted the need for strengthening regulatory and monitoring mechanism by undertaking routine inspections; compliance verification of registered entities and enforcement actions wherever required under the applicable rules. The GPCB also proposed for preparation of comprehensive and updated action plan on plastic waste management by reviewing latest National policies and guidelines and identifying amendments or improvements required in existing State-level polices and procedures. Other steps

required to be undertaken by the GPCB in the said direction were also discussed, deliberated and resolved therein.

5. It is further submitted in the affidavit that as per the current status of plastic waste management, across the urban local bodies (ULBS'), as on January, 2026, out of 152 Nagarpalikas, plastic waste storage/processing facilities are available in 132 Nagarpalikas; agreement for plastic waste management and disposal have been executed by 133 Nagarpalikas and action under the plastic carry-bag ban has been reported in 150 Nagarpalikas. For the remaining, instructions have been provided to take steps for ensuring time-bound compliances.

6. It is intimated by Ms. Manisha Luvkumar, the learned senior advocate appearing for the GPCB that there is a requirement for the Urban local bodies to be registered on the EPR portal of the GPCB which contains data of generated, transported and processed plastic waste. Once such data is uploaded by the urban local bodies, the GPCB will be able to conduct the data analysis and will be in a better position to monitor the implementation of the Plastic Waste Management Rules.

7. Taking note of the above, we provide that the GPCB shall conduct inspection of the plastic waste segregation, storage and processing facilities of the Nagarpalikas to ensure that they are compliant with the Plastic Waste Management Rules and the processing units engaged by them follow the norms for processing of plastic waste. Inspection report of each of the Nagarpalika and processing units engaged by them where such facilities are established, shall be placed before the Court from time to time albeit few inspections report by the next date fixed.

8. For the remaining Nagarpalikas, which have not set up the plastic waste storage/processing facilities so far, further progress report shall be placed before us alongwith the personal affidavit of the Commissioner, Commissioner of Municipalities Administration, Gujarat.

9. Further, in the affidavit of AMC, details with regard to the management of solid waste, including plastic waste collected and seized by the AMC, upcycling of plastic materials, co-processing in cement industries and waste-to-energy plants have been given in detail. There are details of registered recyclers, who sell recycler plastic granules to registered producers, importers and brand owners under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mandated by the Plastic Waster Management Rules. There are details of enforcement of ban on use of plastic bags and installation of plastic bottle reverse vending machines at seven places in the city.

10. We may only say that the work carried out by the AMC in strict compliance of the Plastic Waste Management Rules and the measures for collection for plastic waste, such as plastic bottle etc., shall be extended as per the needs and the report be submitted from time to time.

11. Further, we provide that the other big Municipal Corporations namely, Surat, Rajkot and Vadodara shall try to emulate Ahmedabad Municipal Coproration by taking proactive steps in the management of plastic waste in their jurisdictional areas. The steps taken by them so far shall also be brought on record with the affidavits of their officers through their respective

counsels in the High Court.

12. This order be intimated to the concerned Municipal Commissioners from the office of the Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Housing and Urban Department, represented by the learned Advocate General.

13. Put up on 24.04.2026 at 12.30 p.m..

(SUNITA AGARWAL, CJ)

(D.N.RAY,J)

C.M. JOSHI