

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 225 of 2016
With
CIVIL APPLICATION (FOR ORDERS) NO. 1 of 2023
In R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 225 of 2016
With
CIVIL APPLICATION (FOR ORDERS) NO. 1 of 2025
In R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 225 of 2016
With
CIVIL APPLICATION (DIRECTION) NO. 2 of 2025
In R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 225 of 2016

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MANAV GARIMA
Versus
STATE OF GUJARAT & ORS.

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Appearance:

MR PANKAJ P ZAMPADIA(13484) for the Applicant(s) No. 1
 MR SUBRAMANIAM IYER(2104) for the Applicant(s) No. 1
 G H VIRK, GOVERNMENT PLEADER (7392) for the Opponent(s) No. 7
 MR. KAMAL TRIVEDI, LD.ADVOCATE GENERAL assisted by MR.VINAY B.
 BAIRAGARA, AGP for the Opponent(s) No. 1,4
 HL PATEL ADVOCATES(2034) for the Opponent(s) No. 8
 MR ABHIJIT RATHOD(12976) for the Opponent(s) No. 9
 MR MEHUL H RATHOD(701) for the Opponent(s) No. 9
 MR SIMRANJITSINGH H VIRK(11607) for the Opponent(s) No. 7

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

Date : 16/10/2025

ORAL ORDER
(PER : HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE D.N.RAY)

1. In the order dated 01.09.2025, we had required the Commissioner of Municipalities Administration, Gujarat to file further affidavit to bring on record the compliance of the directions issued in the meeting held on

22.08.2025, to make the local Municipal bodies compliant to the Circular dated 03.04.2025 of the Department and further directed the Principal Secretary, Urban Housing and Urban Development Department to keep a stock of the situation to ensure that all local municipal bodies are equipped with necessary machines/instruments to make them compliant.

2. Pursuant to the aforesaid directions, a further affidavit dated 15.10.2025 has been filed by the Commissioner of Municipalities Administration, Gujarat wherein it has been stated that under the PPP Model, a State Level Nodal Agency namely Gujarat Urban Development Mission (GUDM) had issued a Request for Proposal for "Hiring of Vehicle Mounted Suction cum Jetting machine with Sewage water recycling facility for cleaning/desilting of Sewer/Drain Lines, having $\geq$ 300 mm diameter for a period of seven years for cleaning the Urban Ground Drainage (UGD) network of 150 municipalities of Gujarat State,". In pursuance thereof, an agreement dated 03.11.2022 had been executed between GUDM and one Metro Waste Handling Private

Limited to facilitate the procurement and operationalization of mechanized cleaning machines, by which 17 sewer cleaning machines in the six zones have already been procured and the work of supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 40 Manhole cleaning robots along with operation and maintenance of both new and existing Manhole cleaning robots/machines have been undertaken, out of which 10 such machines have been procured.

3. Mr. Kamal Trivedi, learned Advocate General submitted that it would be clear upon perusal of the affidavit dated 15.10.2025 that the aforesaid machines have been assigned to the urban local bodies of Amreli, Anand, Godhara, Bharuch, Dwarka, Bhuj, Morbi, Himmatnagar, Deesa and Surendranagar as Head urban local bodies for different zones.

4. Further, by letter dated 13.10.2025 issued by GUDC, work orders have been issued for procurement of 209 more machines which would take approximately six months and the procurement of the said 209 machines is expected to be completed by the end of March-April,

2026.

5. It was further stated that Nodal Officers of substantial rank have been appointed in every Municipal Corporation, Urban Development Authority and Municipality, and in the case of Municipality, the Chief Officer himself/herself has been designated as Nodal Officer.
6. It was brought to the notice of this Court by Mr. Subramaniam Iyer, that even after and inspite of the orders of this Court, recent deaths have occurred and one such incident where two deaths due to manual cleaning of Manhole is the subject matter of an FIR dated 09.09.2025. Mr.Iyer seeks and is granted four weeks time to place on record such other particulars regarding the incident in question for the purpose of fixing liability of those that may have been negligent.
7. List on 28.11.2025 at 12:30 p.m. On such date, the further progress in the matter may be placed before this Court by way of an affidavit by the Commissioner of Municipalities, Gujarat. As regards the requirement of

to be the steps taken to make the Municipalities/Local bodies compliant to the Circular dated 03.04.2025 more clarity is required about the functioning of PPP Model for the procurement, operation and maintenance of the Machines and also the role of the GUDM for cleaning of Underground Drainage Network.

8. We also require Commissioner, Municipalities to work out the current and future requirements for 150 Municipalities of the State and submit before us the timeline to complete the process.

(SUNITA AGARWAL, CJ)

(D.N.RAY,J)

BINA SHAH