

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION**

**WRIT PETITION NO. 2944 OF 2021
WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 1033 OF 2020
IN
WRIT PETITION NO. 2944 OF 2021**

Punit Agarwal .. Petitioner

Versus

Reserve Bank of India & Anr. .. Respondents

**WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 1946 OF 2022
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.1990 OF 2023
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.959 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.115 OF 2023
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 93 OF 2022
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 1743 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 1738 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.2369 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.2392 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.916 OF 2023
With
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 2392 OF 2023
In
WRIT PETITION NO.916 OF 2023
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 746 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.3145 OF 2022**

WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.2965 OF 2022
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 810 OF 2023
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.2605 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.3330 OF 2022
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.974 OF 2023
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.3605 OF 2021
With
INTERIM APPLICATION NO.2648 OF 2021
In
WRIT PETITION NO.3605 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.2414 OF 2021
WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO.2655 OF 2021
In
WRIT PETITION NO. 2414 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.3627 OF 2023
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.3603 OF 2021
With
INTERIM APPLICATION NO.2646 OF 2021
In
WRIT PETITION NO.3603 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.1063 OF 2023
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.3723 OF 2022
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 2094 OF 2022
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.4743 OF 2022
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.4754 OF 2022
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.543 OF 2022
With
INTERIM APPLICATION (L) NO.14710 OF 2022

IN
WRIT PETITION NO. 543 OF 2022
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 954 OF 2023
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 837 OF 2023
WITH

CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION NO. 12436 OF 2022
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.5992 OF 2023
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.3186 OF 2021
With
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 3614 OF 2022
In
WRIT PETITION NO.3186 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION (STAMP) NO.96699 OF 2020
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.3650 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.1230 OF 2022
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.8016 OF 2019
With
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 17431 OF 2023
With
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 7948 OF 2023
WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 7947 OF 2023
With
INTERIM APPLICATION (STAMP) NO. 7674 OF 2024
IN
WRIT PETITION NO.8016 OF 2019
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.8375 OF 2021
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.9251 OF 2023
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.14855 OF 2022

**WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.262 OF 2020
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.3338 OF 2020
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO.4386 OF 2021**

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Mr. Ashish Kamat, Senior Advocate a/w Siddha Pamecha and Akash Warang, for the Petitioner in WP-2944-2021 and for the Applicant in IA-1033-2020.

Ms. Apurva Sanglikar i/by Vidhii Partners, for the Petitioner in CWP-5992-2023 and for Respondent No. 5- ICICI Bank in WP-4754-2022.

Mr. Malhar Zatakia a/w Ms. Eshika Chandan i/by Aagam Doshi, for the Petitioner in WP-2094-2022.

Mr. Ameet Naik a/w Mr. Abhishek Kale, Mr. Devashish Jagirdar and Ms. Sakshi Dube i/by Naik and Naik Co., for the Petitioner in WP-3133-2025.

Mr. Ranjeev Carvalho a/w Mr. Sachin Chandarana and Mr. Jaiveer Dhakan i/by Manilal Kher Ambalal and Co, for the Petitioner in WP-1738-2021 and WP-1743-2021.

Mr. Anuj Jhaveri a/w Mr. Mihir Modi i/by PSL. Advocates and Solicitors, for the Petitioner in WP-543-2022.

Mr. Gaurav Mehta a/w Mr. Aziz Mohd. Sehry Taly i/by S.Mahomedbhai and Co, for the Petitioner in CWP-8016-2019 and CWP-11454-2019.

Mr. Rahul Gaikwad a/w Mr. Shivaji Masal and Komal Singh, for the Petitioner in WP-2436-2022, WP-262-2020 and WP-3338-2020.

Mr. Kunal Naik i/by Ashwin Shanker, for the Petitioner in WP-3650-2021.

Ms. Keya Raval i/by Dhru & Co., for the Petitioner in WP-2965/2022 and WP/4743/2022.

Ms. Anushka Divakaran i/b Dhru & Co., for the Petitioner in WP-2157/2017.

Ms. Lata Dhruv a/w Ms. Keya Raval i/by Dhru and Co, for the Petitioner in WP-2965-2022 and WP-4743-2023.

Mr. Amir Arsiwala, for the Petitioner in WP-3330-2022.

Mr. Amir Arsiwala a/w Shivani Kumbhojkar, Mugdha Narkar i/by The Law Point, for the Petitioner WP-3603/2021, WP-1946/2022, WP-3605/2021, WP-2414/2021.

Mr. Vineet Tiwari i/by Lex Legal & Partners, for the Petitioners in WP-959/2021, WP-2369/2021 and WP-2392/2021.

Mr. Nishwanath Mannadiar a/w Sanika S. Wabale i/by Mannasiar & Co., for Respondent No-4 in WP-1738-2021.

Mr. Ankit Lohia a/w Krishna Baruah and Mr. Jash Dalia, for the Petitioner in WP-3627-2023 and WP-19690-2023.

Mr. Nishwanath Mannadiar a/w Sanika S. Wabale i/by Mannasiar & Co., for Respondent No-4 in WP-1743-2021

Ms Nidhi Mistry i/by L.V. Merchant & Co., for Respondent No. 4 in WP-974-2023.

Ms. Kaizad Dalal i/by Wadia Ghandy & Co., for Respondent Nos-7 & 8 in WP-3627-2023.

Ms. Manjiri Parasnis a/w Ms. Shrushti Kale, for the Bank of Baroda in WP-262-2020, WP-3330-2020, and WP-4386-2021.

Ms. Savita Ganoo i/by Tanu Khatre, for the Union of India in WP-837-2023.

Mr. Mohamedali M. Chunawala, for Respondent No. 2 in CWP-8016-2019.

Ms. Niyati Merchant a/w Mr. Harsh Sheth i/by MDP Legal, for the Respondent-Bank in WP-2944-2021, WP-115-2023, WP-1743-2021, WP-1738-2021, WP-2392-2021 and WP-3145-2022.

Mr. Niranjana P. Shimpi a/w Ms. Bhagyashri Waghmare, for the Union of India in WP-1946-2022 and WP-916-2023.

Ms Aditi Phatak a/w Megha More, i/by BLAC Co, for the RBI in all the matters.

Mr. Siddha Pamech i/by Thodur Law Associates, for the Respondent in WP-2094-2022.

Ms. Asma Batatawala i/by Rathina Maravarman, for Respondent No.1 in WP-93-2022, WP-746-2021, WP-3650-2021, and for Respondent Nos. 1 to 3 in WP-810-2023, For R-2 in WP-3723-2022 and WP-543-2022, For R 1 and 2 in WP-4743-2022, For R 4, 6 and 8 in WP-4754-2022.

Ms. Aishwarya Singh a/w Ms. Sanya Gandhi i/by Khaitan and

Co, Advocate for Respondent in WP-916-2023 and IA-2392-2023.

Mr. Girish Thanvi a/w Mr. Suraj Singh i/by Meghnath Navlani,
Advocate for R l in WP-12436-2022

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**CORAM: BHARATI DANGRE &
MANJUSHA DESHPANDE, JJ.
DATED : 25th FEBRUARY, 2026**

P.C:-

1. In a group of Petitions raising a challenge to the decision making process initiated by various banks under the RBI Master Circular, regarding identification of willful defaulters through the Committee constituted for the said purpose, though we have a few matters listed before us, our attention is invited to the order of the Division Bench of this Court dated 09.03.2023 in connection with a bunch of petitions. The Division Bench then noted that five Petitions among the one's which were listed before the Court, involved a challenge to the validity of the RBI Master Circular, whereas other Petitions do not involve such challenge but are based on the peculiar facts involved.

Though the Petitions were clubbed and a group was formed, with a direction that those in which the validity is called in question would be taken as the lead Petition, and directing that other Petitions shall be listed along with the lead matters. The difficulty faced by this Bench is that, Writ Petition No. 3330 of 2022 (Urrshila Kerkar Vs. Reserve Bank of India & Anr.) one of the Writ Petitions in the group of Writ Petitions pertain to this Bench but other three Writ Petitions,

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i.e. Writ Petition Nos. 8016 of 2019, 11454 of 2019 and 3152 of 2018 do not pertain to our assignment.

Though we are informed that the RBI has also considered Writ Petition No. 3330 of 2022 as lead Petition and the affidavit filed in the said Petition is adopted in other Petitions by the RBI, it would be easier for us to take up the Petition, however, we do not want to deprive the counsels or the parties in the Writ Petitions of 2018 or 2019 for placing their contention before us. The only recourse that is now applicable, is to obtain a list of all pending matters and then putting it before the Hon'ble the Chief Justice for appropriate orders for clubbing of the Writ Petitions, as all the Petitions involved a common question of law with a little variance here and there on facts.

2. We expect the assistance of the respective counsel for the Petitioners along with the counsel for the RBI, who have undertaken that they will prepare a list of all the pending matters involving the willful defaulters issue, and place the same before us on 04.03.2026 since we intend to list the matters under the caption "for directions". After the list is placed before us, we would pass further orders which may include the request to be forwarded to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice for clubbing of the matters.

Re-notify to 04.03.2026.

(MANJUSHA DESHPANDE, J.)

(BHARATI DANGRE, J.)