

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO.188 OF 2022

Shrihari S/ Anant Shidore	... Petitioner
Versus	
Commissioner/Administrator	... Respondents

**WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO.12742 OF 2025
IN
PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO.188 OF 2022**

Manisha Palande	... Petitioner
Versus	
Shrihari Anant Shidore And Ors.	... Respondents

**WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION (ST) NO.35504 OF 2025
IN
PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO.188 OF 2022**

V.V.P.R Engineer Pvt Ltd	... Applicant
Versus	
Shailendra S/O Shirhari Shidore	... Respondent

**WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO.12740 OF 2025
IN
PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO.188 OF 2022**

Shrihari Anant Shidore And Ors.	... Applicants
Versus	
Commissioner/Administrator	... Respondents

**WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.2651 OF 2025**

Raju Nanasaheb Chavan	... Petitioner
Versus	
The State Of Maharashtra	... Respondent

**WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO.16240 OF 2024**

GVPR Engineers Ltd Through the Senior Manager Projects, G. Mahender s/o Sri. G. Somla	...Applicant
Versus	
Shrihari S/ Anant Shidore	... Respondent

Mr. Shambhuraje Deshmukh, *Amicus Curiae* a/w. Mr. Amit Mukhedkar, Advocates for the Petitioner (Through V.C.).

Adv. S.S. Koche, Advocate for the Petitioner in WP/2651/2025.

Mr. A. B. Girase (Through V.C.), Government Pleader a/w Mrs. G. R. Raghuwanshi, AGP & Mrs. Priyanka Chavan, AGP for the Respondent-State.

Mr. Rajendra Deshmukh, Senior Advocate (Through V.C.) i/b Mr. Vinod Patil & Mr. Amol Vasmatkar, Advocate for Respondent No.6/MJP.

Mr. S. S. Tope (Through V.C.), Advocate for Respondent No.4-Municipal Corporation.

Adv. D. P. Madkar, h/f Adv. D. S. Manorkar, for (NHAI).

Mr. R. N. Dhorde, Senior Advocate i/b Mr. Sanket N. Suryawanshi, Advocate for Respondent No.15-Project Contractor.

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE AND
ASHWIN D. BHOBE, JJ.**

DATE : 18th DECEMBER, 2025

P.C. :

HIGH COURT CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE

1. The learned Government Pleader from Aurangabad Mr. Girase, and the learned AGP Mrs. G. R. Raghuwanshi, in Mumbai, have tendered the Minutes of the Meetings conducted by the High Court Constituted Committee on 27th November 2025 and 16th December 2025. The Minutes of the Meeting dated 27th November 2025 (1+65), are taken on record and marked as '**X-71**' for identification. Similarly, the Minutes of the Meeting dated 16th December 2025 (1+32), are taken on record and marked as '**X-72**' for identification.

2. The learned Senior Advocate representing the Project Contractor has tendered a compilation of colour photographs as well as the details with reference to the progress of the Elevated Storage Reservoir, etc. (45 pages). The same is taken on record

and marked as **'Y-103'** for identification.

3. We are informed that the next meeting of the High Court Constituted Committee is scheduled on 24th December 2025. Considering the short vacations, by consent of the parties, we would be posting this matter for further consideration on 9th January 2026.

PENDING BILLS

4. In so far as the clearance of the pending bills of the Project Contractor is concerned, the learned Senior Advocate Shri. Rajendra Deshmukh, has apprised us of the bills worth Rs.52 Crores along with Rs.10 Crores as GST, having been cleared. He submits that the further pending bills account for Rs.121 Crores. Shri.Dhorde has referred to a ready reference chart indicating the amounts cleared and the amounts pending.

5. Shri. Tope, the learned advocate for the Corporation submits that a total amount of Rs.81,89,11,552/- has been disbursed to the MJP.

6. The learned counsel for the MJP submits that one portion of the said amount, excluding Rs.52 Crores and the Rs.10 Crores towards GST, cleared with reference to the Project Contractor, has been paid to the Contractor who has performed Electro Mechanical Work on the project.

7. We have dealt with this issue of unpaid bills on a few occasions in our earlier orders. Considering the magnitude of this project that is said to be the largest in the country, the Project Contractor is required to pay the Sub Contractors and the Laborers and therefore, Shri. Dhorde, conveys that unnecessary anxiety is created not only for the Project Contractor, but even to the Sub Contractors, who are not in the mood to cooperate in their participation in the project, until the payments of clearance.

8. In the project of such magnitude, this issue is as equally important, as is the progress of the project. Timely clearance of the bills is not only an incentive to the Project Contractor, but it caters to several practical difficulties of making payments to the Sub-Contractors and more particularly the

laborers who are deployed on various jobs. We are informed that the Project Contractor has tendered the bills for the above stated amount of Rs.121 Crores. We expect the MJP to deal with the said bills with promptitude by following the due procedure of scrutinizing the bills meticulously as per the approved rates within a time limit.

9. On the next date of hearing the MJP would inform us as regards the disbursement of at least 60% of the outstanding dues of Rs.121 Crores. Let the MJP not put forth excuses. We would appreciate if the Member Secretary of the MJP personally monitors the clearance of these bills as is also stated in the earlier order dated 14th October 2025 (paragraph 9).

INTERIM APPLICATION FILED BY THE PROJECT CONTRACTOR

10. The MJP has tendered its affidavit-in-reply to the Interim Application (st) No.35504 of 2025 filed by the Project Contractor.

11. The learned Senior Advocate Mr. Dhorde submits that

the two pumping motors having capacity of 3700 horsepower each, are being installed. If the contractors dealing with the electrical work in the project, commission one motor, water would be pumped in and it will take 30 days for cleaning the 2500 mm diameter pipeline of the silt deposited within the said pipes at the time of installation, welding and connecting them. Thereafter, 18 days time would be required for pumping the water up to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP). If both the motors are commissioned, this period would be reduced to 10 days. Thereafter, it would take 15 days to circulate the water to reach the Major Balancing Reservoir (MBR).

We have noted this information.

12. List this Petition on **9th January 2026 at 3.00 p.m.**

(ASHWIN D. BHOBE, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)