

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD
R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) (WRIT PETITION (PIL)) NO. 34 of 2024**

With

**CIVIL APPLICATION (FOR JOINING PARTY) NO. 4 of 2024
In R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 34 of 2024**

With

R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 118 of 2020

With

**CIVIL APPLICATION (DIRECTION) NO. 1 of 2024
In R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 118 of 2020**

With

**CIVIL APPLICATION (FOR DIRECTION) NO. 2 of 2022
In R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 118 of 2020**

With

**CIVIL APPLICATION (FOR DIRECTION) NO. 5 of 2021
In R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 118 of 2020**

With

**CIVIL APPLICATION (FOR JOINING PARTY) NO. 1 of 2020
In R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 118 of 2020**

With

**CIVIL APPLICATION (FOR JOINING PARTY) NO. 1 of 2022
In R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 118 of 2020**

With

R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 9506 of 2021

With

R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 14157 of 2020

With

**CIVIL APPLICATION (MODIFICATION OF ORDER) NO. 1 of 2024
In R/SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 14157 of 2020**

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SUO MOTU

Versus

STATE OF GUJARAT & ORS.

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Appearance:(WPPIL No. 34 of 2024)

LAW OFFICER BRANCH(420) for the Applicant(s) No. 1
MR DM DEVNANI(5880) for the Applicant(s) No. 1 as Amicus Curiae
MR. KAMAL TRIVEDI, SR. ADV. WITH G H VIRK(7392) for the Opponent(s)
No. 1,10,2,3,8,9
MR. KAMAL TRIVEDI, AG WITH MR. VINAY BAIRAGRA, AGP FOR the
Opponent(s) No. 11,12,13,4,5,7
MR HS MUNSHAW(495) for the Opponent(s) No. 15,16
MR KAUSHAL D PANDYA(2905) for the Opponent(s) No. 14,17,18,6

Appearance:(WPPIL No. 118 of 2020)

MR. AMIT PANCHAL, PARTY-INI-PERSON WITH MR. ANGESH A. PANCHAL, ADV. FOR THE PETITIONER
MR. KAMAL TRIVEDI, AG WITH MR. VINAY BAIRAGRA, AGP FOR the Respondent (s) No. 1&2
MR. KAMAL TRIVEDI, SR. ADV. WITH G H VIRK(7392) for the Respondent(s) No.3
MR HS MUNSHAW(495) for the Respondent No. 5,6,8,9,10
MR KAUSHAL D PANDYA(2905) for the Resoibdent Nos. 7 and 11
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CORAM: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MRS. JUSTICE SUNITA AGARWAL
and
HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PRANAV TRIVEDI

Date : 02/05/2025

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

Having deliberated the matter pertaining to the Fire Preventive Services in the State of Gujarat, we are of the considered view that the entire structure with the hierarchy of officers having control over the respective Corporations, Municipalities and other local bodies at the grassroot level, is required to be placed before the Court so as to ascertain the responsibility of the senior officers to ensure that the Fire Preventive Services are set in place in the State with the completion of the recruitment process and necessary infrastructure such as machinery etc. so as to put adequate fire safety measures mitigating the risk of major fire incidents.

2. With regard to the process of making the schools fire compliant, the attention of the Court is invited to the affidavit dated 25th April, 2025 of the Under Secretary, Education

Department, Gujarat wherein it is stated that out of 55344 schools, as per the list available with the Education Department, 11451 schools were required to obtain fire NOC as per the last affidavit dated 01.08.2024 filed on behalf of the Education Department. Further as on 22.04.2025, out of the said 11451 schools, 10,364 schools are having valid fire NOC, whereas 950 schools have already applied for fresh/renewal of the fire NOC. 137 schools, however, are still in the process of becoming fire compliant which shall be completed in the near future. It is further stated that conducting mock drills and providing training to the staff is ongoing task, and as on 22.04.2025, mock drills have been conducted in 52997 schools, whereas training to more than 3 Lakhs staff members have been imparted in this regard. Further progress in the matter with regard to fire safety compliant in respect of the the remaining schools and the task of fire mock drill and providing training to the staff is required to be brought on record, which shall be provided by way of further affidavit within a period of two months from today.

3. In the connected PIL No. 118 of 2020, we direct that similar exercise as has been completed with respect to the schools in the State of Gujarat, shall be conducted with respect to the hospitals/clinics, so as to ensure that all hospitals/clinics in the State are fire safety compliant. The concerned Secretary of the State is directed to take necessary measures and submit his report with the affidavit of the concerned officer by the next date.

4. A Civil Application for joining party namely Civil Application No. 4 of 2024 has been filed by the victims of Rajkot TRP Zone fire tragedy seeking for more compensation. It has been placed before us that the State government has given compensation to the dependents of the deceased and injured victims and compensation out of the PM relief fund has also been granted in addition to the above. For any further compensation, the applicants are required to take necessary steps against the owners who are guilty of running the TRP Game Zone as against the norms/laws.

5. They may also seek compensation from the personal pockets of the erring officials, against whom the departmental inquiry and the criminal proceedings are going on, at an appropriate stage.

6. On a query made by the Court about the stage of the departmental inquiry against the erring officials of the Corporation and other departments, Mr. G.H.Virk, the learned advocate appearing for the Corporation would submit that the inquiry could not progress against the guilty officials as they are still in judicial custody in the criminal complaint filed against them.

7. Taking note of the above, we only observe that some mechanism is required to be worked out to conclude the departmental inquiry at the earliest by providing adequate opportunity of hearing to the erring officers, as delay in departmental inquiry is not in the public interest.

8. Mr. G.H.Virk, the learned advocate, is directed to bring on record the steps taken by the concerned officer in that regard.

0. As prayed, put up on 18.07.2025.

Connect Writ Petition (PIL) No. 118 of 2020 with Writ Petition (PIL) No. 34 of 2024.

(SUNITA AGARWAL, CJ)

(PRANAV TRIVEDI,J)

C.M. JOSHI