

**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

The Commissioner/Administrator

...Respondent

**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/o Anant Shidore

...Respondent

Mr. Shambhuraje Deshmukh, Amicus Curiae a/w. Mr. Amit A. Mukhedkar
for the Petitioner (through video conferencing).

Mr. Amarjeet Girase, Government Pleader (through video conferencing)
a/w. Ms. G.R. Raghuwanshi, AGP for Respondent Nos.5, 8 to 10/State.

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

Ms. Manisha Palande, Chief Engineer, MJP, Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar
(through video conferencing).

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

...

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE &
GAUTAM A. ANKHAD, JJ.**

DATE : 22nd August, 2025

P.C.:-

HIGH COURT CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE

1. The learned Government Pleader, Mr.Girase, has placed on record the minutes of the meeting of the High Court Constituted Committee (HCCC) dated 12th August, 2025 (49 pages) along with a covering letter dated 20th August, 2025, received from the Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, for submitting the report. The said report, along with the covering letter, is marked as 'X-63' for identification. Mr.Girase has drawn our attention to the specific directions/ instructions of the HCCC which are set out in the said report.

PROGRESS IN THE PROJECT

2. The learned Amicus Curiae, Mr.Deshmukh, has drawn our attention to the colour charts from page 22 onwards. An anxiety is voiced by the learned Amicus Curiae as regards the progress with the Water Treatment Plant (WTP), the subject-wise progress of the project, and other heads of work. He contends that there is hardly any progress made with

regard to the level or stage of the work on the project, as was brought to the notice of this Court on the last date.

3. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr.Deshmukh, has tendered a compilation of charts and communications (57 pages), which is taken on record and collectively marked as 'Y-85' for identification. Insofar as the labour force is concerned, he submits that, as on 21st August 2025, the total labourers that have been deployed are around 768. The required strength of the labour force would be around 1,275. He, therefore, contends that the strength of the labour deployment is 2/3rd of the actual strength, which is required for completing the project within the prescribed timeline.

4. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Dhorde, draws our attention to the last order dated 1st August 2025, more particularly with regard to the annexure 'Y-83', which was produced before the Court, and submits that the enlarged figure charts are being produced in compliance with the directions of this Court. The said compilation of charts (21 pages), is taken on record and marked as 'Y-86' for identification. He further states that the enlarged charts indicate the number of workers deployed.

5. He submits, on instructions, that considering the critical stage of the project and the extremely difficult tasks to be performed by the

labourers, who are working with safety equipments, the labour force is a little bit apprehensive about the challenges in the project and the fear of being injured. Yet, the Project Contractor is trying his level best to bring in the labor force to the level at which the strength of the workers should ideally be deployed for the timely completion of the project.

6. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Dhorde, has also placed on record large colour photographs of the work site at Sections B and C (5 pages). The said compilation is marked as ‘Y-87’ for identification. He points out from the photographs, as to how crucial the current stage of the work is and the risks involved for the labour force in performing the project tasks at this stage.

7. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Deshmukh, has tendered a compilation of three large colour photographs (3 pages) which indicate various components of the pumping machine being assembled, as well as a massive crane required to lift the pumping machine, which weighs 28 tonnes. The crane has a capacity of 400 tonnes. The said compilation is taken on record and marked as ‘Y-88’ for identification.

8. Insofar as the progress of the project is concerned, we deem it appropriate to refer to Page No. 26 of the compilation ‘Y-82,’ wherein the

Project Contractor has prepared a full-scale flow chart indicating the completion of work at various stages and the tasks undertaken in furtherance thereof. Let the parties before us, who are participating in the hearing of this matter, refer to such a flow chart and we would request the Project Contractor to prepare a routine flow chart as the one which we have adverted to, for giving us an indication as to the progress in the project. We would not insist on a fortnightly chart because that would be too short to effectively indicate the progress in a mega project. We would appreciate if such a chart is prepared once every two months in order to appreciate the actual progress work.

‘A’ SECTION

9. The Chief Engineer of the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran (MJP), Ms. Palande, requested an opportunity to address the Court. She has given us a clear picture, in brief, as to how the project has reached a critical stage, insofar as A Section is concerned. She submits that the work on Section A should be completed by the Project Contractor by 31st October, 2025. She also submits that the Electro-Mechanical Contractor is likely to complete his task by the end of August or a little beyond that. If these tasks are completed as per the Bar Chart, Section A would be pumping 200 MLD of water.

10. Ms. Palande further submits, and this is confirmed by the learned Government Pleader, Mr. Girase, that the 900 mm pipeline, which was a subject matter of consideration in this PIL and in respect of which this Court has been continuously passing orders and monitoring its progress to ensure that the said pipeline becomes functional and delivers adequate drinking water to the residents of the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar until the mega project is brought to fruition, would be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, State of Maharashtra, tomorrow, 23rd August, 2025.

11. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr.Dhorde, has tendered a spiral-bound compilation of colour photographs and details of the various Elevated Storage Reservoirs (ESRs) and the laying of pipelines, which are part of the Raw Water Raising Main (RWRM) (81 pages). This compilation, prepared by the Project Contractor, provides an overall view of the various stages of the project and the work completed under different heads. It is a detailed record of the project's progress, and the same is marked as 'Y-89' for identification.

12. The learned Advocate, Mr.Mukhedkar, appearing along with the learned Amicus Curiae, submits that the water supply frequency has

slightly improved in view of the good rains in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. The learned Amicus Curiae further submits that if Section A is completed by 31st October 2025, along with the supply of electricity and the installation of the electrical Pumping machine components for pumping water, the Corporation should be in a position to utilize the ESRs and improve the frequency of water supply.

13. We are informed that the learned Advocate for the Corporation, Mr. Tope, is in a personal difficulty. We would appreciate if he considers the details set out in this order and, in consultation with the Corporation officials, makes an assessment as to whether the water supply frequency can be improved from once in every 8 to 11 days, to once every 3 or 4 days. Such a statement can be made at the next hearing of this matter.

ELEVATED STORAGE RESERVOIR

14. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Dhorde, points out that two ESRs are being constructed: one on the land of Sinchan Bhavan Office on Akashwani Road, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, and the second, already half-constructed, near the Government Polytechnic College at Vedant Nagar, within the vicinity of the Deogiri Group of Colleges. The difficulty expressed is that permission to erect the ESR on Sinchan Bhavan land still

needs to be granted, and the proposed DP Road, which is likely to pass through the Vedant Nagar area affecting the half-constructed ESR, needs to be modified. The learned Government Pleader, Mr. Girase, submits that he, along with the Chief Engineer of the MJP, will bring these two aspects to the notice of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, who is visiting Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar tomorrow for the inauguration of a pipeline, and solicit his directions/orders.

15. We are informed that the next meeting of the HCCC is scheduled on 26th August 2025.

16. By consent of the learned Advocates, the next date of hearing in the PIL is scheduled on 12th September 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

(GAUTAM A. ANKHAD, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)