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#### 2023:BHC-AS:13685

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

# WRIT PETITION NO. 4002 OF 2023

...Petitioner Radheshyam Jangad Versus Shanti Pralhad Sakla w/o. Late Pralhad Narayan Sakla (Through her Constituted Attorney and Son) Mr. Satish Sakla & Ors. ...Respondents

# WITH

# WRIT PETITION NO. 4004 OF 2023

...Petitioner Nemichand Giridharilal Gupta Versus Shanti Pralhad Sakla w/o. Late Pralhad Narayan Sakla (Through her Constituted Attorney and Son) Mr. Satish Sakla & Ors.

...Respondents

## WITH

# **WRIT PETITION NO. 4005 OF 2023**

Suresh Babu Diwakar Versus Shanti Pralhad Sakla w/o. Late Pralhad Narayan Sakla (Through her Constituted Attorney and Son) Mr. Satish Sakla & Ors. ...Respondents

#### WITH

# **WRIT PETITION NO. 4006 OF 2023**

Mukesh Surjaram Khowal ...Petitioner Versus Shanti Pralhad Sakla w/o. Late Pralhad Narayan Sakla (Through her Constituted Attorney and Son) Mr. Satish Sakla & Ors. ...Respondents

Mr. Mohit Jadhav a/w Ms. Megha Shigavan, Ms. Kajal Chourasia and Mr. Shubham Shinde for the Petitioners.

Mr. Ashok Kumar Dubey a/w. Mr. Abhinav Dubey, Ms. Aarati Kushwaha, i/b. SAVJ Law Solutions, for Respondent No.3.

1/37



...Petitioner

Dr. Birendra Saraf, Advocate General (Present on earlier dates).

Mr. P.P. Kakade, Government Pleader and Mr. P.G. Sawant- AGP, for Respondent No.6 – State.

Mr. Dharmesh Joshi i/b. T.D. Joshi and Associates for Respondent No.7.

Mr. G. N. Salunke, i/b. Ms. Savita Yadav for Respondent No.8.

Mr. Girish Godbole, Senior Counsel - Amicus Curiae.

Mr. Sachin B. Bhansali, the Prothonotary & Senior Master a/w. Mrs. C. J. Bhatt-Company Registrar/Testamentary Registrar- present.

Mr. Rajan Malkani, Advocate - present.

Mr. V. M. Parkar, Advocate - present.

Mr. Satish Pralhad Sakla - Respondent No.3 - present.

Ms. Manisha Pandurang More, Respondent No.7- present.

Mr. Sagar Shamrao Pawar, Respondent No.8- present.

# CORAM : MADHAV J. JAMDAR, J. DATED : 4<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023

<u>P.C.</u> :

1. In Writ Petition No.4002 of 2023 the challenge is to the legality and validity of order dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 passed by the learned Judge, Small Causes Court at Mumbai (Bandra Branch) below Exhibit- 33 in R.A.E. & R. Suit No.374/528 of 2011. The said application was filed by Plaintiffs i.e. Respondent Nos. 1 to 3 seeking leave for production of additional documents

under Order XIII Rule 1, 4 and 7 and Order XVI Rule 6 and 7 of C.P.C. By impugned order, the learned Trial Court allowed the said application. Thus, production of documents were allowed and the said suit was adjourned for hearing on admissibility of documents. The order impugned in other Writ Petitions is also similar.

2. These Writ Petitions were heard in the morning session on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and were rejected. As by the impugned order, merely production of documents were allowed and matter was kept for hearing on admissibility of documents it is observed in order dated  $30^{\text{th}}$  March 2023 that there is no prejudice caused to the Petitioners and therefore, interference under Article 227 of the Constitution of India is not required. Accordingly, the Writ Petitions were dismissed, however, by said order it is clarified that all the contentions in respect of admissibility of the documents produced by the Respondents was kept open. Said order dismissing the Writ Petition was passed on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the morning session. However, at 1.32 p.m., learned Prothonotary and Senior Master, High Court (Original Side), Bombay received complaint dated 30<sup>th</sup> March

2023 made by Mr. Vishwanbhar M. Parkar, Advocate having address at 1/B, 403, Saamana Parivar CHS Limited, General Arun Kumar Vaidya Marg, Goregaon (East), Mumbai-400 065. The said complaint is set out hereinbelow:-

"Date: 30.03.2023

To, Prothonotary & Sr. Master, High Court, Original Side, Mumbai. Sir,

> Ref; High Court, Testamentary & Intestate Jurisdiction Testamentary Petition Lodging No.589 of 2018;

On 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at 6.12 pm I received WhatsApp message on my mobile from Mobile No.9819432558 wherein I received an order of High Court allegedly passed in Testamentary Petition (Lodging) No.589 of 2018. At that time, I was meeting with my colleague advocate at her offce at Santacruz. After reading the said order carefully, I noticed that, the said order is bogus and fraudulent order. That, I had filed vakalatnama in Testamentary Petition fied by Smt. Shanti Sakla viz: Testamentary Petition No.593 of 2018 and hence, it is my duty to bring to your office notice the said bogus and fraudulent orders. I further request your authority to take necessary action as permissible under the law.

Yours faithfully,

# (V.M.PARKAR) Advocate"

(Emphasis added)

3. In view of said complaint, learned Prothonotary and Senior Master, High Court (Original Side), Bombay placed before this Court report dated  $30^{\text{th}}$  March 2023. The said report *inter alia* states as follows:-

"It is respectfully further submitted that along with said Complaint letter, the Advocate his for Petitioner has enclosed a photocopy of some alleged true copy of some Oral Judgment in aforesaid Testamentary Petition Lodging No.589 of 2018 purportedly passed by this Hon'ble Court with Coram: R. D. Nalawade, J. The said alleged Order does not bear any date. However, at foot of page 2, it is mentioned "Signature not verifed; Digitally signed by R. D. Nalawade (J.), Date : 2019.04.09, Time : 12.30.38". It is respectfully submitted that the aforesaid Testamentary Petition No.593 of 2018 (i.e. Testamentary Petition Lodging No.589 of 2018) filed by said Shanti Pralhad Sakala, Petitioner abovenamed, was dismissed under Rule 435 of the High Court (Original Side) Rules, 1980, as per Notice dated 25th April, 2022 for non-prosecution. It is further submitted that upon perusal of the Minutes of Orders of aforesaid Petition, the

aforesaid alleged Order/Judgment is not found. It is respectfully further submitted that Mr. V. M. Parkar, Advocate for Petitioner, has while handing over the aforesaid Complaint informed to the Prothonotary and Senior Master that four matters of said Petitioner are listed today on board of Your Lordship at Sr. Nos.908 to 911. The aforesaid Complaint letter has been received around 1.32 p.m. and the aforesaid matters came to be disposed of by Your Lordship in the Morning Session. Under the aforesaid circumstances, the said Complaint letter is placed before Your Lordship for perusal and appropriate further directions."

(Emphasis added)

4. The above report of learned Prothonotary and Senior Master, High Court (Original Side), Bombay, clarifies that said Testamentary Petition No.593 of 2018 (i.e. Testamentary Petition (L) No.589 of 2018) (hereinafter referred to as the **"said Testamentory Petition"**) filed by Shanti Pralhad Sakla was dismissed under Rule 435 under Chapter XXVI of the High Court (Original Side) Rules, 1980 for non-prosecution and the alleged order and judgment allegedly passed in said Testamentary Petition has not been found in the record. In view

of the said complaint of very serious nature and as fraudulent order of this Court purportedly passed in said Testamentary Petition is being used by the Respondent Nos. 1 to 5 i.e. the original Plaintiffs, the order passed in the morning session on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 of dismissing the Writ Petitions was recalled and all the Writ Petitions were directed to be restored to the file. 5. It is also noticed that the said purported order is produced before the Small Causes Court along with application bearing Exhibit-33 in R.A.E. & R. Suit No.374/528 of 2011. In the Writ Petition compilation, from pages 21 to 24 at Exhibit-B. copy of said application being Exhibit-33 of the Plaintiffs seeking leave of the Court to produce additional documents under Order XIII Rule 3, 4 and 7 and Order XVI Rule 6 and 7 of the C.P.C. was annexed. The said application bears verification of Respondent No.3-Satish Pralhad Sakla. The said application is reproduced hereinbelow for ready reference:-

### "IN THE COURT OF SMALL CAUSES AT BOMBAY

#### [BANDRA BRANCH]

#### R. A. E. & R. SUIT NO. 374/528 OF 2011

# PRALHAD NARAYAN SAKLA & Ors. ...(Since Deceased)

### ...Plaintiffs

### <u>Versus</u>

Radheshyam Jangad ...Respondent

> <u>APPLICATION OF THE PLAINTIFFS SEEKING</u> <u>LEAVE OF THIS HON'BLE COURT TO PRODUCE</u> <u>ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS UNDER ORDER 13-</u> <u>RULE 3-4-7 AND ORDER 16, RULE 6-7 OF THE</u> <u>C.P.C.</u>

## MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR

I Mr. Satish Sakla Age 38 years, the Plaintiff No.3 for self and as Constituted Attorney of Plaintiffs No.1, 2, 4 and 5 above named. residing at Plot No.26, C.T.S. No.585/1 to 14 Ram Mandir Road, Kherwadi, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400 051 do hereby state on Solemn affirmation as under:-

1) I state that I have already filed my Affidavit of Evidence and Compilation of Documents. I state that since the Present Suit is part of the group of Suits only one original Set of Documents was filed and copies thereof provided to the Defendants.

2) I state that the Defendants has denied my title of the Suit Premises and after my Late father Mr. Pralhad Narayan Sakla's death (Original Plaintiff) I had to hunt for the documents and take steps to bring myself and other Plaintiffs on record as the heir and landlord of the Suit Premises.

3) I state that my mother Mrs. Shanti Pralhad Sakla has filed a Testamentary Petition No.589 of 2018 In the High Court of Judicature at Bombay Testamentary and Intestate Jurisdiction to bring her and the children of Late Pralhad Sakla (Present Plaintiffs) on record.

The matter came up for hearing on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 Before his Lordship Justice Shri R. D. Nalawade who passed an Oral Judgement in the matter.

4) I state that I am now in Possession and Power of the Said Oral Judgement dated 09/04/2019 of the Bombay High Court, which is absolutely relevant and admissible to the Subject matter of the Present Suit.

I hereby tender the Original Certified copy of the Oral Judgement dated 09/04/2019 passed by the Hon'ble High Court Bombay by His Lordship Justice Shri R. D. Nalawade along with a copy thereof and pray that the same be taken on record exhibited and admitted in the evidence and marked as Exhibit.

5) I state that there after the State of Maharashtra through Collector of Bombay brought the Plaintiffs on record in the Property Card and uploaded the same on its Site as Public Document.

I hereby tender notarized copies of the Property Card in respect of the Suit Premises down loaded on

5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and pray that the same be taken on record, exhibited and admitted in evidence and marked as Exhibit.

6) I state that as both the aforesaid documents are available to the Public on the Site of High Court Bombay and the Site of Government of Maharashtra through Collector of Bombay respectively are deemed to be Public Documents which do not require any Proof and can be admitted at any stage under the Provisions of Order 13, Rule 3, 4, 7 and Order 16, Rule - 6, 7, 15 and 21 of the Civil Procedure Code and hence humbly pray that the same be admitted in evidence and exhibited.

7) I state that it is pertinent to note that since I am in Possession of only one single copy of the original Oral Judgement of the Bombay High Court dated 09/04/2019, I pray that the same be taken on <u>"Record-in-Common"</u> for all the 13 Suits wherein the Plaintiff is Common, the Suit Premises are also on the same Plot of Land and hence exhibited and admitted in evidence and marked as Exhibits. Dated this 20 Day of June 2022.

### VERIFICATION

I Satish Pralhad Sakla for myself and as the constituted attorney of my mother Smt. Shanti Pralhad Sakla widow of Late Pralhad Narayan Sakla and my brothers Prakash Pralhad Sakla, Mukesh

Pralhad Sakla, Girish Pralhad Sakla being the sons of Late Pralhad Narayan Sakla the Plaintiff above named do hereby affirmed and state on solemn affirmation and say that what is stated in the paragraphs hereinabove is true to my own knowledge and belief and I believe the same to be true.

Solemnly affirmed at Mumbai Dated this .....day of June 2022

Advocate for the Plaintiffs Plaintiff No.3. For self & constituted attorney of Plaintiff No.1, 2, 4 & 5."

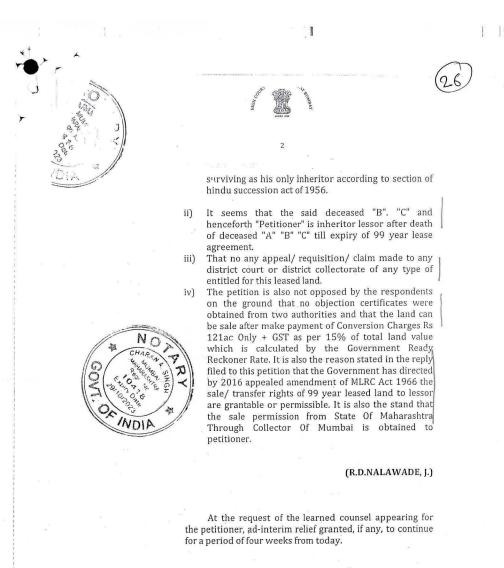
# (Emphasis added)

6. It is significant to note that in the affidavit, it has been represented by Mr. Satish Pralhad Sakla on behalf of the Plaintiffs i.e. Respondent Nos. 1 to 5 that mother Mrs. Shanti Pralhad Sakla has filed Testamentary Petition No.598 of 2018 in the High Court of Judicature at Bombay Testamentary and Intestate Jurisdiction. It is stated that said Testamentary Petition came up for hearing on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 before his Lordship Justice R. D. Nalawade who passed an oral judgment in the matter. It is further stated by said Mr. Satish Pralhad

Sakla that he is in possession of only one copy of the original oral judgment dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 of the Bombay High Court. It is further stated in the said application that, the State of Maharashtra through Collector of Bombay brought the names of Plaintiffs on record in the Property Card and uploaded the same on its site as public document. Copies of the said Property Cards are also produced along with the said application. It is further stated that both the aforesaid documents are available to the public on the site of High Court and site of Government of Maharashtra, through Collector of Bombay. Therefore, these are the public documents which do not require any proof and can be admitted at any stage under the provisions of Order XIII. Rule 3, 4, 7 and Order XVI, Rule 6, 7, 15 and 21 of the C.P.C. It is further mentioned that only one original judgment of the Bombay High Court dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 is in possession of said Mr. Satish Pralhad Sakla and therefore, request is made to take on record oral judgment of Bombay High Court dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in all 13 suits. Therefore, it is clear that it is the contention of Respondent Nos. 1 to 5 that the said Testamentary Petition No.589 of 2018 has been disposed of by

order dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 of Hon'ble Lordship Justice R. D. Nalawade. The said purported order of High Court purported to have been passed by Justice R. D. Nalawade is annexed to the said application (Page 25 to 26 of Writ Petition No.4002 of 2023). Scanned copy of said order is reproduced hereinbelow for ready reference:-

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OFIN	TESTAMENTORY PETITION	NO. 589 OF 2018	
- INL			
	Shanti Pralhad Sakhla Age: Years, Occ. Housewife	)	
	Resident at G-12 Plot No26	)	
	Ram Mandir Road, Kherwadi,	j	
	Bandra (East) Mumbai 400051	)Petitioner	
	VERSUS		
	State Of Maharashtra Through Collector, Mumbai	)	
	intough conector, Multipar	)Respondant	
	A) Lote Nemuch Coldda		
	A) Late Narayan Sakhla Alias Narayan Hira Sakhla	)	
	B) Late Pralhad Sakhla	j	
	Alias Pralhad Narayan Sakhla C) Late Sarlibai Sakhla.	}	
	Alias Sarlibai Narayan Sakhla	)Deceased	
	ORAL JUDGMENT:		
	CICAL JODGIMENT:		
	By this petition filed under sect	on of Hindu succession act of	
	1956, the petitioner said that deceased	at the time of his death had	
	fixed place at Plot No.26, Ram Mandir Ro		
	Mumbai-51. is also mentioned in decea		
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	<ul> <li>i) In the case of petitioner dec</li> </ul>	-	
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#### Signature Not Verified Digitally Signed By R. D. Nalawade (J.) Date: 2019.04.09 Time: 12:30:38

TRUE-COP (K. K. TRIVEDI) COMPANY REGISTRAR HIGH COURT (O.S.) BOMBAY

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7 It is significant to note that said purported order purported to have been passed by Hon'ble Justice R. D. Nalawade of the Bombay High Court is purported to have been uploaded on  $9^{\text{th}}$  April 2019 and downloaded on  $15^{\text{th}}$  June 2022. On the first page of the said order, there is watermark of High Court of Judicature at Bombay. The said copy is true copy of purported order purported to have been certified by K. K. Trivedi, Company Registrar, High Court (Original Side), Bombay. It is further significant to note that the said purported order is purported to have been digitally signed by Justice R. D. Nalawade on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 12:30:38. As set out in the said application, the State Government has also mutated the Property Card. The said Property Cards are also annexed to the said application and they are annexed from pages 27 to 39 of the Writ Petition No.4002 of 2023. One such Property Card at page 27 is scanned and reproduced hereinbelow for reference: -

			हाराष्ट्र <sup>ह</sup> शासन				~
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8. As set out hereinabove, learned Prothonotary and Senior Master, High Court (Original Side), Bombay received the complaint made by Advocate V. M. Parkar on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 stating that said order is bogus and fraudulent and that the same has never been passed in the said Testamentary Petition. The learned Prothonotary and Senior Master, High Court (Original Side), Bombay after verifying the record of said Testamentary Petition, in the report submitted to this Court stated that after verification of the record, it is found that no such order is available in the record of said Testamentary Petition and in fact, the said Testamentary Petition has been dismissed under Rule 435 under Chapter XXVI of the High Court (Original Side) Rules, 1980 as per the notice dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 for non-prosecution.

9. In view of the serious nature of the complaint, notice is issued to Advocate Ashok Kumar Dubey who has appeared for said Respondent No.3 i.e. Satish Pralhad Sakla and also Advocate Rajan Malkani who has filed the said application before the Small Causes Court (Bandra Branch), Mumbai on behalf of the Plaintiffs. By said order dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023,

further proceedings in all the 4 suits were directed to be stayed and the learned Registrar, Small Causes Court, Mumbai was directed to immediately seal all the record and proceedings of all the aforesaid suits and submit the same to the learned Prothonotary and Senior Master, High Court (Original Side), Bombay by next date i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Respondent Nos. 1 to 5 were also restrained from producing said purported order dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 purported to have been passed by R. D. Nalawade, J. in said Testamentary Petition or copy thereof before any Court or authority. In view of serious nature of the matter, Mr. Girish Godbole, learned Senior Counsel has been appointed as Amicus Curiae to assist the Court.

10. Learned Prothonotary and Senior Master, High Court (Original Side), Bombay has also placed before this Court sitting list of High Court of Bombay Appellate Side/ Original Side w.e.f. 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 as well as sitting list of Nagpur Bench and Aurangabad Bench and High Court of Bombay at Goa w.e.f. 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019. As per the said sitting list, Hon'ble Justice T. V. Nalawade (mentioned in said fraudulent order as R. D. Nalawade, J.) was sitting with Hon'ble Justice Mangesh Patil in

Division Bench w.e.f. 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court. The learned Prothonotary and Senior Master High Court (Original Side), Bombay who is present in Court, on instructions, stated that till May Vacation i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019, the said sitting was continued. Relevant portion of sitting list of Aurangabad Bench of High Court w.e.f. 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 is as follows:-

# AURANGABAD BENCH

SITTING LIST W.E.F. 11 <sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019	
(Partial Modification wef 12-3-2019)	

Sr. No.	Present sitting	Assignment
3.	The Hon'ble Shri Justice <b>T. V. NALAWADE</b> <b>AND</b> The Hon'ble Shri Justice <b>MANGESH S. PATIL</b>	<ul> <li>For admission, hearing and order matters therein:- <ul> <li>(A) All Criminal Appeals.</li> <li>(B) Applications under Section 482 of Cr.P.C. and All Writ Petitions for quashing of FIR, C.R., Charge sheet, complaints except those assigned to Court No.1.</li> <li>(C) All other Criminal Writ Petitions.</li> <li>(D) All other Criminal Work.</li> </ul></li></ul>

On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the matter was adjourned to 10<sup>th</sup>
 April 2023 (First on Board). On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Advocate

Ashok Kumar Dubey as well as Advocate Rajan Malkani were personally present pursuant to notice issued to them. Respondent No.3-Satish Pralhad Sakla was also personally present and he is the Constituted Attorney of Respondent Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 5. He filed affidavit dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023. In view of the contentions raised in the said affidavit of Mr. Satish Pralhad Sakla, notice was directed to be issued to Advocate V. M. Parkar and Mr. Sagar Pawar. On 10th April 2023, Respondent No.3-Satish Pralhad Sakla submitted written undertaking to this Court that he would remain present on each and every date of hearing of the petition and said undertaking was accepted by this Court. The matter was thereafter kept on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023. On 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Mr. V. M. Parkar, learned Advocate as 12. well as Mr. Sagar Pawar were present. In the affidavit dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023 of Mr. Satish Pralhad Sakla, reference is made to the total 12 suits including the 4 suits which are the subject matter of all the aforesaid Writ Petitions. Therefore, by said order dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 further proceedings of all the above

Branch), Mumbai were directed to be stayed till further orders

balance 8 suits pending before the Small Causes Court (Bandra

and record of all the 8 suits were directed to be sealed and learned Registrar Small Causes Court was directed to submit the said record to learned Prothonotary and Senior Master, High Court (Original Side), Bombay by next day i.e. by 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

13. It is shocking to note that apart from the fraudulent order purported to have been passed by Justice R. D. Nalawade in said Testamentary Petition, fraudulent challans for payment towards Bombay High Court Testamentary Jurisdiction of Rs. 13,00,000/-, Rs.3,00,000/- and Rs.55,000/- were produced along with the said affidavit of said Mr. Satish Pralhad Sakla. Scanned copies of said fraudulent challans are as follows:-

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14. Apart from that, along with the said affidavit of Mr. Satish Pralhad Sakla dated <sup>10</sup>th April 2023, order purported to have been passed by Sonali K. Dighe date <sup>7</sup>th February 2023 is produced. The said order is also scanned and reproduced hereinbelow for ready reference:-

15.	Alon	g with	affidavit	of	Manis	ha	More	at	page	229,
Exmy		t	CO <sup>DEDITION</sup>		ST BOMBAY	Ŧ	) <u>DED-C</u>	for	The Contraction of the Contracti	3
•		TEST	<u>HIGH COURT O</u> AMENTORY AND STAMENTORY PI	INTE	STATE JUR	ISDIC	ΓΙΟΝ		28	5
		Shanti Pra	lhad Sakla		)	F	Petitioner			
		Versus								
		en managemente annalise process	aharashtra ollector, Mumb	ai		)	Respo	ndant		
		Vishwambha	r Mahadev Parkar	i/b Ad	vocate for th	e Petit	tioner			
					AM : SONALI E : 7TH FE					
		ORAL JUDG	EMENT:							
		the petitione at Plot No.20 51. is also m Corporation	s petition filed und er said that deceas 6, Ram Mandir Ro entioned in decea Of Greater Bomb 1 Deaths act 1976.	sed at bad, Kl ased d ay unc	the time of h herwadi, and eath certific	nis dea d Bano ate is:	ith had fixe Ira East. M sued by Mu	d place umbai nicipa	e - 1	
			In the case of peti Pralhad Narayan Surviving as his o succession act of 1	Sakla nly inl	"Petitioner"	with	out any will	hence	e	
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			The Order raised a 15,00,000/-Lakh Government Ready	Only ·	+ GST. Whi	nt of Th ch is		rges R: by the IGHE.		ç

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another order dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 purported to have been passed by Sonali K. Dighe is produced. The scanned copy of said order is reproduced hereinbelow for ready reference:-

	lit " ( ))		
Ц	THE HIGH COURT OF JUDIC, TESTAMENTORY AND INTEST, TESTAMENTORY PETITION	TE JURISDICTION	
Shar	nti Pralhad Sakhla	)Petitioner	
Vers	sus		
Stat	e Of Maharashtra ough Collector, Mumbai 	) )Respondan	it
Visl	uwambhar Mahadev Parkar i/b Adv	ocate for the Petitioner	
	CORA	M : SONALI K. DIGHE. : 17TH NOVEMBER 2022.	
01	RAL JUDGEMENT:		
at 5	e petitioner said that deceased at Plot No.26, Ram Mandir Road, Ki L is also mentioned in deceased d orporation Of Greater Bombay unif Births and Deaths act 1976. i) In the case of petitione Pralhad Narayan Sakhi Surviving as his only in succession act of 1956. ii) It seems that the said Pralhad Narayan Saki death of deceased Pra year lease agreement.	erwadi, and Bandra Lase Muni-	Alias ence dindu Alias ence dindu Alias r after of 99
		(SONALI K. D	IGHE.)

16. Both the purported orders dated 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 purported to have been passed by Sonali K. Dighe, officer of this Court are not found in the record of said Testamentary Petition No.598 of 2018. The said Testamentary Petition was never placed before officer Sonali K. Dighe and she never passed aforesaid orders as per the record of said Testamentary Petition.

17. By earlier orders all the parties were directed to file affidavits and all the parties i.e. Respondent No.3-Satish Pralhad Sakla, Respondent No.7-Manisha More and Respondent No.8-Sagar Pawar have filed affidavits/reply/rejoinder/additional affidavit, it is significant to note that the transcript of mobile conversation between Respondent No.7- Manisha More and Respondent No.8-Sagar Pawar is produced along with affidavit dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 of Ms. Manisha More. The said conversation indicates that order on which the Respondent Nos. 1 to 5 have relied is not the order passed by this Court. In fact, to the said affidavit, transcript of the conversation between Respondent No.8-Sagar Pawar as well

as Respondent No.3-Satish Pralhad Sakla is also annexed. The same shows that order purported to have been passed by Justice Nalawade is not the order passed by this Court.

18. Mr. Godbole, learned Senior Counsel who is appointed as Amicus Curiae submitted that purported order passed by this Court of Justice Nalawade as well as purported orders passed by Ms. Sonali K. Dighe, officer of this Court are forged and fabricated orders and the same is admitted almost by all the parties and therefore, criminal action is required to be taken. He also submitted that as the same affects administration of justice, *suo moto* issuance of notice contemplated under Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 is also required to be directed. He pointed out Section 340 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and submitted that as far as some offences are concerned, bar under Section 195 (1) (b) will not be attracted therefore, FIR can be directed to be lodged. He also submitted that as far as certain offences are concerned, in view of the provisions of Section 195 1(b), (ii) and (iii) of the Cr.P.C., it would be necessary to proceed under Section 340 of the said Code.

19. In view of serious nature of the complaint, by order dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023, this Court has requested learned Advocate General to assist this Court. Learned Advocate General submitted that action for contempt can be initiated. He submitted that Registrar General, High Court Bombay be directed to file FIR as well as action be taken in accordance with Section 195 read with Section 340 of the Cr. P.C. He also submitted that if role of Advocate is noticed, then Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa can be directed to initiate appropriate action.

20. Mr. Jadhav, learned counsel appearing for the Petitioners submitted that not only the Respondent Nos. 1 to 5 have produced the said fraudulent order before the Small Causes Court, Mumbai (Bandra Branch) but also on the basis of said order, changed the Property Card. He also pointed out the fraudulent challans.

21. Mr. Salunke, learned counsel appearing for Respondent No.8 submitted that the Cell Phone conversations between the Respondent No.8 and the Respondent No.7 and the Respondent No.8 and the Respondent No.3 are with respect to some other

order and not with respect to the order purported to have been passed by Justice Nalawade in said Testamentary Petition. However, he admitted that the said order purported to have been passed by Justice Nalawade as well as orders passed by officer, Sonali K. Dighe are not the genuine orders. He pointed out the challans and tried to point out some contradictions in the affidavit of Respondent No.7-Manisha More and Respondent No.3-Satish Pralhad Sakla. However, he submitted that in view of the facts and circumstances of this case, investigation is required.

22. Mr. Ashok Kumar Dubey, learned counsel appearing for Respondent No.3 submitted that although Respondent No.3 was earlier of the opinion that the purported order dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 of Nalawade, J. is genuine, however, after perusal of the affidavits now Respondent No.3 is also of the opinion that order is forged and fabricated.

23. The factual position on record as reflected from the original record of Testamentary Petition and as per the record of these Writ Petitions clearly show that said purported order dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 is forged and fabricated order. Even orders

of officer Ms. Sonali K. Dighe of this Court are also forged and fabricated.

24. It has also come on record that the above referred E-Challans are also forged and fabricated. It is admitted position that the Court fee of Rs.16,55,000/- is not required to be paid in Testamentary Jurisdiction. Advocate Vishwanbhar Mahadev Parkar in affidavit dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 has placed on record the said aspect.

25. Mr. Girish Godbole, learned Senior Counsel appointed as Amicus Curiae relied on the decision of the Supreme Court reported in the matter of **Iqbal Singh Marwah & Anr. vs. Meenakshi Marwah & Anr.**<sup>1</sup> He relied on paragraphs 10, 33 and 34 of the said decision. The said paragraphs read as under:-

"10. The scheme of the statutory provision may now be examined. Broadly, Section 195 CrPC deals with three distinct categories of offences which have been described in clauses (a), (b)(i) and (b)(ii) and they relate to (1) contempt of lawful authority of public servants, (2) offences against public justice, and (3) offences relating to documents given in evidence. Clause (a) deals with offences punishable under Sections 172 to 188 IPC which occur in

<sup>1 (2005) 4</sup> SCC 370

Chapter X of the IPC and the heading of the Chapter is —"Of Contempts of the Lawful Authority of Public Servants". These are offences which directly affect the functioning of or discharge of lawful duties of a public servant. Clause (b)(i) refers to offences in Chapter XI of IPC which is headed as-"Of False Evidence And Offences Against Public Justice". The offences mentioned in this clause clearly relate to giving or fabricating false evidence or making a false declaration in any judicial proceeding or before a Court of justice or before a public servant who is bound or authorized by law to receive such declaration, and also to some other offences which have a direct co-relation with the proceedings in a Court of justice (Sections 205 and 211 IPC). This being the scheme of two provisions or clauses of Section 195, viz., that the offence should be such which has direct bearing or affects the functioning or discharge of lawful duties of a public servant or has a direct correlation with the proceedings in a court of justice, the expression "when such offence is alleged to have been committed in respect of a document produced or given in evidence in a proceeding in a court" occurring in clause (b)(ii)should normally mean commission of such an offence after the document has actually been produced or given in evidence in the Court. The

situation or contingency where an offence as enumerated in this clause has already been committed earlier and later on the document is produced or is given in evidence in Court, does not appear to be in tune with clauses (a)(i) and (b)(i)and consequently with the scheme of Section 195 This Cr.P.C. indicates that clause (b)(ii) situation where the offences contemplates a enumerated therein are committed with respect to a document subsequent to its production or giving in evidence in a proceeding in any court."

"33. In view of the discussion made above, we are of the opinion that Sachida Nand Singh has been correctly decided and the view taken therein is the correct view. Section 195(1)(b)(ii) CrPC would be attracted only when the offences enumerated in the said provision have been committed with respect to a document after it has been produced or given in evidence in a proceeding in any Court i.e. during the time when the document was in custodia legis."

"34. In the present case, the Will has been produced in the court subsequently. It is nobody's case that any offence as enumerated in Section 195(b)(ii) was committed in respect to the said will after it had been produced or filed in the Court of District Judge.

Therefore, the bar created by Section 195(1)(b)(ii)CrPC would not come into play and there is no embargo on the power of the Court to take cognizance of the offence on the basis of the complaint filed by the respondents. The view taken by the learned Additional Sessions Judge and the High Court is perfectly correct and calls for no interference."

26. He submitted that as far as certain offences are concerned, FIR can be filed and as far as certain other offences are concerned, action under Section 195 read with Section 340 of Cr. P.C. is required to be initiated.

27. The Supreme Court in the decision of New Era Fabrics Limited vs. Bhanumati Keshrichand Jhaveri<sup>2</sup> discussed the scope of Section 340 read with Section 195 (1) (b) of Cr. P.C. It has been observed that the scope of inquiry as contemplated under Section 340 read with Section 195 (1) (b) of Cr. P.C. is very limited. The scope of said inquiry is just to assess whether prima facie case is made out and that there is a reasonable likelihood that the offence specified in Section 340 read with Section 195 (1) (b) of Cr.P.C. has been committed and it is

<sup>2 (2020) 4</sup> SCC 41

expedient in the interest of justice to take action.

28. The factual position on record as set out hereinabove clearly shows that purported order of this Court purported to have been passed by Justice R. D. Nalawade dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 is fraudulent order. It is also very clear that the purported orders dated 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 purported to have been passed by Sonali K. Dighe, officer of this Court are also forged and fabricated. Apart from that, E-Challans which purports that huge amounts of Rs.16,55,000/are deposited in the treasury of the State Government purported for the purpose of said Testamentary Petition are also fraudulent. Record of the Testamentary Petition shows that Court fee of only Rs.75,000/- has been deposited by E-Challan on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

29. It is significant to note that none of the Respondents i.e. Respondent Nos.1 to 5 (original Plaintiffs) including Respondent No.3-Satish Pralhad Sakla, Respondent No.7-Manisha Pandurang More and Respondent No.8- Sagar Shamrao Patil have contended that the above orders and Echallans or at least some of these documents are genuine

documents.

30. As held by the Supreme Court in **New Era Fabrics Limited** (supra) inquiry contemplated under Section 340 read with Section 195 of Cr. P.C. is just to assess whether prima facie case is made out and that there is reasonable likelihood that the offence specified in Section 195 (1) (b) of Cr.P.C. has been committed and it is expedient in the interest of justice to take action. This is a case where fraudulent order purported to have been passed by this Court is prepared and it has been represented to all the concerned that the same is the order passed by this Court.

31. The learned Advocate General and learned Amicus Curiae both are right in contending that this also amounts to interference in the administration of justice and therefore, action for committing contempt of this Court is also required to be initiated. The said aspect will be considered on further dates. 32. For the above reasons, learned Prothonotary and Senior Master, Original Side, High Court Bombay or any officer of this rank of Additional Registrar/Additional Court of the Senior Prothonotary and Master authorized by the

Prothonotary and Senior Master, High Court (Original Side), Bombay to file complaint with the jurisdictional Magistrate as I am prima facie satisfied that offence of forgery, fabricating false evidence and making false statement in a declaration which is receivable as evidence, offences under the Information Technology Act etc. are made out against Respondent No.3-Satish Pralhad Sakla, Respondent No.7-Manisha Pandurang More and Respondent No.8-Sagar Shamrao Pawar and some unknown persons.

33. Respondent No.3-Satish Pralhad Sakla, Respondent No.7-Manisha Pandurang More and Respondent No.8-Sagar Shamrao Pawar to furnish surety/cash security before the learned Registrar (Judicial-I), Appellate Side, High Court, Bombay to the tune of Rs.15,000/- each for the appearance before such Magistrate as contemplated under Section 340 (1) (d) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 as and when summoned.

34. The Respondent No.6-State of Maharashtra and Prothonotary and Senior Master, (Original Side), High Court Bombay to submit report on or before 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to this

Court.

35. It is clarified that as far as the direction regarding *suo moto* issuance of contempt as well as other actions will be considered on the next date.

36. It is clarified that undertaking given by Respondent No.3-Satish Pralhad Sakla, Respondent No.7-Manisha Pandurang More and Respondent No.8-Sagar Shamrao Pawar that they will appear before this Court on each and every date shall continue till further orders.

37. Stand over to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (First on Board).

# [MADHAV J. JAMDAR, J.]