



HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (PIL) No. - 2951 of 2025

Pradeep Kumar Rana

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of U.P. and 4 others

.....Respondent(s)

Counsel for Petitioner(s) : Pawan Kumar Patel

Counsel for Respondent(s) : Ramanand Pandey, A.C.S.C., Saurabh
Tiwari

Chief Justice's Court

HON'BLE ARUN BHANSALI, CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE KSHITIJ SHAILENDRA, J.

1. This petition has been filed by the petitioner alleging misuse of the school play ground for organizing 'Ram Lila' by unnamed persons, who have formed some Ram Lila Committee.
2. Submissions made are that on the entire play ground cement inter-locking tiles have been fixed for the purpose of converting the same into a permanent place for holding such event depriving the children of a play ground. Further, the main gate of the school, itself, has been converted into a 'Sita Ram Gate' and various swings etc. have been put at the main gate of the school.
3. Further allegations have been made that the teaching activities for a period of over eighteen days during which the 'Ram Lila' would be performed, would be badly affected inasmuch as huge stage etc. have been put up along with furniture for the purpose in the school premises.
4. The respondent - State as well as the Executive Officer, Nagar Palika Parishad have filed instructions, which are identical to each other, inter-alia claiming that as there was water logging in the school play ground, the inter-locking tiles have been placed.
5. When a query was made as to whether any sports activities can take place now at the play ground, the answer obviously was 'No'.
6. Permitting of holding 'Ram Lila' is sought to be justified in the name

that the same was being performed for over 100 years and that the same would be performed during the period 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and that the educational activities at the school are not getting affected.

7. From the instructions produce, it is not known as to who is organizing the 'Ram Lila', and who has granted permission for the holding of the 'Ram Lila' within the school premises, though admittedly the land in question is recorded in the name of Zila Parishadiya Vidhyalaya, Tundla. Further, despite setting up of such huge stage etc. in the play ground, the claim made that the teaching activities are not getting affected, is apparently on its face contrary to the fact situation.

8. Surprisingly, the District Collector has sent the instructions along with the report signed by the Block Education Officer, Executive Officer, Nagar Palika Parishad and Tehsildar. As to whether at all such activities within a school premises are permissible, has not at all been adverted to.

9. The attempt appears to be to convert the land of the school into a permanent place for holding activities of the nature, which are sought to be objected, which action cannot be permitted.

10. The respondent - State and counsel appearing for the respondent no. 4 - Nagar Palika Parishad are directed to file counter affidavit, responding to the observations made hereinbefore.

11. In the circumstances of the case, wherein action of the respondents in permitting holding of such activities by unknown persons/purported Ram Lila Committee, is *ex-facie* illegal and therefore, the respondents are restrained from permitting the use of school premises for holding of the 'Ram Lila', which is indicated, is likely to start today.

12. List the petition on **04.11.2025**, as fresh.

13. Learned Standing Counsel is directed to intimate the directions of the Court to the District Collector, Firozabad for its compliance.

(Kshitij Shailendra, J) (Arun Bhansali, CJ)

September 22, 2025

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