

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD**R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 211 of 2014****With****R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 324 of 2014****With****CIVIL APPLICATION (FOR DIRECTION) NO. 1 of 2025****In R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 324 of 2014**

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SELF EMPLOYED LABOUR ORGANISATION & ORS.**Versus****STATE OF GUJARAT & ORS.**

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Appearance:

GIRISH PATEL ASSOC(2135) for the Applicant(s) No. 2,3,4,5,6

MS AISHWARYA GUPTA and MS. DIVANSHI SINGH for MR AJ YAGNIK(1372) for the Applicant(s) No. 1

(WPPIL No. 211 of 2014)

MR. G H VIRK, GP WITH MS. DHARITRI PANCHOLI, AGP (7392) for the Opponent(s) No. 2

KSHITIJ M AMIN(7572) for the Opponent(s) No. 5

MR HS MUNSHAW(495) for the Opponent(s) No. 3

NOTICE SERVED BY DS for the Opponent(s) No. 1,4

MR MIHIR JOSHI, SR. ADVOCATE assisted by MS TANAYA G. SHAH for the Applicant (s) (WPPIL

No.324 of 2014)

MR SIMRANJITSINGH H VIRK(11607) for the Opponent(s) No. 2 (WPPIL No.324 of 2014)

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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 THE CHIEF JUSTICE MRS. JUSTICE SUNITA AGARWAL)**

1. For the issues raised in the present petition filed in the nature of public interest litigation, two affidavits dated 16.10.2025 have been filed on behalf of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation stated therein that alternative sides can be considered to accommodate the street vendors operating within the Bhadra area under the aegis of Self Employed Workers Association (SEWA) and Self Employed Labour Organization (SELO), the Non-Governmental Organizations.

2. Submissions have been made with regard to the encroachment on the roads and footpaths coupled with an absolute vehicular lock-jam making it impossible for fire, emergency and police vehicles to access key parts of the walled city, leading to a dangerous situation. Assertions have been made that during the festive season, inflow of devotees visiting "Maa Bhadrakali Temple" on the daily basis increases many-folds. The contention of the Corporation is that the alternative sides proposed by the Corporation be taken into consideration in the interest of sustainable accommodation of street vendors.

3. Though initially the said offer was vehemently agitated by Mr.Mihir Joshi, the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioners, however, on all issues raised before us, detailed deliberations are required and as the Court is closing for Dipawali vacation today, it would not be possible for us to provide long hearing.

4. In this light, in order to address the immediate concern of the street vendors operating within the aegis of SEWA and SELO, a proposal has been given by the Corporation to accommodate street vendors in two plots identified by AMC near Teen Darwaza. It is stated in the two affidavits filed today, after the arguments were concluded, that one plot which is around 100 - 1000 mtrs. from Teen Darwaza admeasures approximately 1190 sq.mtrs. and it is rectangular vacant plot without any obstruction. The other plot admeasures approximately 322 sq.mtrs and is about 80 - 100 mtrs. from Teen Darwaza. Both these plots can be utilized at present, as an "interim arrangement" to accommodate registered vendors of SEWA and SELO.

5. It is stated in the affidavit that these two plots would be at further distance of about 100 mtrs. from the Central Garden of Bhadra Parisar. The offer of the Corporation is that the larger of the abovementioned two plots can first be used to accommodate the registered vendors and any further registered vendors, if left out, can be considered for accommodation in the smaller plot and further at the Central Garden, which is admeasuring 1535 sq.mtrs. lying within the central portion of the Bhadra Parisar.

6. This offer given by the Corporation was accepted by the learned advocates appearing for the petitioners - organizations, as part of the temporary arrangement made by the Court, so that the street vendors registered with SEWA and SELO may not be deprived of their livelihood during Dipawali festival.

7. It is, therefore, provided as an interim arrangement that the registered street vendors of SEWA and SELO be provided space for their business in the following manner:-

- i. The bigger plot admeasuring 1190 sq.mtrs. be first utilized to accommodate the registered street vendors, as much as possible.
- ii. For those registered vendors of two organizations, who could not be accommodated in the bigger plot, the smaller plot of approximately 322 sq.mtrs. is to be utilized.
- iii. For the remaining of the registered street vendors of the two organizations, if any, the Central Garden of Bhadra Parisar shall be utilized as the last resort.

8. The petitioners namely, SEWA and SELO had given undertaking to co-operate with the Corporation in this arrangement. It is submitted by the learned Senior Counsel for the petitioners that they have provided identity cards to each of the registered street vendors identified by them and there would be no encroachment by unauthorized person over the plots in question. Both the organizations are required to co-operate with the Corporation to give effect to this decision.

9. It is further provided that no street vendor would be entitled to put up any kiosk or any table or cot etc. to sell their goods, either on the public street or on the pedestrian footpath in the Bhadra Parisar area till further orders of this Court.

10. For any such eventuality, if any of the unauthorized person occupies public street or pedestrian footpath without the permission of this Court, the same shall be treated as “law and order situation” and shall be dealt with, accordingly.

11. It would be the duty of the district administration and the officers of the Corporation to maintain the law and order situation during this exercise of relocation of street vendors, as an interim measure.

12. This order shall be scrupulously implemented by all the parties namely, the petitioners and the officers of the Corporation.

13. With the above, the matter is posted on **28.11.2025**.

(SUNITA AGARWAL, CJ)

(D.N.RAY,J)

SAHIL S. RANGER