

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

**INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 2018 OF 2026  
IN  
WRIT PETITION NO. 13342 OF 20025**

Bhausahab Bhikanrao Chavan ...Applicant

*Versus*

The State of Maharashtra & Ors. ...Respondents

...  
Mr.Sujeet G. Karlekar a/w Mr. Akshay S. Karlekar i/by Mr. P.D. Bachate,  
Advocate for the Applicant.

Mr.Onkar A. Chandurkar, Addl. G.P. a/w Ms. P.N. Diwan, AGP for the  
Respondent/State.

Mr. Sachindra P. Singh, Commissioner, Education Department Pune, present.

...

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

**DATE : MARCH 13, 2026**

**P.C:**

1. In the backdrop of our order dated 07.03.2026, delivered in a group of cases (Writ Petition No. 16238 of 2025 and others), a First Information Report (FIR) has been lodged against three accused persons, all of whom are Deputy Directors of Education in the State of Maharashtra. The FIR, bearing No. 216 dated 12.03.2026, was registered at 01:40 a.m. with Nashik Road Police Station, Nashik City.

2. The State ought to have filed an affidavit-in-reply in this Interim Application. The learned Addl.GP submits, on instructions from Mr. Sachindra P. Sinh, Commissioner, Education Department, Pune, who is present in the Court Hall, that a detailed affidavit-in-reply justifying the lodging of the FIR, would be filed in this Court, on or before 30.03.2026. He clarifies that the FIR was not registered on the complaint of a stranger or a bystander, but after a series of notices were issued to the three accused persons to produce certain documents and on account of complete non-cooperation, the FIR had to be registered after an impression was gathered that several documents of hundreds of beneficiaries were missing and the State Exchequer may have suffered a loss of Rs. 150 Crores.

3. The contention of the Applicant is that the investigation is being done only in the Nashik region. The learned Addl.GP denies that the calling for reports and the lodgment of the FIR are being done only in the Nashik region, and all details will be placed on record in the affidavit-in-reply.

4. In the hearing on 07.03.2026, the learned Government Pleader was present in the Court Hall, and the Chief Secretary of the State of

Maharashtra was also available via video conferencing, who was following the hearing and the orders being passed in the Court. The State was contemplating deferring the lodging of the FIR.

5. List the Interim Application, in the urgent orders category, on 10.04.2026.

(ABHAY MANTRI, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)