

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 16174 of 2024

**With
CIVIL APPLICATION (FOR AMENDMENT) NO. 1 of 2026
In R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 16174 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 16074 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 16175 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 16449 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 16868 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 16889 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 16914 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 16986 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 16989 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 17176 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 17344 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 17346 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 17348 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 17374 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 17375 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 17396 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 17413 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 17430 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 17437 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 17480 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 17534 of 2024**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 1847 of 2025**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 1876 of 2025**

**With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 2062 of 2025**

With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 2117 of 2025
 With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 2145 of 2025
 With
R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 6397 of 2025

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ILA KIRIT SHELAT & ORS.
 Versus
 UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

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Appearance:
 MR MIHIR JOSHI, SENIOR ADVOCATE ASSISTED BY MR RUTUL P
 DESAI(6498) for the Petitioner(s) No. 1,2,3
 MS HETAL PATEL, ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT PLEADER for the
 Respondent(s) No. 2
 MS ARCHANA U AMIN(2462) for the Respondent(s) No. 1,3
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CORAM:**HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MRS.**
JUSTICE SUNITA AGARWAL
 and
HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE D.N.RAY

Date : 04/05/2026

ORAL ORDER

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

***ORDER IN "FOURTH LINE BETWEEN GERATPUR
 (BAREJADI-NANDEJ) SANAND (38.20 KMS.)
 PROJECT":-***

1. Having considered the submissions made on the issue raised by the learned senior counsel for the petitioner about the award made by the competent authority with the contention that there is a doubt about making of the award on 07.10.2025, a day prior to the date of expiry of the period of one year as provided under Sub-section-(2) of Section-20F, we

have summoned the original order of the proceedings conducted by the competent authority to verify the factum of making of the award.

2. The original award record of the proceedings conducted with regard to the Project namely, "Fourth Line Between Geratpur (Barejadi-Nandej) Sanand (38.20 kms.) in Case No.15 of 2023 has been produced before us by Ms. Hetal Patel, the learned Assistant Government Pleader.

3. A perusal thereof indicates that an award under the signature of the competent authority containing the details with respect to the lands-in-question, subject matter of acquisition was made on 07.10.2025 with award No.LAQ/Fourth Railway Line (38.20 kms.)/Sanathal/Case No.15/2023/Vashi-337/2025, dated 07.10.2025 has been made and a copy thereof had been sent to the Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, (C)-II-ADI, Western Railway, Nirman Bhavan, Near D.R.M. Office, 'C' Wing, Asarva, Ahmedabad wherein the endorsement of the receipt of the award on 07.10.2025 itself has been made by the Assistant Executive Engineer (C), Western Railway, Ahmedabad.

4. The submission of the learned senior counsel raising doubt about making of the award, a day prior to the date of expiry of period of one year as prescribed under Sub-section (2) of the Section-20F, therefore, are cleared. As the award has been made within the time prescribed under Section-20F(2) of the Railways Act' 1989, no exception, as such, can be taken about the proceedings conducted with respect to the making of the award within the time period prescribed under Section-20F(2) of the Railways Act, 1989.

ORDER IN "FIFTH LINE BETWEEN NEW BROAD GAGE LINE INTERSECTION 05 (NUMBER) BETWEEN GERATPUR - SANAD AND BOTAD - AHMEABAD (16.51 KMS) PROJECT":-

5. With regard to the issue raised about the declaration of the award for Fifth Line between New Broad Gage Line Intersection 05 (Number) Between Geratpur - Sanad And Botad - Ahmeabad (16.51 kms) Project, the original record pertaining LAQ Case No.14 of 2023 has been produced before us by Ms. Hetal Patel, learned Assistant Government Pleader appearing for the competent authority, which demonstrates

that an award in LAQ/New B.G. Line Intersection 05 (Number) Between Geratpur - Sanad And Botad - Ahmeabad (16.51 kms)/Case No.14/2023/Vashi-314/2025, dated 07.10.2025 has been made by the competent court. A copy whereof was sent to the Railways and received by it on 07.10.2025 itself.

6. A doubt has been raised about the date of making of the award on 07.10.2025 of the learned senior counsel by reading of a statement at Paragraph-‘4’ of Page No.‘11’ of the award as under:-

“(૪) અધિક મુખ્ય નગર નિયોજક, ઔડા અમદાવાદના પત્ર ક્રમાંક નં:૭૧૫૯ તા.૦૫/૧૧/૨૦૨૫ ના અભિપ્રાય મુજબ મોજે-સનાથલ રેવેન્યુ સર્વે નંબર નો સમાવેશ અમદાવાદ શહેરી વિકાસ સત્તામંડળના હદ વિસ્તારમાં થાય છે.”

To which explanation has been sought from the learned Assistant Government Pleader and has been offered by showing a copy of Letter No.7159 sent by Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority to the Special Land Acquisition Officer, which is dated 05.05.2025. The date mentioned in the above referred paragraph at Page No.‘11’ of the award as letter dated 05.11.2025 is, thus, demonstrated to be a typographical error.

7. Having perused the copy of the Letter No.7159, dated 05.05.2025 of Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority addressed to the Special Land Acquisition Officer reference of which has been found at Page No. '11' of the award in the aforesaid paragraph, we do not find any reason to attach any doubt to the fact that the award was made on 07.10.2025 itself.

8. Taking note of the fact that the above noted two awards were declared within the time prescribed under Section-20F(2) of the Railways Act, 1989, the Land Acquisition Proceedings cannot be challenged on the ground that there is a delay in making of the award or the entire acquisition proceedings should lapse by virtue of Sub-section (2) of Section 20F of the Act. All arguments made by the learned senior counsel for the petitioner in that regard are turned down.

9. We may further proceed on the merits of the challenge to the acquisition notifications subject matter of consideration herein.

10. The original record perused by the Court has been returned to Ms. Hetal Patel, learned Assistant Government Pleader appearing for the State respondents.

11. For the rest of the arguments of the learned senior counsel on the merits of the challenge to the acquisition notifications, the matter is posted on **25.06.2026 at 02:30 p.m.**

Interim relief, granted earlier, shall continue to operate till the next date.

(SUNITA AGARWAL, CJ)

(D.N.RAY,J)

A. B. VAGHELA