

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

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO.188 OF 2022

Shrihari S/o 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 & Ors.	... Respondents

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

G.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 & 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

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

Mr.A. B. Girase, Government Pleader a/w. Mr.O.A.Chandurkar, Addl. GP
and Mrs. G. R. Raghuwanshi, AGP for the Respondent-State.

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

Mr. S. S. Tope, Advocate for Respondent No.4/Municipal Corporation.

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

Mr.Nitin Gaware Patil, Advocate for Respondent Nos.16 & 17 in
PIL/188/2022 & Applicant in IA/12742/2025.

Mr.S.B.Deshpande, Senior Advocate with Mr.Shreyas Deshpande and
Mr. D.P.Madkar i/b. Mr.D.S.Manorkar for the Respondent – NHAI.

Mr.G.Sreekanth, Municipal Commissioner, Chh. Sambhajinagar, present
(through VC).

Ms.Manisha Palande, Chief Engineer, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran (MJP), present in Court.

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**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE &
ABHAY MANTRI, JJ.**

DATE : MARCH 17, 2026

P.C:

1. This is the 213th hearing in these matters.
2. The Commissioner of the Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Municipal Corporation (earlier Aurangabad Municipal Corporation), Mr. G. Sreekanth, has addressed us through video conferencing. He has tendered a three-page inspection report dated 17.03.2026, pertaining to his visit to the jack well on 16.03.2026, in compliance of our order dated 07.03.2026.
3. A joint site visit was conducted in the presence of learned Senior Advocates Sarvashri R. N. Dhorde for the Project Contractor and Mr. Rajendra Deshmukh, along with the learned Advocates Mr. Vinod Patil and Mr. Amol Vasmatkar for the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran (MJP), the learned Government Pleader Mr. A.B. Girase, the learned

Advocate Mr. S.S.Tope for the Corporation. The visit was also attended by the Chief Engineer of the MJP, several senior officials of the Municipal Corporation and MJP, representatives of the electro-mechanical works (Maharashtra Hydro and Pluto), and officials of the Project Contractor, GVPR. The copy of the report tendered to the Court is marked as **‘Y-119’** for identification.

4. The Commissioner informs us that the cleaning of the floor slab of the jack well is completed. The rectification at over 200 locations regarding the tie rods, shuttering materials, exposed reinforcement bars, and other surface defects, has been carried out, and the work at 120 of these locations has been completed successfully, particularly in all accessible areas up to the 3rd floor level of the jack well.

5. The report Y-119 also indicates that the locations above the 3rd floor level are presently inaccessible. If rectification at such locations is forcefully undertaken, the project may be delayed by 3 to 4 months due to the requirement of additional arrangements and access systems. Considering this situation, it is proposed that the work can proceed simultaneously with a calculated and acceptable level of risk while avoiding rectification at inaccessible points.

6. The report further indicates that the previous inspection led the noticing of several leakage points. The Contractor has successfully arrested almost all such leakages through appropriate sealing measures. Presently, there are only three leakage points, and the Contractor has assured that these would be sealed and plugged within the next two days, before the intake of water into the jack well begins on 19.03.2026 on the occasion of Gudi Padwa.

7. The report also mentions that out of the 45 gates, 17 gates are completed. The work on the remaining gates is in progress. Six gates on one side may not be fully completed at this stage, as the siphon pipes are resting at the bottom of these gates, which restricts the completion of the remaining work at such locations.

8. Most of the shuttering materials, including plywood sheets and scaffolding components, have been removed from the beams and columns. The difficult and inaccessible locations have been avoided. For their removal, the Municipal Corporation has provided two fire ladders along with skilled staff, and the work is in progress.

9. The Commissioner has further detailed certain aspects about the staircase in Section A, which is completed up to RL 471.00 (Motor Floor Slab level), while the staircases in Sections B and C have been completed up to RL 467.00 (Pump Floor Slab level). The finishing work is in progress.

10. The jack well surroundings are being cleaned up. Around 75 truckloads of material, which would not be an impediment for letting the water inside the jack well on 19.03.2026, is being removed, and the entire area would be cleaned up and made free from debris at the earliest, as per the statement of the Contractor.

11. The tower crane and slab casting is also handled well. The tower crane has been dismantled and removed upto the foundation at raft level and the area has been properly sealed. The slab portion approximately 403 sq. ft. at RL 467.00 has been successfully cast and completed. During the de-shuttering of the slab, due care has been taken to ensure that the shuttering material or any debris do not fall down.

12. The work related to electro-mechanical installations at the jack well, has been completed. Around eight chairs of 1200 mm pipeline placed

within the premises, need to be removed to facilitate smooth vehicular movement. Both the Contractors have been asked to mutually confirm the readiness for water intake in the jack well on 18.03.2026 and the confirmation must be communicated to both MJP and the Municipal Corporation, by tomorrow evening.

13. In accordance with the designer's instructions, the Contractor has commenced the rectification work of the chairs on the approach bridge and approach bund near the Raw Water Rising Main (RWRM).

14. Thirteen chairs have been recast, and the remaining six chairs would be completed within a short time. Considering the minor damage to around 28 chairs, rectification of 13 chairs has been completed, and the remaining work on 15 chairs is in progress.

15. As regards the 59 chairs requiring gap-filling, 8 chairs have been rectified, and the remaining work is in progress. For the gap-filling, the Contractor required a special material, viz., Conbextra EP75, which is a high-strength epoxy resin grout, as advised by the designer. The Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation himself contacted the Collector of Bharuch (Gujarat) and, after requesting him to instruct the

company located in Bharuch to expedite the dispatch, the Collector facilitated the process, and the material was successfully dispatched in the evening of 16.03.2026.

16. Taking into account the natural expansion of MS pipes due to the extreme summer in the Marathwada region, when temperatures soar to between 45 to 47 degrees Celsius, the Contractor has been advised to apply reflective paint on the external surface of the pipes to keep them cool and help minimize their thermal expansion to some extent.

17. The concrete road to the approach bridge is being cast, and casting of the jack well motor floor slabs is in progress. Both Contractors have agreed to deploy adequate manpower and submit deployment details to the concerned authorities to ensure the smooth functioning of the stop-gap arrangement (commissioning of the 200 MLD pipeline, while the complete project is for 400 MLD).

18. The learned Amicus has also stated that he, along with the learned Advocate for the Petitioner who set this litigation in motion, Adv. Amit Mukhedkar, would also accompany the team while reporting to the Municipal Commissioner tomorrow evening.

19. There is no issue about the fact that the ‘Atal Mission For Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation Amrut-2.0’ is probably the largest project of this kind in the entire country. The learned Senior Advocates, as well as the learned Advocates appearing for the parties before us, jointly submit that the Hon’ble Chief Minister of the State of Maharashtra, Mr.Devendra Fadnavis, has extended his wholehearted support and was instrumental in holding three war room meetings only to ensure that this project is taken to fruition. They express their gratitude for the support of the State Government led by the Hon’ble Chief Minister. They also compliment the strenuous efforts put in by the Commissioner Mr. G. Sreekanth.

20. So also, the Project Contractor, under the strict monitoring of the learned Senior Advocate Mr. Dhorde and the MJP represented by the learned Senior Adv. Mr. R.S. Deshmukh, have taken the project up to almost 80% completion, and it would be a momentous event if the water would be let into the jack well on 19.03.2026 on the occasion of Gudi Padwa.

21. We have no doubt in our minds that such projects are a boon for the end consumers and residents of the society. At the same time,

projects of such magnitude are accompanied by challenges of equal magnitude. These challenges can be speculated today, as they could include issues such as leakages or damages to the chairs of the pipes, or a little bit of malfunctioning of the water pumps, etc.

22. We are informed that there are around six water suction motor pumps, each with a capacity of 3,700 hp. Two pumps would be commissioned when the water is pumped into the pipeline up to the first level of the scour valves, between 22.03.2026 and 23.03.2026.

23. This PIL is not an adversarial litigation for anybody. It is a project of the 'Atal Mission For Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation 2.0 (Amrut-2.0), aimed at providing drinking water to the residents of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar at least once in two days, when the water is being supplied today with the frequency of once in 9 days.

24. We, therefore, would appreciate and expect that each player/stakeholder in this project jointly owns the responsibility if there are any problems or challenges. There shall be no blame-game. All the stakeholders have worked together painstakingly for more than four years, and this team work should get translated into a combined effort to face any

situation, if there is any problem, defect, or challenge. We would also expect the public at large to refrain from making any comments or focus only on problems, just for the sake of pointing out defects. Which project does not have defects? And any defect has to be overcome. We are confident that the stakeholders are competent to deal with challenges. Since the water would be let into the jack well on 19.03.2026, as a beginning of the process for switching on the two water pumps between 22.03.2026 and 23.03.2026, let the stakeholders proceed with the same confidence that they have today.

25. We are informed that the expert team from various manufacturer companies, who have supplied vital and decisive parts to the project, especially electrical components and water pumping motors, would also be present. The Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation informs us that the Contractor, as well as the MJP and the Municipal Corporation, would be forming teams to overlook the progress beginning from 19.03.2026 in various shifts, for monitoring the progress.

26. We are informed that the next meeting of the High Court Constituted Committee (HCCC) is scheduled on 24.03.2026. If the stakeholders are held up or are busy monitoring and supervising the

activity as recorded above, they would be at liberty to postpone the meeting, if desired, to be held on 01.04.2026.

27. Since the project is crossing a milestone, we would appreciate if the MJP and the Municipal Corporation clear at least 75% of the pending bills of the Project Contractors.

28. Considering the next date of the meeting, we are listing these matters on **27.03.2026 at 3:00 pm**, only to take note of any problems or challenges that the stakeholders may face after 19.03.2026.

(ABHAY MANTRI, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)