

**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 (Through VC) 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
(Through VC).

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
(Through VC).

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

Mr.Dipendra Korate, Executive Engineer, MJP, present in Court.

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

DATE : MARCH 27, 2026

P.C:

1. This is the 214th hearing in these matters.
2. The learned Senior Advocates Mr. R.N. Dhorde, for the Project Contractor and Mr.Rajendra Deshmukh, for the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran (MJP), along with the Chief Engineer and the Executive Engineer of MJP, are present in the Court Hall. The learned Government Pleader Mr. A.B. Girase and the learned Advocate Mr. S.S. Tope for the Corporation, along with the learned Amicus Curiae Mr. S.B. Deshmukh and the learned Advocate Mr. Amit Mukhedkar, have addressed the Court through video conferencing from Aurangabad.
3. Pursuant to the last order, we are informed that water was initially let into the jack well and the said entry of the water in the jack

well has been uneventful. From the jack well, two water pumping machines of 100 MLD capacity each, are being used alternately, and water has been pumped into the new pipeline for the purpose of cleaning of the pipeline through the scour valves. The water has travelled from Jaikwadi Dam beyond Dhorkin and is presently between the Dhorkin and Karkin segment, which is at a distance of around 13.8 km from the Jaikwadi Dam. Testing for a flow of 100 MLD is going on.

4. We are further informed that this project is meant to cater to a population of 50 lakh people in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar. The population is 16.93 lakh as of 2022. In 2037, it is projected to be 24.47 lakh, and in 2052, 33.17 lakh. The project is expected to meet requirements up to the year 2050, with a structural life of not less than 30 years. The liability of the Project Contractor for maintenance is upto one year, and the defect liability period is upto five years. We, therefore, record that MJP will keep a close watch/vigil on the functioning of this pipeline/project and shall meticulously record the defects and get them cured/corrected by the Project Contractor.

5. The learned Senior Advocate Mr. Dhorde submits that after the entire pipeline is cleaned up by the process recorded in the earlier

orders, the water will then reach the WTP for water treatment. Then it will reach the 16 Elevated Storage Reservoirs (ESRs). The said ESRs will have to be tested after the Corporation supplies the water to the laid pipes upto the tank. Once the testing of the ESRs is done, the ESRs will be commissioned for storage and distribution of the water.

6. The learned Advocate Mr. Tope submits that the underground pipeline to be attached to this new project pipeline has covered around 1,300 kms. Since the entire internal underground pipelines to connect the water supply pipes to the end user, is around 1,900 kms, the deficit is 600 kms. 1300 kms underground pipeline is not in continuity and there are some gaps which will have to be connected. The ESRs are yet to be filled up.

7. The learned Senior Advocate Mr. Dhorde submits that this would be carried out simultaneously, and once all the ESRs in the respective areas have been commissioned, this pipeline will have to be put in place for supplying water to the end user.

8. Mr. Dhorde has taken up the issue of storage of the chemical, namely chlorine, for the purification of water before it is supplied to the

end user. He submits that valid permissions are required from the Joint Chief Controller of Explosives, Mumbai.

9. The learned Advocate Mr. Tope submits that the chlorinator room is yet not ready, which is contradicted by Mr. Dhorde. Unless the chlorinator room is ready, the Joint Chief Controller of Explosives would not grant permission for storage of chlorine, as it would be hazardous.

10. It is stated by the learned Advocate Mr. Tope and the learned Amicus Curiae, Mr. S.B. Deshmukh, along with the learned Advocate Mr. Amit Mukhedkar, that the Water Treatment Plant (WTP), which has to cater to 400 MLD of water, is also not complete. The learned Senior Advocate Mr. Dhorde contradicts the same and submits that the learned Advocates are at liberty to visit the WTP as well as the chlorinator room.

11. We would expect these learned Advocates appearing for the parties to coordinate with each other and also include the learned Amicus Curiae Mr.S.B.Deshmukh, and the learned Advocate Mr. Amit Mukhedkar, to be taken along with them for inspecting the WTP as well as the chlorinator room, at the earliest. They may mutually decide the date and time and make the visit.

12. Mr. Deshmukh, the learned Senior Advocate for the MJP, submits that, by and large, there has been no issue with the pipeline at present, save and except a leakage at one place. The Project Contractor is already on the job to ensure that the leakage is plugged.

13. We are informed that the High Court Constituted Committee meeting is now scheduled on 01.04.2026. We would, therefore, list the hearing in these matters on **10.04.2026 at 3.00 p.m.**

(ABHAY MANTRI, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)