IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION NO. 1844 OF 2026

Sinhgad Technical Education Society ...Petitioner
Versus
The State Of Maharashtra And Ors ...Respondents

Mr. V.P. Sawant, Senior Advocate, with Mr. Nitin Dhumal, for the Petitioner.

Ms. Rathina Maravarman, a/w Asma Batatawala, for the Respondents.

Ms. Kavita N. Solunke, Addl. G.P. a/w A.R. Deolekar, AGP for State.

Mr. Suresh Pakale, Senior Advocate with Saurabh Pakale, for the contempt petitioner employee in C.P. No. 157 of 2026 in W.P. No. 7428 of 2024.

CORAM : R. I. CHAGLA AND
ADVAIT M. SETHNA, JJ.

DATED : 18 MARCH, 2026

P.C.:-

1. This Writ Petition has been placed for compliance pursuant to the orders dated 12 February 2026 and 24 February 2026. By the said orders, this Court directed the Respondent–State Department to disburse the approved reimbursement amount of Rs. 55 crore to Respondent No. 14 – Bank of Baroda, and clarified that the disbursement shall not be to the extent of their entire outstanding dues. These directions were issued in order for the Petitioner to comply with the order dated 9 December 2025 passed by the DRT, Pune, in I.A No. 3841 of 2025 in M.A. No. 18 of 2025 (Exhibit J to the Petition).

2. This Court had also directed the Respondent–State Department to reimburse the balance approved amount towards the fees of the Petitioner Institute. It was expressly clarified that this direction would be without prejudice to the SARFAESI proceedings instituted by Respondent No. 14 – Bank of Baroda before the DRT, Pune, in which they have made a claim for their entire outstanding dues, which they allege are payable by the Petitioner–Institute.

3. Thereafter, it has been brought to the notice of this Court that a Co-ordinate Bench, in Contempt Petition No. 157 of 2026 in Writ Petition No. 7428 of 2024 along with companion matters, had passed an order dated 11 March 2026, by which the Co-ordinate Bench considered it appropriate for the employees of the Petitioner - Institute, along with the Respondent–State, to approach this Bench to work out a mechanism by which the said amount may be utilized by the Respondent–State to ensure payment of the outstanding salaries of the employees, viz. teaching and non-teaching staff.

4. It was observed by the Co-ordinate Bench that the teaching and non-teaching staff, numbering more than 1,000 employees, had not been paid their salaries. The Co-ordinate Bench also issued a Contempt Notice to

Respondent No. 1, Mr. Maruti Navale, Chairman of the Trust, in the format prescribed under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, returnable on 17 April 2026 and to be listed on the urgent supplementary board.

5. Today, Mr. Sawant, learned senior counsel appearing for the Petitioner, has tendered a further affidavit on behalf of the Petitioner – Sinhgad Technical Education Society. The further affidavit is taken on record. In the said Affidavit, the Petitioner - Society has stated that, as per the order dated 17 July 2025, which laid down a detailed mechanism for adjudication of the claims of teaching and non-teaching staff, approximately 1,086 teachers had submitted claims, many of which are voluminous, collectively running into more than 5,200 pages. Some teachers had filed multiple claims. The Petitioner- Society, due to the volume and complexity of the material, could not immediately submit replies before the concerned authorities in compliance with the said order dated 17 July 2025, nor could it make monthly salary payments to the currently serving staff due to the non-reimbursement of fees in a timely manner by the Respondent – State, which resulted in the filing of the contempt petition.

6. The Petitioner Society was able to submit its reply to the claims before the respective Directorates/Authorities only on 10 March 2026 and the matter is presently pending adjudication. It is further stated in the said Affidavit that upon verification of the claims in accordance with the said order dated 17 July 2025, the Petitioner Society has evaluated the claims and determined that an amount of Rs. 7,89,47,889/- is due and payable to certain teachers who had submitted claims for unpaid salary dues. Further, an amount of Rs. 9,72,54,827/- is payable towards the teachers' regular monthly salaries for the period from July 2025 to February 2026. The total amount comes to Rs. 17,62,02,716/-. The Petitioner - Society states that, save and except for the said amount, no further sums are due as per its records.

7. Ms. Ratina Maravarman, learned counsel appearing for Respondent No. 14 – Bank of Baroda, has submitted that although there is a dispute between the Petitioner - Society and the teaching staff regarding the amounts payable by the Petitioner Society to the teachers, this should not come in the way of Respondent No. 14 – Bank of Baroda being reimbursed the amount of Rs. 55 crore by the Respondent - State Department.

8. The learned AGP appearing for the Respondent – State has tendered a letter dated 12 March 2026 to the Petitioner – Society, wherein the details of the designated account of Respondent No. 14, Bank of Baroda have been sought for the purpose of reimbursing the said amount of Rs. 55 crores.

9. Ms. Maravarman states that the details of the designated account of Respondent No. 14 - Bank of Baroda, will be submitted to the Respondent - State by 23 March 2026. Upon the details of the designated account being submitted, the Respondent - State shall reimburse the said amount of Rs. 55 crore to Respondent No. 14 - Bank of Baroda by 25 March 2026.

10. In view of the statement made in the said affidavit of the Petitioner - Society viz. that an admitted amount of Rs.17,62,02,716/- is payable to certain members of the teaching staff, this amount shall be reimbursed by the Respondent – State to those teachers whose claims for outstanding dues are admittedly payable, as per the statement annexed at Exhibit D to the said affidavit. The said amount shall be reimbursed within a period of two weeks from today.

11. Insofar as the balance amount to be reimbursed by the Respondent - State to the Petitioner – Society, as per the orders dated 12 February 2026 and 24 February 2026, such balance amount shall not be reimbursed until the Respondent - State in conformity with the order dated 17 July 2025, hears the management of the Petitioner – Society as well as the employees/teachers represented. Such hearing, as directed by this Court vide order dated 17 July 2025, shall be for a maximum of five hours for the employees/teachers and a similar period of five hours for the Management. The hearing shall be conducted on a date fixed by the Respondent – State, preferably no later than one week from the uploading of this order and after the completion of such hearing, a reasoned order shall be passed within 30 days therefrom.

12. The further direction of this Court in the said order dated 17 July 2025 viz. if the Respondent – State comes to the conclusion that beyond the undisputed amount already paid by the Management, additional amounts are required to be paid, the Management shall make such payment within 30 days of receipt of the Respondent – State's reasoned order. A copy of the reasoned order shall also be delivered to the representative of the employees. All amounts, including the undisputed amounts, would carry interest at the rate of 4% per annum if not paid within the timelines specified in this order, except for the gratuity amount, which will carry statutory interest at the rate of 10% per annum from the actual date when the amount became payable (i.e., 30 days after service by the employer). The employer-employee relationship provisions shall also apply and be duly complied with.

13. In passing of this order, due cognizance has been taken of the order dated 11 March 2026 passed by the Co-ordinate Bench, which directed that a mechanism be worked out by the State Government to ensure the utilization of the said amount for the payment of the outstanding salaries of the employees.

14. In view of the aforesaid exercise required to be carried out by the Respondent- State, the directions in paragraph D, E, F of the said order dated 17 July 2025 shall be kept in abeyance until such time as the

Respondent - State passes the reasoned order.

15. Stand over to 30 April 2026.

[ADVAIT M. SETHNA, J.] **[R.I. CHAGLA, J.]**