

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION NO. 1196 OF 2026

Prashant Satyawar Kokane

.... Petitioner.

Vs.

State of Maharashtra and Ors.

.... Respondents.

Mr. Prashant S. Kokane, Petitioner in person present.

Mrs. M.M. Deshmukh, APP for the Respondents/State.

Mr. Mangesh Gole, API, Ghatkopar Police Station, Mumbai present.

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, ACJ. &
GAUTAM A. ANKHAD, J.**

DATE : 15TH JULY, 2026.

P.C. :

1. Pursuant to our order dated 22nd June 2026, the Petitioner in person submits today that the Committee of the learned Registrars has declined to issue a certificate of competency to appear in this matter and address the Court.

2. So far as the direction of this Court in paragraph no.4 of our order dated 22nd June, 2026 is concerned, we had observed that the

concerned Police Station shall ensure that CCTV footage of the incident between 17th March, 2025 to 20th March, 2025 is preserved. The learned APP submits on the basis of a written communication dated 15th July, 2025 signed by Mr. Vitthal Ardekar, Senior Police Inspector, Ghatkopar Police Station, that the CCTV footage is preserved for a period of six months. In the present case, CCTV footage is not available considering that the incident is of March, 2025.

3. After recording the above submission of the learned APP, we permitted the Petitioner to address us in Marathi. After he addressed us, we have formed an opinion that he has studied his case well. His demeanor in Court in addressing the Forum is good and he has also studied the reported judgments, though limited to his case. We, therefore, permit the Petitioner in person to address us and there would be no necessity to appoint an Advocate through Legal Aid.

4. The Petitioner in person drew our attention to the order passed by this Court dated 21st March, 2022 in Writ Petition No.692 of 2022 (Somnath Laxman Giri and Anr. vs. State of Maharashtra and Ors.) wherein the additional affidavit dated 22nd March, 2022 filed by the Chief Secretary of the State of Maharashtra was adverted to. The State Government had given a commitment that they would undertake the

exercise of updating and ‘topping up’ the system to ensure that cameras are placed in each of the locations referred in paragraph 16 of the judgment of the Hon’ble Supreme Court in ***Paramvir Singh Saini v. Baljit Singh, (2021) 1 SCC 184***. The same is reproduced hereinbelow:

‘16. The State and Union Territory Governments should ensure that CCTV cameras are installed in each and every police station functioning in the respective State and/or Union Territory. Further, in order to ensure that no part of a police station is left uncovered, it is imperative to ensure that CCTV cameras are installed at all entry and exit points; main gate of the police station; all lock-ups; all corridors; lobby/the reception area; all verandahs/outhouses, Inspector's room; Sub-Inspector's room; areas outside the lock-up room; station hall; in front of the police station compound; outside (not inside) washrooms/toilets; Duty Officer's room; back part of the police station, etc.’

5. Further directions were issued below paragraph Nos.1, 2 and 3 in the order dated 21st March, 2022 which read as under:

‘1. Pursuant to our earlier orders an Additional Affidavit has been filed by the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra in which it is inter alia stated:

(i) The State Government and its officers will follow up on a regular basis with the contractors to ensure that the timelines given by them in the undertakings referred to below are duly complied with.

(ii) The State Level and District Level Oversight Committees have been formed and the functions of the Committees have been communicated to them.

(iii) Appropriate guidelines have been given to the

Station House Officers (SHOs) of each police station regarding the procedure to be followed for approaching the District Level Oversight Committee and to ensure expeditious repairs and/or maintenance of CCTV systems, vide the communication of the Additional DGP on 14th March 2022.

(iv) Once the present process of installation of the existing cameras in all the police stations has been carried out, the State Government will undertake the exercise of updating and ‘topping up’ the system to ensure that cameras are placed in each of the locations referred to in paragraph 16 of the judgment of the Supreme Court in Parmvir Singh’s case.

(v) The necessary steps will be taken to ensure that the recording/data back-up kept for 18 months and not just 12 months, and the systems will be updated accordingly.

(vi) The State will explore the possibility of supplying generators to the police stations where electricity supply is irregular by taking steps in accordance with law; the State is committed to do so at the earliest.

(vii) As regards putting up large posters containing information stated in paragraph 20 of the judgment of the Supreme Court, appropriate instructions have been issued vide a circular dated 14th March 2022. The State Government will monitor and ensure compliance with the same within 4 weeks from the filing of this Affidavit, and in so far as the police stations where cameras are yet to be installed such posters would be put up within a period of 2 weeks from the date of installation of CCTV cameras in the concerned police station.

2. The statements made in the Additional Affidavit dated 20th March 2022 are noted by this Court and are accepted as undertakings made to the Court. The State Government shall ensure strict compliance with the statements / undertakings referred to above and in the Affidavit dated 20th March 2022.

3. Additionally we make it clear that the State Government must forthwith take steps to ensure that the recording / data back-up is to be enhanced to 18 months, as also to ensure that necessary steps are taken expeditiously as regards supplying generators to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply at all police stations. This is consistent with the mandate of the Supreme Court and we trust and

expect that the State Government / police machinery will treat these commitments with utmost seriousness and will report to the Court on steps taken in this regard, on the adjourned date.'

6. We are aware of the several orders passed by this Court calling upon the State Administration to ensure proper functioning of the CCTV cameras and provide adequate hard disk capacities in order to preserve the data at least for a year. The Petitioner in person draws our attention to an Application which he had made in English language on 15th April, 2025 which was within one month of the alleged occurrence of the incident, calling upon the Senior Police Inspector to preserve the CCTV footage for the period from 17th March, 2025 to 20th March, 2025. This letter is received in the Inward Department of the Police Station on 15th April, 2025 at 12.40 hours.

7. In view of the above, we call upon the Director General of Police to initiate a fact finding exercise to take an overall view of all the Police Stations in the State of Maharashtra, in the light of the Paramvir Singh's judgment (supra) and submit a report as regards the functionality of the CCTV cameras and the period of preservation of the data in the hard disks connected with all CCTVs in the Police Stations. The report should also indicate what steps have been taken in view of the directions of this Court in Somnath Laxman Giri & Anr. vide order dated 21st

March, 2022 and why has the Ghatkopar Police Station reported to us that CCTV footage cannot be preserved after 6 months and is not available. Such report be tendered to the Court on 10th August, 2026.

8. List this Petition on 10th August, 2026 in the urgent admissions category.

[GAUTAM A. ANKHAD, J.]

[ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE]

SUNNY
ANKUSHRAO
THOTE

Digitally signed
by SUNNY
ANKUSHRAO
THOTE
Date: 2026.07.15
20:11:24 +0530