

**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**

V.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

Mr. Shambhuraje Deshmukh, *Amicus Curiae* a/w. Mr. Amit Mukhedkar, Advocates for the Petitioner (Through V.C.).

Mr. A. B. Girase (Through V.C.), Government Pleader a/w Mrs. G. R. Raghuwanshi, AGP for the Respondent-State.

Mr. Rajendra Deshmukh, Senior Advocate i/by Mr. Vinod Patil & Mr. Amol Vasmatkar, Advocate for Respondent No.6/MJP.

Mr. S. S. Tope, Advocate for Respondent No.4/Municipal Corporation.

Adv. D. P. Madkar, h/f Adv. D. S. Manorkar, for the NHAI.

Mr. R. N. Dhorde, Senior Advocate i/by 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.

Ms. Manisha Palande, Chief Engineer, MJP, Chh. Sambhajinagar, present through V.C.

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

DATE : 9th JANUARY, 2026

P.C. :-

HIGH COURT CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE ('HCCC')

1. The learned Government Pleader, Mr. Girase along with the learned AGP, Ms. Raghuwanshi has tendered the minutes of the HCCC Meetings dated 24th December, 2025 and 6th January, 2026 along with covering letters dated 5th January, 2026 and 8th January, 2026. The report dated 24th December, 2025 (1+36 Pages), is taken on record and marked as 'X-73' for identification. The report of the meeting dated 6th January, 2026 (1+28 Pages), is taken on record and marked as 'X-74' for identification.

2. The learned Government Pleader, Mr. Girase points out from Page No.13 onwards, from the report 'X-73', that several stages in the project have now reach completion. To cite a few examples, he points out the Jayakwadi Raw Water Pumping Station, where several stages have been completed and the remark as 'Completed' is set out in green shading. He also points out few

stages from the WTP Micro Planning for Partial Commission as well as the Nakshatrawadi Clear Water Pumping Station etc. He expresses great hope that the project would reach fruition at the earliest, though there are certain areas which require extra attention and increase in the pace of work.

3. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Dhorde has placed on record a compilation of color photographs (20 Pages), which is marked as 'Y-104' for identification. He conveys that the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran ('MJP') has completed the dry run of the water pumping motors. The work of Jackwell is completed. The thrust blocks necessary for strengthening the 2500 mm diameter pipeline, which would be receiving water from the pumping motors having a capacity of 3700 HP each. They are three in number and two motors by way of standby arrangement. Such thrust blocks have become a necessity considering that there are several bends and undulations. If the thrust blocks are not installed by using RCC material, there could be a disaster after the water is pumped in the pipelines.

4. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Deshmukh, submits

that 12 thrust blocks are required and presently only one is completed. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Dhorde submits that the centring work is being carried out at a good pace and the thrust blocks will require curing time. The Raw Water Rising Main (**'RWRM'**) is completed and the 2500 mm diameter pipeline from the Jayakwadi Project to the City has been laid and the work is completed.

5. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Deshmukh, has placed on record two color photographs only for the purpose for indicating the mammoth size of the pumping machines, each one having the strength of 3700 HP. The same is marked **'Y-105'** for identification.

6. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Deshmukh, has placed on record a copy of the communication addressed by the Executive Engineer (Incharge) to the Executive Engineer (Water Supply) of the Chh. Sambhaji Nagar Municipal Corporation and has annexed ready reference charts and photographs (9 Pages). The same is taken on record and marked as **'Y-106'** for identification.

7. He submits that the Jackwell cleaning work will now have to be completed and the photographs from Page No.5 onwards below 'Y-106' have been clicked yesterday. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Dhorde, submits that the cleaning work has been undertaken at high pace and within a short time, the Jackwell cleaning would be completed.

OUTSTANDING BILLS OF THE PROJECT CONTRACTOR

8. Insofar as, the bills are concerned, the learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Dhorde, submits that an amount of Rs.140 Crores is outstanding. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Deshmukh, submits that out of Rs.121 Crores that was recorded in the order dated 18th December 2025, an amount of around Rs.30 Crores have been released. The Corporation is requested to release a further amount of Rs.21 Crores and odd. The learned Advocate, Mr. Tope assures that the said amount would be released within 15 days and the MJP can then make the payment to the Project Contractor.

9. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Dhorde, cautions that the outstanding amount of Rs.121 Crores has now swelled to Rs.140

Crores. He submits that at this stage he may not make an issue out of this, because the Project Contractor's main object and intention is to ensure that the project work is completed successfully and at the earliest. As such, he would expect by the next hearing in this matter that the further payment of around Rs.21 Crores and odd, would be made to the Project Contractor.

OBSTRUCTION IN THE PROJECT WORK

10. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Dhorde as well as the learned Government Pleader, Mr. Girase submit that, for the present, there has been a lot of cooperation from the residents of the Chh. Sambhaji Nagar City. As on date, there are no challenges insofar as obstruction to the project is concerned.

11. Nevertheless, for the sake of brevity, we record that in our several orders passed earlier, we have categorically observed that this is a dream project and would be a lifeline for the residents of the Chh. Sambhaji Nagar City, which has an approximate population of more than 18 Lakhs. This project has to be completed without anybody's interference, unnecessary indulgence or

obstruction. We have also prevented obstruction and interference by any person, either active in public life or occupying any position as a representative of the people or constituency, or any elected representative from the Local Bodies, Authorities or Corporation, save and except, the departments and authorities/Government. If an attempt to obstruct or interfere in the project is brought to our notice, this Court would consider such act as Contempt of Court, in as much as, the State Government and the Local Administration would initiate appropriate action against such person/s, including by filing First Information Report ('FIR') against them and registering criminal offences.

12. We are informed that the next hearing of the HCCC is scheduled on 23rd January, 2026. We are, therefore, listing this proceeding for further hearing, on **30th January, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.**

(ABHAY J. MANTRI, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)