

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION NO. 790 OF 2018

Kannamwar Co-Op. Hsg. Soc. Association Ltd. & Ors.

...Petitioners

Versus

Union Of India & Ors.

...Respondents

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION (L) NO. 3527 OF 2026
IN
WRIT PETITION NO. 790 OF 2018
WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION (L) NO. 10152 OF 2026
IN
WRIT PETITION NO. 790 OF 2018

Mr. Abhijeet P. Rane for Petitioner

Mr. Anil D. Yadav for R. No. 1, U.O.I.

Smt. Jyoti Chavan, Addl. G.P. for State

Mr. Anil Sakhare, Sr. Adv. a/w Mr. Rohan Mirpury, Ms. Pushpa Yadav i/b Ms.
Komal Punjabi for BMC

Mr. Avinash Kate, Ch. Eng. (SWM) Project

Mr. Shrikant Rathod, Ex. Eng. (SWM), Zone 1

Mr. Parikshit Gangurde, Asstt. Engineer (SWM) Operations

Mr. Avdhoot Pujari, Ex. Eng. (SWM) Project

Mr. Deepak Ahire, Asstt. Eng. (SWM) Project

Mr. Deepak Sirsat, Asstt. Eng. (SWM) A Ward

Ms. Jaya Bagwe for MCZMA & MPCB

Nawaz Dordi i/b Mr. Tejas Bhide for R. No. 6

Mr. Saket Mone a/w Mr. Subit Chakraborty, Mr. Shrey Shah, Ms. Mitali Dhoble i/b
Vidhi Partners for R. No. 7

Mr. Srinivasan Chari, Representative of R. No. 7 Present

Radha H. Bhandari i/b M. V. Kini & Co. for R. No. 8 (Airport Authority of India).

CORAM: G. S. KULKARNI &
DR. NEELA GOKHALE, JJ.

DATE: 27th AUGUST 2026

P.C.

1. Issues of seminal importance on public hygiene and health are flagged in our order dated 15th July 2026. We indicated two major concerns, first, the duty of residents to keep the city clean by refraining from dirtying public places, such as throwing garbage on roads, pavements and streets and second, if, despite warnings, citizens fail to relent and continue to trash public streets, pavements, or other public places, the municipal and legal machinery to prevent such abuse of public property needs to be set in motion.

2. Thus, in our above-dated Order, we had issued the following directions:

(i) The Municipal Commissioner to ensure that the streets, by-lanes, pavements and any other places of public utility in every ward are garbage-free. A mechanism for systematic storage and collection of garbage needs to be implemented immediately in all wards.

(ii) A strict vigil be maintained by the Ward Officers or any other machinery that may be deployed against persons dumping garbage, plastic waste on public streets, pavements etc. and strict action be taken against such persons as the law would determine. Technology like CCTV, Vigilance booths, etc. should be deployed at places where people habitually throw garbage on streets and public places.

(iii) The aforesaid measures need to be urgently deployed in and around the marketplaces of every kind so that cleanliness and hygiene are maintained in the marketplaces.

(iv) The Municipal Commissioner to devise a mechanism to sensitise people against throwing garbage and plastic waste into the sea/nalas and water bodies. At the points where these nala drains meet the sea, nets or barriers should be installed to prevent plastic materials from being dumped into the sea.

(v) All open nalas need to be closed, so that all the ill-effects of such public waste and garbage being dumped into these nalas are avoided. It is the need of the hour to convert open nalas into proper piped drains. This is wholly forgotten.

(vi) The MCGM shall publish and give publicity to those wards that have achieved the status of clean, no-garbage wards, with streets, public lanes, market surroundings and other public places free from the dumping of waste, garbage etc. and shall appropriately reward the municipal machinery.

3. Additionally, we have raised concerns that the MCGM, confronted with nuisance arising from the accumulation, collection and disposal of solid waste, appeared unable to meet these challenges, unless the residents of the city curb their reckless and negligent habits of failing to meet basic civic expectations. We have also observed that residents who feel free to throw waste/garbage and litter on public streets do not indulge in such activities when they visit abroad. Thus, accountability of the residents of the municipal wards, as well as the ward officers and the municipal machinery at their disposal, is required to be activated by resorting to strict action.

4. We also highlighted the obligation of the Additional Municipal Commissioners of the respective regions to maintain rigorous oversight of their wards with respect to public hygiene by implementing strict measures to secure

hygiene and cleanliness in the city by imposing fines/penalties on persons identified in indulging/creating a public nuisance. We have also observed that the municipal authorities use CCTV cameras to identify nuisance creators.

5. Furthermore, citing the example of the City of Indore in Madhya Pradesh, which has been recognised by the Government of India as the cleanest city in the country, we also observed that the MCGM is equally required to maintain cleanliness, public health and hygiene by implement anti-dumping measures in every ward, and ensure that each and every suburb is kept impeccable, free from garbage strewn on the streets.

6. We highlighted the MCGM's duty to engage with agencies to sensitise and bring awareness in the citizens, particularly in areas where garbage-related nuisance is identified. We thus directed the MCGM to formulate a comprehensive scheme/plan for ward officers to ensure cleanliness in every ward of the city. The scheme/plan was to incorporate a detailed checklist of essential sanitation duties and performance indicators.

7. In light of the above issues, we directed the Respondents to take steps in relation to the aspects highlighted by us in the said Order and to submit a report in that regard.

8. Pursuant to the Order dated 15th July 2026, Mr A. Y, Sakhare, learned Senior Advocate representing the Corporation, tendered an affidavit in reply, on behalf of the Corporation, affirmed by Dr Vipin Sharma, Additional Municipal Commissioner, Western Suburbs, BMC. The same is taken on record. In paragraph

No.3 of the said affidavit, the Corporation has reported the necessary compliance in respect of the aspects flagged in the 15th July 2026 order. The compliance reported in the affidavit is as under:

i) A circular has been issued by the Municipal Commissioner bearing No. ChE/SWM/3840/Op. dated 03/08/2026, thereby issuing an Action Plan whereby, inter alia, directions have been issued to all Assistant Commissioners, Zonal Deputy Municipal Commissioners, SWM officers and other concerned officials to ensure immediate and strict compliance with the steps enlisted thereunder, which inter alia include strict enforcement of BMC's SWM Bye-Laws 2025. Ward-level officers have also started implementing the bye-laws and levying fines as stipulated under the Bye-Laws. Anti-littering drives, regular inspections and enforcement actions are being carried out across all wards. Annexed to the affidavit and marked as "**Exhibit R-1**" is a copy of the Circular issued by the Municipal Commissioner dated 03/08/2026. Annexed and marked as "**Exhibit R-2**" is a statement of ward-wise fines levied by the concerned officers under the BMC's SWM Bye-Laws 2025 as well as a news report in that regard.

ii) The Corporation has appointed NGOs for the collection of municipal solid waste from notified slums under the Swachh Mumbai Prabodhan Abhiyan (SMPA) Scheme. The collected waste is brought to designated collection points, from where the BMC transports it to designated processing/disposal facilities, ensuring regular sanitation services in such areas. For Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) projects where redevelopment has been completed, housing societies/building management are responsible for ensuring that municipal solid waste is brought to the designated collection point. Thereafter, the BMC transports the collected waste to the designated processing facilities. The Ward Officers have been instructed to ensure regular collection of waste, maintenance of cleanliness and hygiene, and strict monitoring in both notified slums and redeveloped SRA areas so as to ensure that no area is deprived of municipal sanitation services merely on account of its classification as a notified slum or its redevelopment under the SRA.

iii) In furtherance of the above, a meeting has been conducted on 21/07/2026 to review cleanliness-related matters, field-level monitoring measures and necessary compliance actions under the Solid Waste Management Department. The meeting was attended by all Ward Officers, the Assistant Engineers concerned, as well as the Zonal Deputy Municipal Commissioners. During the meeting, detailed directions were issued to ensure strict day-to-day vigilance for maintaining public hygiene and effective implementation of penalties prescribed under Schedule-I of the Bye Laws. Annexed and marked as “**Exhibit R-3**” is a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting dated 21/07/2026.

iv) CCTV Cameras have been installed at identified Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs) for monitoring and preventing illegal dumping of waste. Ward staff, including Junior Supervisors, are deputed to regularly monitor these locations and initiate enforcement actions against people found violating provisions of the Bye-Laws. Penalties are being imposed on the defaulters in accordance with the Bye-Laws. A statement showing penalties levied is referred to above. Annexed and marked as “**Exhibit R-4**” is a ward wise statement of CCTVs installed till date.

v) Instructions have been issued to all Ward Officers to ensure maintenance of public health and hygiene through regular cleaning, timely collection and transportation of municipal solid waste, anti-littering drives and strict enforcement of the Bye-Laws and in furtherance thereof, actions have been initiated as referred to hereinabove. The report of the steps taken was not uploaded on the website, but it was uploaded on social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram, in addition to newspaper publications. However, steps are being taken to ensure that reports of such measures are shared on the MCGM website. Further, from April 2026 onwards, the MyBMC Marg application (for both iOS and Android) has been made active; this official citizen grievance redressal portal facilitates registration of complaints relating to solid waste management, cleanliness, illegal dumping, and other sanitation-related issues. The complaints made on the said application are immediately and automatically forwarded to the respective Ward Offices for prompt redressal. Thereafter, the Ward Officers address the complaints, take corrective

action within the prescribed timelines, and update the complaint status on the portal/application.

vi) In addition to the aforesaid measures referred in the preceding paragraphs, a uniform program for waste collection is followed at the ward levels wherein the waste collection is conducted in three shifts i.e. from 6 am to 2 pm, 2 pm to 10 pm and 10 pm to 6 am. Garbage is collected from localities using mini compactors and large compactors, as per the route plan. The mini compactors complete two rounds in each shift and carry the collected garbage to the nearest Refuse Transfer Station, from where it is filled into the large compactors. The large compactors directly transport the waste to the processing facility/site. A statement of the staff dedicated in each ward to implement the aforesaid activity is attached and marked as “**Exhibit R-5**”

vii) The Corporation has initiated citizen awareness and public sensitisation programs through Mumbai Clean League 2026, which involves participation of NGOs, Resident Welfare Associations, Educational institutions, housing societies, elected representatives and is also being publicised on social media platforms. Ward officers are instructed to identify areas prone to repeated littering and illegal dumping and undertake focused Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, awareness campaigns and community engagement programs in such areas. Annexed and marked as “**Exhibit R-6**” are photographs of some of the events conducted under the IEC initiative.

viii) The Municipal Commissioner has addressed email communications to all the Municipal Corporators to actively support cleanliness and public hygiene initiatives within their respective wards and is seeking their active participation in the Clean Mumbai initiative by creating public awareness, encouraging responsible waste disposal practices, and motivating citizens to refrain from littering and illegal dumping. The elected representatives are also requested to coordinate with their respective ward officers and local stakeholders to promote citizen participation and strengthen efforts to maintain a clean, hygienic, and garbage-free environment. Annexed and marked as “**Exhibit R-7**” is a copy of the email addressed by the Municipal Commissioner to the elected Municipal Corporators.

ix) The Municipal Commissioner has issued an Action Plan to be complied with by all Ward Officers vide Circular dated 03/08/2026, which is referred to at point no. (i) hereinabove. In so far as incentives are concerned, the Mumbai Clean League 2026 is currently an incentive-based initiative whereby awards will be distributed to the cleanest wards. However, in so far as reflective effective execution and compliance of these duties in the Annual Confidential Reports of the Ward Officers to grant appropriate incentives is concerned, the same is still under consideration, and an appropriate policy decision in that regard is yet to be finalised. Annexed and marked as “**Exhibit R-8**” is a copy of the Press Note regarding the rewards under the Mumbai Clean League 2026.

x) The MPCB had submitted two inspection reports, both dated 13/07/2026, firstly in respect of the directions issued on 29/04/2026 and secondly in respect of the directions issued on 02/06/2026. Compliance reports have been submitted to the MPCB vide letters dated 04/08/2026. The Monitoring Committee meeting was conducted on 11/08/2026, at which time the said compliance was also placed before the Monitoring Committee. The minutes of the said meeting are still awaited and will be placed on record as soon as they are available. Annexed and marked as “**Exhibit R-9**” are copies of the compliance reports submitted to the MPCB on 04/08/2026.

xi) The Municipal Commissioner has held a meeting on 01/08/2026 and thereafter issued the Action Plan vide Circular dated 03/08/2026, which has been referred to at point no. (i) above. The same has also been given wide publicity to spread awareness in respect of the same. Annexed and marked as “**Exhibit R-10**” are copies of the news reports in that regard.

xii) As stated in the preceding paragraphs, CCTVs have been installed at the Garbage Vulnerable Points in each ward, and also ward officers have been instructed to strictly implement the Bye-Laws and impose the penalties thereunder. The details of the CCTVs installed as well as penalties levied under the Bye-Laws have been referred to hereinabove.

xiii) As per the Action Plan, the Ward Officers have been instructed to inter alia engage with Market Associations to address the aforesaid issue, and further

steps to augment the cleanliness and hygiene in the marketplaces shall also be implemented.

xiv) In addition to the awareness programs being undertaken as referred above, a press note has been issued calling upon all citizens, tourists, etc. to avoid littering and / or dumping garbage in nallas and water bodies and mainly to ensure that the said garbage does not enter the nallas and / or the storm water drains.

xv) The BMC has undertaken the phase-wise covering of open nallas and conversion of suitable stretches into closed drainage systems, wherever technically feasible and permissible. Steel net barriers with submerged nets and floating booms have been deployed across key nallas and drainage lines to intercept and trap floating plastic waste and other debris before it enters the sea. The Corporation has also deployed plastic waste interceptor technology at strategic locations such as Malad Creek in partnership with Ocean Cleanup and Plastic Fischer, to capture floating plastic waste before it reaches the marine environment. The BMC is also regularly desilting major and minor nallas and removing floating waste.

xvi) The Ward Officers have been directed to actively participate in the Mumbai Clean League 2026 and wide publicity is being given to the same with the endeavour to recognise the achievements of Clean Wards and the contributions of municipal staff towards maintaining cleanliness. Annexed and marked as “**Exhibit R-11**” are copies of some of the newspaper reports in that regard.

9. Mr Sakhare took us through the affidavit and the compliances recorded therein. At this stage, we appreciate the efforts of the Corporation, particularly the proactive stand taken by the Municipal Commissioner and the Officers involved, in taking quick steps to curb the menace of garbage dumping on the streets, as well as the allied issues involved in the present matter. In the absence of such pragmatic

and positive actions on the part of the municipal commissioner, we feel that a city like Mumbai which is of an international repute could never be elevated to such reputation it wields.

10. Mr Sakhare also tendered an Order issued by the District Collector, Mumbai Suburban, constituting a dedicated special cell, pursuant to an Order dated 5th May 2026 passed by the Supreme Court in the matter of **Bhopal Municipal Corporation vs. Dr Subhash C. Pandey & Ors.** (C.A. No.6174/2023), and a Notification issued by the MoEFCC under Section 23 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986. He pointed out that six members have been included in the special cell under the Chairmanship of the District Collector, Mumbai Suburban. The same is taken on record.

11. Mr Sakhare also tendered ICWM Kanjur Environment hourly Monitoring Report of 26th August 2026 from 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. The said report demonstrates various parameters. The same is taken on record. While he explained the terms of the said report, Mr Abhijeet Rane, learned counsel for the Petitioner, submitted that the temtop (instrument for monitoring air quality) parameter relating to PM10 microgram/m³ is beyond the permissible AQI limit notified by the Government. Mr Sakhare sought time to address the said issue. We permit him to seek clarification in this regard and revert on the next date.

12. Mr. Sakhare also presented a solid waste management model created by the Corporation for Ward A. He mentions that this model will be replicated in other wards too. Below is the scanned copy of the model.

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation

Solid Waste Management Department

Structure & Operations

1. Geographical & Administrative Structure

- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) area is primarily divided into three main regions: Mumbai City, Mumbai Western Suburbs, and Mumbai Eastern Suburbs.
- The corporation is further divided into 7 Administrative Zones:
 - **Zones 1&2:** Under Mumbai City Region (Supervised by Additional Municipal Commissioner - City)
 - **Zones 3,4&7:** Under Mumbai Western Suburbs Region (Supervised by Additional Municipal Commissioner - Western Suburbs)
 - **Zones 5&6:** Under Mumbai Eastern Suburbs Region (Supervised by Additional Municipal Commissioner - Eastern Suburbs)
- These regions are overseen by Additional Municipal Commissioners (IAS), and each zone is headed by a Zonal Deputy Municipal Commissioner.
- Assistant Commissioners are appointed for each of the 26 administrative wards under the Deputy Municipal Commissioners.
- The department wise Ward-level daily operations are executed by ward staff under the administrative umbrella of Assistant Commissioner.
- There are various department HOD's at ward level under the administrative umbrella of Assistant Commissioner- Ex. Eng., Designated Officer (Building & factory), Water Works Dept., Maintenance Dept., M&E Dept., SWM, SWD, License, Estate, Encroachment, Estate, PCO, ASG, M.O. Health, Education, Colony, ASO, CDO, Sr. Inspector Shops& Establishments, Account Officer, Administrative Officer, Complaint Officer, ALO etc.

2. Technical & Departmental Hierarchy

- For department-specific tasks, the hierarchy under the Chief Engineer includes:
 - Chief Engineer
 - Deputy Chief Engineer
 - Executive Engineer
 - Assistant Engineer
 - Sub-Engineer
 - Junior Engineer
 - Technical Staff
 - Workers and other personnel.
- Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, and other staff operate at ward offices.

3. SWM Department Division & Roles

- The Solid Waste Management (SWM) Department is split into two major parts:
 1. Chief Engineer (SWM Projects): Oversees dumping grounds, scientific waste processing, maintenance, and supervision.
 2. Chief Engineer (SWM): Oversees daily waste collection, street sweeping, and city cleaning.

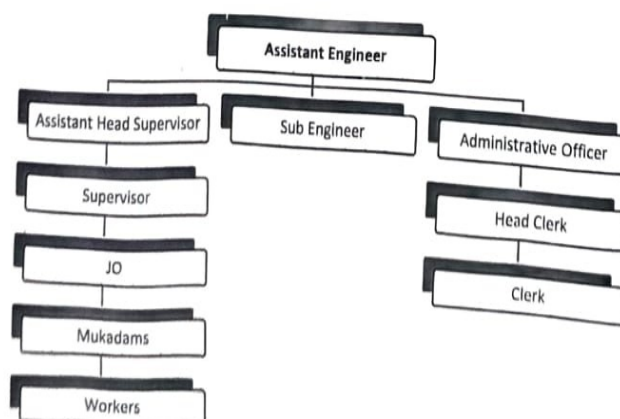
Under Chief Engineer (SWM), there are 5 Deputy Chief Engineers:

- **Dy.Ch.E. (Planning):** Handles tender processes for various major works such as hiring of vehicles for Collection & Transportation of solid waste, Dry waste, Debris etc.
- **Dy.Ch.E. (Transport):** Manages maintenance, repair, and monitoring of vehicles provided to SWM and other officers.
- **Dy.Ch.E. (Operations):** Supervises daily SWM operations in ward offices and facilitate the ward staff to execute their works.
- **Dy.Ch.E. (AshrayYojana Cell):** Manages residential quarters for SWM workers.
- **Dy.Ch.E. (Slum Sanitation Program):** Constructs and oversees community toilets across the city.

4. Ward-Level Operations & Hierarchy

Under Dy.Ch.E. (Operations), Zonal Executive Engineer (SWM) and ward-level Assistant Engineer (SWM) operate.

- The Assistant Engineer (SWM) works as ward level HOD and reports to the Zonal Executive Engineer for technical matters, facilitation of SWM works and to the Ward Assistant Commissioner.
- Assistant Commissioner has administrative supervision over the Assistant Engineer (SWM) regarding functionalities at ward level.
- Ward-Level Hierarchy of SWM department:



The complete ward area is divided in to some sections for effective management of cleaning activities and distribution of workers.

5. Section Chowky:-

- Each section is provided with section chowky headed by JO
- The workers report to Chowky for attendance, collect tools, gears and disperse to their assigned roads (beats) for sweeping/ cleaning activities.
- After completing the sweeping/cleaning activities the workers report to this chowky deposit tools, gears and leave the office.
- These sweeping workers called scavengers.
- The general time of operation of these chowky is from **6.30 AM to 1.00 PM**
- However, in some of the VIP/High footfall areas second shift sweeping i.e. from **2.00 PM to 8.00 PM** and in some cases third shift sweeping activities are carried out.

6. Motor Loader Chowky & Fleet Management

- The core function of Motor Loader Chowky include recording worker attendance, registering incoming vehicles, and assigning waste collection programs to vehicles.
- The Vehicles used for waste collection include Large Compactors, Mini Compactors, Small Closed Vehicles, Stationary Compactors, Dry Waste Tempors, and Sanitary Waste Vans.
- Some of these vehicles are BMC owned and some are hired from private contractor.
- The vehicles need workers for loading the vehicle called Motor Loaders.
- Vehicles report to Motor Loader chowky collect the workers, tools, gears and disperse to their assigned waste collection program.
- After collection, vehicles and workers return to the Chowky for **the check-post verification** of attendance and program completion before proceeding to unloading sites. It is necessary to check whether the concerned vehicle's potential has fully utilized. It is also checked that the vehicles have collected the waste only from the assigned area in the ward.
- To scatter the workload and avoid congestion the fleet is divided in to three shifts Morning (06.30 AM to 1.30 PM), Evening (02.00 PM to 09.00 PM) and Night (10.00 PM to 5.00 AM)
- For morning shift vehicle report at ML chowky at 6.30 AM disperse to assigned program and after attending collection program returns for check-post at around 11.00 AM. After check-post it goes to dumping ground/refuse transfer station for unloading.
- Same timelines followed for other shifts too.

6. Waste Unloading & Processing

- After check-post verification at the Motor Loader Chowky, vehicles proceed to respective unloading centers:
- **Wet waste:** Transferred to Transfer Stations, Kanjurmarg Dumping Ground, or Deonar Dumping Ground.
- **Dry Waste:** Unloaded at Dry Waste Centers for recycling.
- **Domestic Hazardous Waste:** Unloaded at Plasma Centers for specialized disposing.

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Statistics of 'A' Ward

Sr. No.	Parameter	Details			Remarks
1.	Ward Area	11.44 Sq.Km			
2.	Ward Population (As per 2011 Census)	1.9 to 2.1 Lakhs (2,10,926)			
3.	Floating Population	Approx. 25 to 30 Lakhs			
4.	Length of Roads				
	a. Major Roads	Approx. 62.77 Km			
	b. Minor roads	Approx. 2.11 Km			
	c. Total length	Approx. 65 Km			
5.	No. of Sections for Sweeping activities	09			
6.	No. Of ML Chowky	02			1. MG Road (Fashion Street) , A/North Chowky (Vehicles deployed to collect Waste from North part of A ward- Since 1990) 2. KB Patil Road, Opp. City Civil Court, A/South Chowky (Vehicles deployed to collect Waste from South part of A ward Since 1985)
7.	Fleet of Vehicles	BMC	Pvt	Total	
8.	Large Compactors	02	17	19	Capacity of 6MT, collects waste from door to door, Collection points etc. and unloads at Dumping Ground
9.	Mini Compactors	5	3	8	Capacity of 2.5 MT, collects waste from door to door, Collection points etc. and unloads at Refuse Transfer Station
10.	Small Closed Vehicle	0	25	25	Capacity of 0.6 MT, collects waste from house gully, slum area, narrow lanes, Collection points etc. and unloads in to

					nearby Large/Mini/Stationary Compactor
11.	Stationary Compactors	3	0	3	Capacity of 10 MT, deployed near GVP facilitating public to deposit waste, unloading of SCV and unloads at Dumping Ground
12.	Dry Waste Tempo	0	4	4	Collects dry waste from door to door and Unloads at Dry Waste Centre
13.	DHW Tempo	0	1	1	Collects DHW waste from door to door Unloads at Plasma Incineration Plant.
14.	BMC Sweepers	580+52= 632			For Sweeping of Roads in 3 shifts (Morning, Evening & Night)
15.	BMC Motor Loading Workers	408			For loading of vehicles in 3 shifts (Morning, Evening & Night)
16.	Mukadams	93			Reviewing the work by workers
17.	Junior Supervisor	12			Overall cleanliness management of section and coordination
18.	NGO Workers	269			Contractual workers for cleaning, Manning & Mopping in 3 shifts.

13. Mr Rane also tendered a letter dated 27th August 2026, addressed by him to the In-charge Regional Officer of the MPCB, Mumbai Regional Office, bringing to the notice of the MPCB the open drainage/gutters lid situated at Janta Nagar, 82 Bhakti Marg, next to Asmita College, Kannamwar Nagar-II, Vikroli (E), Mumbai-400083. He tendered a photograph clearly showing the drainage clogged with plastic bottles and other waste, obstructing the drainage system. In our opinion, this is only the tip of the iceberg, we do not know how many such instances are unnoticed in the different wards. A copy of the said letter was furnished to the Respondents. The ward officers of the MCGM are directed to look into such instances and the complaints, if any received, to be immediately addressed. The MPCB will also address the issues on the AQI data submitted by Mr Sakhare and contradicted by Mr Rane and confirm whether the same is within the limit safely permissible for humans on the adjourned date.

14. Before parting, we may also emphasize that it is of paramount public importance that large cities like Mumbai in every ward of human activity, may it be residential, commercial, slums, streets, footpaths, roads, open spaces, gardens, sea fronts, beaches etc. are free from filth, trash, garbage etc. The constitutional vision as enshrined in the directive principles of State policy of maintaining standard of living and improvement of public health, protection and improvement of environment are the goals to be achieved. The fundamental duties as enshrined in Article 51A (j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and

collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement also become relevant in the present context. It is also a fundamental duty to protect and improve the environment to safeguard public property. Such obligations of the citizens towards the society can neither be forgotten nor compromised. Considering the present scenario and the herculean efforts being taken by the Municipal Commissioner along with the municipal machinery, it is certainly not the sole responsibility and obligation of the municipal corporation to achieve such goals, as the citizens at large, are equal stakeholders in achieving ideals of a clean and hygienic city. Thus, efforts on war-footing are required to be adopted by all the stakeholders. We may emphasize that improper waste disposal in public places directly compromises community health and environment quality. Also it adversely affects the local aesthetics. The reckless dumping of trash and garbage of all kinds giving a go by to the prescribed machinery for disposal of garbage creates breeding grounds for mosquitoes, rodents and stray animals equally increasing transmission of diseases like dengue, malaria, leptospirosis, cholera etc. It is in these circumstances, the accountability of community at all levels, becomes all the more important. Maintaining public hygiene is a collective duty of “we the citizens” by aiding the municipal machinery. In the present circumstances, the aforesaid steps being taken by the Municipal Commissioner are certainly path-breaking and would certainly go a long way in achieving the desired objectives on this front. We, accordingly, conclude this order by saying that “*it is never too late*” and once the community has a will to achieve such desired goals, success on this count is not too far. Also as pointed out on

behalf of the Municipal Corporation “Clean Mumbai, Green Mumbai” would not merely be confined to be a paper slogan, but a vision being brought into reality.

15. List the proceedings on **10th September 2026** for further consideration.

(DR. NEELA GOKHALE, J)

(G. S. KULKARNI, J.)

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