

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

## WRIT PETITION NO. 18812 OF 2024

|                                       |     |             |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
| Dhananjay Pandurang Dhanke and Others | ... | Petitioners |
| versus                                |     |             |
| The State of Maharashtra and Others   | ... | Respondents |

Ms.Preeti Walimbe with Mr.Mayank Tripathi, Ms.Shalu Tanvar and Ms.Vaishnavi Nagargoje for the Petitioners.

Mr.P.P.Kakade, Addl.GP with Mr.V.M.Mali, AGP for Respondent No.1,State.

Mr.Nikhilesh Pote for Respondent No.2- Palghar Zilla Parishad.

Mr.Shrishail Sakhare for Respondent No.3.

Mr.S.B.Talekar i/b. Talekar and Associates for Respondent No.5.

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE**

**&**

ASHWIN D. BHOBE, JJ.

**DATE : 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**P.C.:**

1. Before issuance of notice, several of the Respondents have appeared *suo motu*. Each of them wants to file an affidavit in reply. Each of them desires to raise several contentious issues, except the submission of Shri Talekar, the learned Advocate for Respondent No.5.

He relies upon an order passed by this Court in Public Interest Litigation No. 97 of 2023 (*Nilesh s/o. Bhagwan Sambre V/s. The State of Maharashtra & Ors.*), wherein the PIL Bench has passed an order on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.

2. On a request made by Shri Talekar that the PIL be heard with this Petition, divergent views have been expressed. The Respondents are agreeable. In response, Shri Talekar submits that he would contemplate moving a praecipe to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court for a decision as to whether these two matters need to be heard by the same Bench. The learned Advocate for the Petitioners submits that if Shri Talekar makes an application, they would respond to it.

3. For the present, **issue notice to the Respondents**, returnable on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2025. The learned AGP waives service of notice on behalf of Respondent Nos. 1, State.

4. In view of the above, *status quo* as existing today, be maintained until the returnable date.

5. All office objections to be removed, on or before 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, failing which, the Petition would stand dismissed without reference to the Court, on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

**(ASHWIN D. BHOBE,J.)**

**(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)**