

November 4, 2025
Sl. No.16
Court No.1
s.biswas

WPA(P) 427 of 2025

Shree Vardhman Parivar
vs.
The State of West Bengal and others

Mr. Vinay Kr. Sharaff
Mr. Dev Kr. Agarwal
Ms. Swarnwarshi Poddar

... for the petitioner

Mr. Kishore Datta, AG
Ms. Sumita Shaw
Mr. Soumen Chatterjee

... for the State

Mr. Kalyan Kumar Chakraborty
Dr. Benoy Brata Bhowmik
Mr. Gopal Krishna Sarkar

... for the respondent no.5

1. Mr. Vinay Kr. Sharaff, learned advocate for the petitioner, Mr. Kishore Datta, learned Advocate General for the State and Mr. Kalyan Kumar Chakraborty, learned advocate duly assisted by Dr. Benoy Brata Bhowmik, learned advocate for the respondent no.5/Bolla Kali Temple Committee, are present.
2. This court recorded the contention of the learned advocate for the petitioner advanced in support of the interim relief in the order dated 29th October, 2025 and expected that respondents will respond to it.
3. In turn, when the matter was taken up on 31.10.2025, the learned Advocate General apprised the court that the meeting is scheduled to be held on 03.11.2025 at 12:00 noon in

relation to Bolla Kali Puja 2025, where a decision will be taken in relation to the question of sacrifice of animals in a religious function held by the said puja committee.

4. Learned Advocate General apprised that a meeting had taken place on 3rd November, 2025 and it was attended by departmental authorities and the representatives of the Bolla Kali Temple Trust. The learned Advocate General highlighted certain points, which were mutually agreed in the meeting. In Point No.3, it was decided that “No mass sacrifice will be done”. In Point No.11, “the Bolla Kali Puja Committee was requested to convince people against animal sacrifice”. Certain decisions are also taken in Point Nos.24, 25 and 26, which are reproduced below for ready reference:

“24. Regarding the Bolla Kali Puja, three Writ Petitions filed, e.g., one on 30.11.2023 vide WPA(F 592 of 2023; Reforms Social Welfare Foundation and Anr. Vs. Union of India and Ors., another on 27.09.2024 vide WPA(P) 433 of 2024; Akhil Bharat Krishi Goseva Sangh Vs. State of West Bengal & Ors and another on 24.10.2025 vide WPA(P) No. 427 of 2025 in the matter of Shree Vardhaman Parivar Vs. Union of India & Ors. regarding sacrifice of animals. But all the suits are sub-judice as of date.

25. It is discussed in the light of para 12 of the order passed by Hon'ble High Court dt. 01.12.2023 i.r.o. WPA(P) 592 of 2023, Reforms Social Welfare Foundation & Anr. Vs. Union of India & Ors. that the conditions, which have been imposed during the meeting are not empty formality but it is a responsibility of the members of the temple committee/puja committee to ensure

that the conditions are followed in its letter and spirit.

26. Also it is discussed in the light of the order passed by Hon'ble High Court dt. 26.09.2025 i.r.o. WPA(P) 592 of 2023, Reforms Social Welfare Foundation & Anr. Vs. Union of India & Ors. With IA No. CAN/4/2025 with WPA(P)/433/2024 Akhil Bharat Krishi Goseva Sangh Vs. State of West Bengal & Ors. "In the light of the above, since the festival is to commence on November 22, 2024, we direct the Puja Committee to strictly abide by what they agreed in the meeting dated 6.11.2024 drawn by the Sub Divisional Officer, Balurghat Sadar and also ensure that no mass sacrifice is done, it should be done in the licensed premises and no other area. The authority of the State shall also ensure that the Puja Committee does not encourage mass sacrifice and also convince people to desist from such mass sacrifice."

5. Learned advocate for the petitioner on the strength of decision taken in the meeting and on the basis of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001, submits that slaughter can take place only at the designated place.
6. The learned Advocate General submits that the State authorities and the Bolla Kali Puja Committee are obliged to go strictly in consonance with the undertaking arrived at on 03.11.2025.
7. Learned Advocate for the respondent no.5 submits that in order to follow the *niyam raksha*/rituals, the Puja Committee will undertake to sacrifice only 2 animals on behalf of the Bolla Kali Puja Committee. However, such

sacrifice will take place at the designated place and as per Rules of 2001. However, he submits that the Puja Committee cannot undertake about the wishes of other people on whom the Puja Committee have no control.

8. We have heard the learned counsel for the parties on this aspect. Pertinently, the question of mass sacrifice of animals came up for consideration before the Tripura High Court in the case of ***Subhas Bhattacharjee vs. State of Tripura*** reported in ***2019 SCC Online Tri 441***. The Tripura High Court disapproved the mass sacrifice and prohibited the same. The same view is taken by Himachal Pradesh High Court in ***2014 SCC Online HP 5950***.

9. The judgment of Tripura High Court was called in question before the Supreme Court in SLP(C) No.25280 of 2019. By order dated 8th November, 2019, the Apex Court directed as follows:

“By way of an interim order, we direct that in the meantime, if any slaughter of animals is done for the purpose involved in this petition, it shall be done in an area which is set up in accordance with law. The Municipal authority shall ensure such compliance.”

10. In view of the rival stands taken by the parties, undertakings given by the parties, which are reproduced in the minutes of meeting dated 3rd November, 2025 and by taking into account the

Rules of 2001 and interim order of the Supreme Court, we deem it proper to direct as follows:

- (i) It shall be the duty of the Government authorities including the panchayat and local body authorities to ensure compliance of such undertaking recorded in the minutes of the meeting dated 03.11.2025;
- (ii) It shall be the duty of Bolla Kali Puja Committee to abide by the undertaking which is recorded in the minutes of the meeting dated 03.11.2025. They shall implement the said undertaking in letter and spirit;
- (iii) It shall be the duty of the State authority and their instrumentalities to ensure that no slaughter of animals is done in an area which is not designated as per Rules of 2001. The Government authorities shall ensure such strict compliance;
- (iv) This order shall be circulated by the State authorities and the Bolla Kali Puja Committee by tomorrow i.e. by 05.11.2025 to create awareness amongst the people;
- (v) The State shall make endeavour to give maximum possible circulation of this order through electronically.

11. The matter is made returnable in the second week of December, 2025 along with WPA(P) 592 of 2023 and WPA(p) 433 of 2024.

(Sujoy Paul, A.C.J.)

(Partha Sarathi Sen, J.)