

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

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

Shrihari S/o. Anant Shidore & Ors. ...Petitioners

Versus

The Commissioner/Administrator & Ors. ...Respondents

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

V.V.P.R. Engineers Limited ...Applicant

IN THE MATTER BETWEEN :

Shrihari S/o. Anant Shidore & Ors. ...Petitioners

Versus

The Commissioner/Administrator & Ors. ...Respondents

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

Smt. Manisha Palande D/o. Mohan Palande ...Applicant/Intervenor

Versus

IN THE MATTER BETWEEN :

Shrihari S/o. Anant Shidore & Ors. ...Petitioners

Versus

The Commissioner/Administrator & Ors. ...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
IN
PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO. 188 OF 2022**

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 Mukhedkar,
Advocates for the Petitioner (Through V.C.).

Ms. Asfia Nuzhat Ansari (Through V.C.), Advocate for the Applicant in
IA/12742/2025.

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 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.

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

Mr. D. S. Manorkar a/w Mr. D. P. Madkar, Advocates for Respondent No.
11/NHAI (Through V.C.).

Ms. Manisha Palande, Chief Engineer, MJP, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar
(Through V.C.).

Mr. Harsh Rathod i/b Mr. Nitin Gaware Patil, Advocate for Respondent
Nos. 16 & 17 in IA/12742/2025.

CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE &
ASHWIN D. BHOBE, JJ.
DATE : 18th NOVEMBER, 2025.

P.C. :

1. The learned Government Pleader has placed on record, the of the minutes of meeting (57 pages) of the High Court Constituted Committee (“HCCC”) held on 12th November, 2025. The said report is presented with a covering letter dated 17th November, 2025. The same is taken on record and marked as **‘X-70’** for identification.

2. The learned Government Pleader has drawn our attention to the issues like the Pure Water Rising Main at page 6, the Work Progress with regard to the Jack Well at page 21, the sub-work as regards the Approach Bridge at page 26, Raw Water Rising Main at page 27, Pure Water Rising Main at page 34, the Major Balancing Reserviors at page 35, Pure Water Leading Main at page 37 and page 41 and the Distribution System at pages 43 & 44. He makes a grievance about the number of labourers that are deployed at critical stages of the project. He further submits that the present strength of the workers is around 500, instead of it being around 1000.

3. The learned senior Advocate Shri, Dhorde on behalf of the Project Contractor submits that insofar as the labourers deployed on the project are concerned, they come from a poor strata of the society. They

demand cash payments at the end of the day. Since the last payment of the Project Contractor was made in August 2025 and bills for the work done, amounting to around Rs. 133 crores, are still pending, it is facing a financial crunch. As a consequence, there are several sub-contractors, who used to deploy the labour force, who have disassociated themselves from the project as timely payments could not be made. The Petitioners' bills of around Rs. 133 crores are still pending.

4. The learned senior Advocate Shri. Rajendra Deshmukh representing the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran ("MJP"), has placed a compilation of the documents (24 pages) on record. The same is marked as 'Y-101' for identification. He indicates from internal page 7 of Y-101 that the approved bills of around Rs. 62 crores, would be disbursed in about 15 working days. Further bills of the Project Contractor would be scrutinized as per the procedure and once the said bills are cleared, such payments would be made. He, however, submits by adverting to the Project Contract that the Project Contractor is expected to make timely payments of the labourers and such payments need not be postponed or deferred, only because certain bills are yet to be cleared by the MJP.

5. The learned Advocate Shri. Tope representing the Corporation submits that the amount of Rs. 62 crores would be disbursed to the Project Contractor shortly, in around 15 days from today. Since the

Corporation states that the amount would be sanctioned and would be at the disposal of the MJP within 10 working days, we would expect MJP to disburse the said amount to the Project Contractor as well as two other entities, which are mentioned at page 7 below Y-101, within 2 working days, which is a statement made on instructions from the Superintendent Engineer, MJP Head Quarters at Mumbai.

6. Our attention has been drawn to paragraphs 9 & 10 of our last order dated 7th November, 2025. Shri. Dhorde, senior Advocate responds by stating that the Project Contractor is trying his level best to increase the pace of the work. As the bills are now being cleared, the Project Contractor will not be short of funds to make payments to the daily wages/employees on the rolls of the Project Contractor or the sub-contractors.

7. With regard to the interference by some localites, in view of the orders of this Court passed earlier and especially the order dated 7th November 2025, the obstruction has diminished to quite an extent. There are few elements, which are causing the obstruction. However, Shri. Dhorde, submits that the Project Contractor is showing restrain and would not voice a grievance or complaint today. If the project work is obstructed resulting in slowing down, he would not hesitate to mention the names of persons, who are creating obstacles.

8. We record at this stage that if such obstructions are resulting in blockages, thereby reducing the pace of the project, we would expect the State Government to follow the due procedure laid down in law and register the First Information Reports against such persons, who are obstructing.

9. Shri. Girase, the learned GP submits that if the Project Contractor indicates the persons, who are causing the obstruction, appropriate steps would be initiated to ensure that the law and order situation is maintained and those who are obstructing, are booked under the law and adequate protection would be granted to the Project Contractor.

10. The learned senior Advocate Shri. Dhorde has placed on record a compilation of details, colour photographs and ready reference charts with regard to the ESR and GSR. The same is taken on record and marked as 'Y-102' for identification. By the said compilation, Shri. Dhorde, senior Advocate submits on the basis of various large colour photographs as regards the progress being made at critical stages, especially the Jack Well, Raw Water Rising Main, the Water Treatment Plant, Pure Water Gravity Main, Elevated Storage Reservoirs and the distribution work accomplishment.

11. The learned *Amicus Curiae* Adv. Shambhuraje Deshmukh

submits that as the project work is progressing on the critical and main stages, the Project Contractor will also have to concentrate on the ESR and GSR, as also the internal distribution network of the pipelines meant to deliver drinking water to the end users, amongst the ever growing population of the Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, which is now more than 18 lakhs. We would appreciate if the learned *Amicus Curiae* prepares/ collates/subject-wise details and addresses the Court in the further hearings in this matter. Such details would be useful to issue guidelines to the Project Contractor to ensure that the internal networking of the pipelines for delivering water to the end users, would also be simultaneously done, in order to ensure an early commencement of the water distribution system.

12. Insofar as the filing of the Affidavit-in-Reply to the Interim Application filed by the Project Contractor, as the replies have still not been filed, we extend time to the Non-Applicants to file their Affidavits-in-Reply, on or before 5th December, 2025.

13. We are informed that the next meeting of the HCCC is scheduled on 27th November, 2025. Considering the same, list this matter on 12th December, 2025 at 3.00 p.m.

[ASHWIN D. BHOBE, J.]

[RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.]