

No action on WTC till MRT takes a call: HC

Sunil Baghel
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @baghelsMIRROR

In a relief to the World Trade Centre, the Bombay High Court has restored its position back to the time before the City Collector passed the order to take over the property managed by M Visvesvararaya Industrial Research and Development Centre (MVIRDC). A division bench of justice AS Oka and justice Anuja Prabhudessai, on Wednesday, accepting the arguments and statements made on behalf of the government, said that MVIRDC should file an appeal before the Maharashtra Revenue Tribunal (MRT), which has been requested to make its decision on the same within two weeks. Until then, the High Court has extended relief to the WTC from the Collector's order.

During the hearing on Wednesday, senior advocate Ravi Kadam and advocate Ajay Khatwala pointed out the 'high-handed attitude' of Collector

FLASHBACK

Mumbai Mirror report dated Nov 25



Ashwini Joshi and alleged that she was in breach of the court order passed on November 25, directing the premises sealed by the Collector to be opened and that Collector not take any further action on the basis of her order.

MVIRDC's lawyers, however, alleged that she had now asked the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation to collect lease rent directly and filed affidavits from three different tenants, ratifying these claims.

Senior advocate Anil Sakthare and advocate Asif Patel, appearing for the state government, assured the court that its order would be followed in its entirety.

Advocate Vivek Kantawala, appearing on behalf of an association of tenants of MVIRDC, said that they were confused about the future course of action and to whom they should pay their rent. However, the court told Kantawala that since the position

was restored back to what it was before the Collector issued the order, there was no ambiguity. "If there is any ambiguity even as on that date, then we can't do anything about it," the court remarked in a lighter vein.

Meanwhile, MVIRDC also handed over an amendment to their petition before it was disposed of by the high court bench. This amendment said that the Collector's reading of its lease agreement with the government was completely wrong.

"The nature of demise of land under the applicable government resolutions was that of a public and private partnership," it read. It also said that by passing such orders, the Collector was undermining the authority of the authorities who have granted them permission to construct the buildings and that GRs do not give "unfettered power" to the Collector.

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Mumbai Mirror in September this year ran a series of stories against the humiliation meted out by civic



YOGESH NAIK

However, we will place mobile toilets at all chronic open defecation spots, including the ones in Banda," Dighavkar said. He said that at all chronic open defecation spots, communitarian