

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

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AMIT MANIBHAI PANCHAL

Versus

STATE OF GUJARAT

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Appearance:

PARTY IN PERSON(5000) for the Applicant(s) No. 1
 MR UTKARSH SHARMA, ASST.GOVERNMENT PLEADER for the
 Opponent(s) No. 1,2,3,4
 MR HS MUNSHAW(495) for the Opponent(s) No. 5

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**CORAM:HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MRS. JUSTICE SUNITA
 AGARWAL**

And

HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIRUDDHA P. MAYEE

Date : 10/11/2023

ORAL ORDER

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

1. Pursuant to the order dated 10.10.2023, the Court Commissioner submitted a report dated 31.10.2023 to indicate that she has carried out the spot inspection of the site in question, i.e. Ambaji Temple on Girnar Hill, Junagadh and Dattatreya Temple, on the top of the Girnar Hill in Junagadh. Having perused the inspection report, we may note that the issues have been raised with respect to the maintenance of hygiene and cleanliness in the areas surrounding Dattatreya Temple, because of shortage of manpower and resources to collect garbage and deployment of people to restrain the

devotees from throwing wastage beyond the protection wall. It is reported that the authorities have taken corrective steps for cleanliness and to maintain hygiene in and around Ambaji Temple by conducting cleanliness drive, putting dustbins, banning plastic containers and plastic bags, mandating shop owners/shopkeepers to put up dustbins outside their shops and public awareness and announcement system placed in the ropeway cabin, sign-boards to stop use of plastic etc. However, these steps are not sufficient to maintain hygiene and cleanliness in the areas surrounding Dattatreya Temple, which is located on a hill and only access to which is on footsteps through stairs which are 4,000 in number. The plastic menace, throwing of plastic bottles, plastic bags and garbage over the hills has been demonstrated by the Court Commissioner in her report.

2. Shri Utkarsh Sharma, learned Assistant Government Pleader submits that various steps are being taken to ensure maintaining cleanliness and hygiene of the area in and around two temples, namely Ambaji Temple and Dattatreya Temple. The steps to curb the plastic menace are also taken and some concrete steps are still underway as per the plan. He would

submit that if a reasonable time is given, some concrete steps taken by the authorities would be brought before the Court. On the prayer made by the learned Assistant Government Pleader, the matter is posted on 20.12.2023.

3. We record our appreciation to the work of Ms.Devangi Solanki, Court Commissioner and efforts made by her in climbing 4,000 steps to Dattatreya Temple in ensuring that a proper picture is brought before the Court. Towards remuneration for the work done by Ms.Devangi Solanki, Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) as honorarium be paid to her which shall be borne by the State. The payment shall be made to the Court Commissioner by the next date fixed. Put up this matter on 20.12.2023.

(SUNITA AGARWAL, CJ)

(ANRUDDHA P. MAYEE, J.)

GAURAV J THAKER