

(2021) 07 BOM CK 0030
In the Bombay High Court
Case No : Writ Petition (ST) No. 3221 Of 2020

Rustam Phiroze Mehta

APPELLANT

Vs

State Of Maharashtra And Others

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 15-07-2021

Acts Referred:

Constitution Of India, 1950 — Article 215, 226, 227
Appellate Side Rules, 1960, — Rule 4, 8, 9, 10, 22, 24
Code Of Civil Procedure, 1908 — Order Order 21 Rule 32, Order 21 Rule 41(3), 39 Rule 2A
Maharashtra Realisation O Land Revenue Rules, 1967 — Rule 17
Real Estate (Regulation And Development) Act, 2016 — Section 2(d), 12, 14, 14(1), 18, 19
Contempt Of Courts Act, 1971 — Section 2(b)
Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966 — Section 263, 267
Factories Act, 1948 — Section 46

Citation : (2021) 07 BOM CK 0030

Hon'ble Judges : S.J. Kathawalla, J;Milind Jadhav, J

Bench : Division Bench

Advocate : Sharan Jagtiani, Shradha Achliya, Vinsha Acharya, Ranjit Agashe, Namrata Agashe, Kalel, Amit Gharte

Final Decision : Allowed

Judgement

S.J. Kathawalla, J

1. By the abof ve Writ Petitiof n Shri Rustam Phirof ze Mehta ('the Petitiof ner') has prayed of r a writ in the nature of Mandamus of r any of ther approf priate writ against Respf of ndent No of s. 2 and 3, i.e. The Cof llectof r, Pune District and The Tahsildar, Pune City respectively, mandating them tof cof mply with the OF rder-cum-Directiof ns dated 15th April, 2019 issued by the Maharashtra Real Estate and Regulatof ry Authof rity, Mumbai. By an OF rder dated 20th January, 2021 the Petitiof ner was allof wed tof amend the Petitiof n and seek urther ad-interim / interim relie s against Respf of ndent No of . 4 - Marvel Sigma Hof mes Private Limited which relie s are sof ught in aid of the fnal relie .

2. Admit.

3. By this Order, we will consider whether the Petitioner is entitled to the following interim reliefs as sought in the present Writ Petition (as amended pursuant to Order dated 20th January, 2021):

"b)(ii) That pending the hearing and final disposal of the present Petition, Respondent No. 4 and/or its group of companies, their officers, servants, agents, assigns, representatives and any of their personnel, claiming through or under them, be restrained by a temporary injunction from direct or indirect in any manner selling, transferring or creating any third party rights in any of their movable or immovable properties;

b)(iii) That pending the hearing and final disposal of the present Petition, this Hon'ble Court be pleased to direct Respondent No. 4 to deposit the principal sum of Rs.11,36,33,625/- admitted payable by Respondent No. 4 to the Petitioner of or any of their amount as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit, to be appropriated towards the decretal amount payable by the Respondent No. 4 to the Petitioner."

4. Apart from considering whether the Petitioner is entitled to the above interim reliefs sought in prayer clauses b(ii) and b(iii) reproduced hereinabove, we will also consider herein whether Respondent No. 4 acting through its Director, Shri Vishwajeet Jhavar ('Shri Jhavar') has interfered with the administration of justice by breaching various Orders of Disclosure passed by this Court against Respondent No. 4 by filing false Affidavits of Disclosure. If we are prima facie satisfied of such conduct, we will then proceed to consider what action ought to be taken in relation to such breach, keeping in mind the fact that this is not a Contempt Petition under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 ('Contempt of Courts Act') but a Writ Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PRESENT WRIT PETITION:

5. The present Writ Petition (L) No. 3221 of 2020 has been filed by the Petitioner who was the Original Complainant before the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority ('RERA'). The Petitioner is an "applicant" as defined under Section 2(d) of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 ('the said Act'). Respondent No. 1 is the State of Maharashtra. Respondent No. 2 is the PA-Nitin Jagtap 4 / 67 WPL-3221-2021-Final.doc Comptroller, Pune ('the Comptroller'). Respondent No. 3 is the Tahsildar, Pune ('the Tahsildar'). Respondent No. 4 is Marvel Sigma Homes Pvt. Ltd. ('Respondent No. 4'), a company engaged in the business of development and construction.

5.1. The Petitioner had filed Complaint No. CC00500000010528 ('the Complaint') under Sections 12, 14, 18 and 19 of the said Act against Respondent No. 4. The main grievance in the Complaint before RERA was that under

Articles of Agreement dated 1st August 2014, the Petitioner paid the entire consideration of Rs.10,61,18,790/- to Respondent No of . 4 towards purchase of Flat No of . 1001 admeasuring 326.55 sq. mtrs., of n the 10th floor of r, 'A' Wing in Respondent No of . 4's Project 'Marvel Ribera' at Pune, along with two covered car parking spaces and an open terrace admeasuring 119.10 sq. mtrs. (Carpet area) collectively referred to as ('the said Premises') and that there was a gross delay in handing over possession of the said Premises. Therefore, the Petitioner filed the Complaint seeking return of the amount paid and interest thereon, including compensation under the a of resaid provisions of RERA.

5.2. By an Order dated 1st March, 2018, ('the said Order'), the Adjudicating Officer allowed the said Complaint and directed Respondent No of . 4 to pay Rs.14,05,57,705.46 (Rupees Fourteen Crores Five Lakhs, Fifty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Five and Forty-Six Paise only) along with interest at the rate of 10.05% p.a. ('the Decretal Amount') to the Petitioner.

5.3. As Respondent No of . 4 failed to pay the Decretal Amount, the Petitioner initiated execution proceedings against Respondent No of . 4. The said execution proceedings were allowed by RERA and consequently RERA issued a Recovery Certificate dated 12th April, 2019, against Respondent No of . 4 for recovering the Decretal Amount as arrears of land revenue. Thereafter, RERA on 15th April, 2019, vide its Letter of even date, directed the Collector to execute the said Recovery Certificate. A copy of this Letter was notified to the Petitioner. By its Letter dated 4th June, 2019, the Collector directed the Tahsildar to execute the Recovery Certificate. The earlier Letter of RERA dated 15th April, 2019 addressed to the Collector was referred to therein. A copy of this Letter dated 4th June, 2019 was notified to the Petitioner. According to the Petitioner, despite the a of resaid direction dated 15th April, 2019, the Collector and the Tahsildar both failed to comply with the said direction and failed in performing their statutory obligations. The Petitioner addressed a letter to Respondent No of . 3 - Tahsildar calling upon him to take steps for realising the amount due to the Petitioner. As there was no action taken by Respondent No of . 3 - Tahsildar and Respondent No of . 2 - Collector, the Petitioner filed the present Writ Petition under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India, seeking issuance of a Writ of Mandamus against the Collector and Tahsildar to comply with the Direction dated 15th April, 2019 and to perform their statutory duties to recover the amounts under the Recovery Certificate as arrears of land revenue. According to the Petitioner, till today an amount of approximately Rs.17,45,50,137.14/- (Rupees Seventeen Crores Forty-Five Lakhs Fifty Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Seven and Fourteen Paise only) is due and payable by the Respondent No of . 4 to the Petitioner.

5.4. In aid of the final relief that is sought against the Respondent Nos. 2 and 3, the Petitioner seeks interim reliefs against Respondent No of . 4 and its

group of companies, so that the amount to be paid to the Petitioner under the Recovery Certificate is protected till such time as the statutory authorities secure the recovery of the same as arrears of land revenue.

OF ORDER DATED 9TH MARCH, 2021:

6. After the present Writ Petition was filed by the Petitioner and various Orders of Disclosure were passed against Respondent No. 4, which are referred to below, Respondent No. 4 filed Interim Application (L) No. 2044 of 2021 challenging the maintainability of the present Writ Petition. Respondent No. 4 also filed Writ Petition No. 2657 of 2020 challenging the Direction dated 4th June, 2019 issued by the Collector directing the Tahsildar to execute the Recovery Certificate dated 12th April, 2019 issued by RERA against Respondent No. 4. Since Respondent No. 4 challenged the maintainability of the present Writ Petition, this Court considered it necessary to decide the said Interim Application before considering the application of interim reliefs in this Writ Petition. As the grounds of challenge with respect to the maintainability of the present Writ Petition raised in the aforesaid Interim Application filed by Respondent No. 4 and the challenge to the manner of execution of the Recovery Certificate in Writ Petition No. 2657 of 2020 also filed by Respondent No. 4, were substantially the same, both were heard together.

6.1. By an Order and Judgment dated 9th March, 2021, the aforesaid Interim Application and Writ Petition No. 2657 of 2020 were dismissed, and the hearing of the present Writ Petition including the application of interim reliefs sought by the Petitioner, were directed to proceed. We were informed that Respondent No. 4 has filed a Special Leave Petition against the Order and Judgment dated 9th March, 2021. It appears that the Special Leave Petition has not yet been circulated for listing and there is no stay in relation to the present proceedings.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION :

7. Pursuant to the Order dated 9th March, 2021, we proceeded to hear the present Writ Petition. The two issues which have arisen for our determination are as under :

7.1. Whether Respondent No. 4 and its Director Shri Jhavar have interfered with the administration of justice by filing false and incorrect Affidavits of Disclosure and by also violating and breaching various Orders of this Court?; If so, the consequences of such breach?

7.2. Whether the Petitioner is entitled to interim reliefs set out in the prayer clauses (b)(ii) and (b)(iii) of the present Writ Petition, especially considering that Respondent No. 4 is a Private Limited Company?

FACTUAL BACKGROUND :

8. Since the actual background of the disputes has been set out in detail in the Order dated 9th March, 2021, we are not repeating the same in the present Order. The relevant facts have also been set out in the earlier paragraphs of this Order.

ORDER OF THE COURT AND AFFIDAVITS OF THE RESPONDENTS:

9. Before recording the submissions of the parties on the issues set out in paragraph 7 hereinabove, it is necessary to set out in detail the events that transpired during the hearing of the present Writ Petition.

9.1. On 3rd March, 2020, after hearing the advocates of the parties and being prima facie satisfied that there had been inaction by the Collector and the Tahsildar in performing their statutory duties and complying with the aforesaid Direction dated 15th April, 2019, issued to them by RERA, the Tahsildar was directed to remain present before this Court on 5th March, 2020.

9.2. On 5th March, 2020, the Tahsildar could not remain present and requested this Court to keep the matter on 6th March, 2020. In view thereof, the matter was adjourned to 6th March, 2020.

9.3. On 6th March, 2020, the Tahsildar personally remained present before this Court. On the same date, the Tahsildar filed an Affidavit in Reply to the Petition. It states that after receiving the said Direction dated 15th April, 2019 from RERA, his office had issued two Demand Notices dated 11th September, 2019 and 10th January, 2020 respectively to Respondent No. 4, calling upon Respondent No. 4 to pay the said Decretal Amount. Respondent No. 4 failed to respond to these Demand Notices. The Tahsildar then carried out a search of Respondent No. 4's properties and came across Property Cards in the name of Marvel Imperial Cooperative Housing Society Ltd., Marvel Crest Condominium, etc. However, the Affidavit states that as the name of these Property Cards was not the same as that of Respondent No. 4, i.e. 'Marvel Sigma Homes Pvt. Ltd.', the Tahsildar could not execute the said Recovery Certificate against Respondent No. 4. The stand of the Tahsildar in justification of him not having taken any steps towards recovery of the amounts mentioned in the RERA Recovery Certificate, is reproduced hereunder :

" 6. I say that as per direction of the RERA, the Respondent No. 3 started the procedure by sending two Notices and searching the property of Respondent No. 4, movable as well as immovable for attachment. But, due to clause 7/12 extract, it is difficult to find out the property of Respondent No. 4. I further say that recently, the office of the undersigned got a property card of a similar name of Respondent No. 4. However, after going through the said property card, it is revealed that the title name is different i.e. Marvel Imperial Cooperative Housing Society Ltd., City Survey No. 260, area 9875.76 sq. mtrs. The second similar name i.e. Marvel Crest Condominium, City Survey No. 363.929 sq. mtr.

The third similar name is i.e. Gof ea Ganga Co nstructio n & Reaa Estate Pvt. Ltd., City Survey No of . 207, area 11027.68 sq. mtrs. Heretof annexed and marked as Exhibit 5 Co f aay. are co f pies of f the Prof perty Cards.

7. I say that as the address prof vided by RERA is diferent frof m prof perty card and Respo f ndent No of . 4's prof perty and hence, of ur of fce is facing difcuaty in searching the prof perty of f the Respo f ndent No of . 4 fof r attachment and further prof cedure. I say that of ur of fce had started the prof ceeding frof m 12.06.2019 hof wever, due tof diferent titae and address, it is difcuat tof us tof search Respo f ndent No of . 4's prof perty and tof co f mpaete further prof cedure. I say that hence, there is No of deaay frof m of ur side in the abof vesaid matter. If the Hof n'bae Co f urt directs the Respo f ndent No of . 4 i.e. defauters tof give prof per titae name and address and mentio f n the whof ae prof perty of f Respo f ndent No of . 4, it wiaa be easy fof r us tof attach and recof ver the due amo f unt frof m Respo f ndent No of . 4 and hand of ver the said due amo f unt tof the Petitio f ner."

9.4. In additio f n tof re erring tof the averments in the Afdavit of the Tahsildar, we have alsof perused the extract of the Prof perty Card annexed tof the Afdavit itsel . Co f ntrary tof the Tahsildar's understanding that names and addresses in the Prof perty Card are diferent rof m thof se mentio f ned in the Reco f very Certifcate, the Prof perty Card itsel indicates that of ne of the prof jects of r develo f pments, namely, Marvel Crest, is a prof perty of r prof ject in the name of Respo f ndent No of . 4.

9.5. In view of the a of resaid submissio f ns made by the Tahsildar, a statement was made of n behal of Respo f ndent No of . 4 that they shall fle an Afdavit setting of ut the assets of Respo f ndent No of . 4 and its grof up entities within of ne week. The said statement was accepted by this Co f urt and the of llo f wing OF rder dated 6th March, 2020 was passed :

"1. Respo f ndent No of . 4 states that the discaof sure Afdavit in Repay setting of ut the assets of f the Respo f ndent No of . 4 and its grof up entities shaaa be faed within of ne week frof m tof day. This statement is accepted."

9.6. OF n 11th March, 2020, Respo f ndent No of . 3 - Tahsildar, Pune, addressed a Letter tof RERA stating that she was unable tof lof cate any assets standing in the name of f Respo f ndent No of . 4 and was there of re unable tof execute the OF rder dated 15th April, 2020. This Letter was prof duced by the Petitio f ner as part of a Co f mpilatio f n of Dof cuments. It has No of t been disputed by any of the parties.

9.7. Pursuant tof the OF rder of 6th March, 2020, Shri Jhavar, Directo f r of Respo f ndent No of . 4, fled an Afdavit of Disclo f sure dated 12th March, 2020 ("1st Disclo f sure Afdavit"). In the 1st Disclo f sure Afdavit, Respo f ndent No of . 4 of nly made a disclo f sure with respect tof its Prof ject 'Marvel Ribera', at Bof at Club Ro f ad, Pune, in which the Petitio f ner had purchased the said Premises. Respo f ndent No of . 4 disclo f sed that, (i) the said Prof ject 'Marvel Ribera' had a

total of 27 flats, (ii) of out of the total 27 flats, 11 have been sold and an amount of Rs. 18,54,05,681/- was receivable from the said flats, (iii) the remaining 16 flats are unsold, but were mortgaged to ICICI Home Finance Ltd. under a Mortgage Deed dated 29th May, 2017. Further in paragraph 7, Respondent No of . 4 made a statement that, "Marvel Sigma Homes Private Limited apart from above has No other property". (Emphasis supplied).

9.8. Thereafter due to the extended lockdown and suspension of physical hearings in this Court due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this matter could be taken up only on 14th January, 2021. At that time, the Advocates for the Petitioner informed this Court that by the order of the said OF dated 6th March, 2020, Respondent No of . 4 was directed to disclose "all" assets of Respondent No of . 4 and its group entities. Despite the said OF order, Respondent No of . 4 had only disclosed details in respect of some of its projects and had not disclosed its other assets. In support of his contention the

Petitioner filed a Compilation of Documents comprising details of the various projects of Respondent No of . 4 and its group entities as available on the official website of RERA, the sold and unsold units therein, etc., that constituted the assets of Respondent No of . 4, which Respondent No of . 4 had not disclosed in its 1st Disclosure Affidavit.

9.9. After perusing the 1st Disclosure Affidavit and the order of the said Compilation of Documents filed by the Petitioner, it was clear that Respondent No of . 4 had violated the OF order dated 6th March, 2020 and had not disclosed, (i) all of the assets of Respondent No of . 4; (ii) all assets of its group entities; (iii) details as to when the amount of Rs. 18,54,05,681/- was receivable from the purchasers of the sold units in Marvel Ribera; (iv) the sold and unsold units in Respondent No of . 4's projects, viz. Marvel Bounty, Marvel Cascada, Marvel Crest, etc.; (v) the sold and unsold units in projects of its group entities, viz. Marvel Fuego, Marvel Arco, Marvel Cerise, Marvel Aurum, Marvel Sangria, Marvel Ideal Spacio, etc.; (vi) bank account details of Respondent No of . 4 and its group entities, mortgages therein and other investments and (vii) of their immovable assets of Respondent No of . 4 and its group entities.

9.10. In view of the order of the said, this Court by its OF order dated 14th January, 2021 noted the order of the said breach by Respondent No of . 4 and granted an opportunity to Respondent No of . 4 to comply with the OF order dated 6th March, 2020 in its true letter and spirit and adjourned the matter to 20th January, 2021. By the said OF order dated 14th January, 2021, this Court directed as under:

"3. Instead of issuing Notice at this stage calling upon the Director of Respondent No of . 4 to show cause as to why action should not be taken against him for breach of the statement made before this Court on 6th March, 2020, we are giving an opportunity to Mr. Vishwajeet Subhash

Jhavar, Director of Respondent No of . 4 - Marvel Sigma Homes Private Limited, to comply with his statement as recorded and accepted in our Order dated 6th March, 2020, of on or before the adjourned date. Needless to add that the said statement shall be complied with in its true letter and spirit." (Emphasis supplied).

9.11. Thereafter, Shri Jhavar on behalf of Respondent No of . 4 filed an Affidavit of Disclosure dated 19th January, 2021 ("2nd Disclosure Affidavit"), wherein Respondent No of . 4 enclosed a Statement of Assets and Liabilities of Respondent No of . 4 and its seven group entities, viz. (i) Marvel Realtors & Developers Ltd., (ii) Marvel Omega Builders Pvt Ltd. (iii) Marvel Zeta Developers Pvt. Ltd. (iv) Marvel Landmarks Private Limited (v) PAX Homes LLP (vi) Hallmark Marvel Realtors and (vii) Marvel Realtors. In the said Statement, Respondent No of . 4 disclosed, (i) names of certain projects of Respondent No of . 4 and the said seven group entities; (ii) sold and unsold area in the disclosed projects; (iii) cumulative bank balances lying in the bank accounts of Respondent No of . 4 and the seven group entities; (iv) encumbrances over the disclosed projects.

9.12. On 20th January, 2021, when the matter came up for hearing, the Advocates for the Petitioner informed this Court that despite this Court granting an opportunity to Respondent No of . 4 to comply with the Order dated 6th March, 2020 in its true letter and spirit, Respondent No of . 4 had once again provided an incomplete and misleading Disclosure. The Advocates for the Petitioner tendered a list of group companies and LLPs of Respondent No of . 4, as available on the official website of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, which showed that Respondent No of . 4 had not disclosed assets of 12 group companies and 4 LLPs. The Advocates for the Petitioner also informed this Court that even if the entities disclosed, Respondent No of . 4 had only provided partial details and had not disclosed, (a) details of each of the bank accounts of these entities and monies lying therein; (b) particulars of each of the bank accounts of these disclosed entities/projects; (c) sold and unsold units in projects of these disclosed entities and monies receivable from the sale of these units; (d) other movable assets and investments of these entities.

9.13. In view of the repeated breaches by Respondent No of . 4 in complying with the Orders passed, this Court directed Shri Jhavar to remain personally present in Court on 25th January, 2021.

9.14. On 25th January, 2021, Shri Jhavar was personally present before this Court. On that day the Advocate appearing on behalf of Respondent No of . 4 informed this Court that in compliance of the Order dated 6th March, 2020, they now had "all" documents ready. The Court then granted another opportunity to Respondent No of . 4 to comply with the Orders of this Court and directed Respondent No of . 4 to place the said documents on Affidavit and furnish a copy of the same to the Advocate for the Petitioner by

27th January, 2021, and the matter was adjourned to 2nd February, 2021.

9.15. Pursuant thereto, Shri Jhavar filed an Affidavit of Disclosure dated 27th January, 2021 ("3rd Disclosure Affidavit"). By the 3rd Disclosure Affidavit, Respondent No. 4 produced/disclosed (i) Statement of Assets and Liabilities of Respondent No. 4 and its aforesaid seven group entities; (ii) List of sole and sole units of some of the projects of Respondent No. 4 and the said seven group entities;

(iii) Uncertified Bank Statements of some bank accounts of Respondent No. 4 and the said seven group entities and (iv) Mortgage Documents in respect of the assets owned by Respondent No. 4 and some of its said seven group entities. Further in paragraph 3 of the 3rd Disclosure Affidavit, Respondent No. 4 made the following statement:

"3. I say that since the Respondent No. 4 and its other companies are vast, there might be some of the assets/projects/receivable, which inadvertently are not stated in the Affidavits, the Respondent No. 4 crave leave of Hon'ble Court to put the said particulars of Affidavits if the same is pointed to us." (Emphasis Supplied)

9.16. On 2nd February, 2021, the Advocates for the Petitioner informed this Court that even the 3rd Disclosure Affidavit was incomplete and Respondent No. 4 had once again filed the Disclosure Affidavit only in respect of Respondent No. 4 and the said seven group entities despite the Petitioner of the previous occasion pointing out the various of their group entities of Respondent No. 4. In view of the aforesaid, by our Order dated 2nd February, 2021, we directed the Petitioner to file an Affidavit setting out all the non-disclosures / breaches by Respondent No. 4 and the matter was adjourned to 10th February, 2021.

9.17. On 8th February, 2021, the Tahsildar levied a charge of Rs. 6,25,20,100/- on the Respondent No. 4's land bearing No. 30/A, Bofat Club Road, Pune.

9.18. The Petitioner filed an Affidavit dated 9th February, 2021, setting out the repeated breaches of Respondent No. 4 in complying with the aforesaid Orders passed by this Court. The Petitioner by the said Affidavit stated as under:

9.18.1. That despite being given multiple of opportunities to comply with the Orders passed by this Court, Respondent No. 4 had deliberately and willfully failed to comply with these Orders and that the Respondent No. 4 even after filing three Disclosure Affidavits, had failed to disclose the following assets:

a. Assets of 18 group entities of Respondent No. 4.

b. Inventory of sole and sole fats in the following projects viz. (i)

Marvel Izara (ii) Marvel Tupe (iv) Marvel Cerise (v) Marvel Chaitanya (vi) Marvel Vimannagar (vii) Marvel Ideal Spaciof (viii) Marvel Brisa (ix) Marvel Cetrine (xii) Marvel Aries (xiii) Marvel Cascada (xiv) Marvel Crest (xv) Marvel Castella (xvi) Marvel Arista (xvii) Marvel Merlof t (xviii) Marvel Zephyr, etc.

c. Details of all the bank accof unts of Respof ndent No of . 4 and the seven disclof sed entities.

d. Bank accof unt details of the of llof wing prof jects being of wned and develof ped by Respof ndent No of . 4 and the said seven entities were No of t disclof sed - Marvel Castella, Marvel Crest, Marvel Ecasof , Marvel Senitel, Marvel Merlof t, Marvel Zephyr, Marvel Isot la, Marvel Amof ra, Marvel Clarof , Marvel Diva, Marvel Arista.

e. Frof m the unsof ld units in the disclof sed prof jects, Respof ndent No of . 4 ailed tof disclof se which fats were mof rtgaged.

9.18.2. That Marvel Precast Structures India LLP, of ne of the a of resaid 18 entities, was actively carrying of n the business of manu acturing abricated metal prof ducts. A perusal of the balance sheet of Marvel Precast, dof wnlof aded rof m the MCA Website, shof wed that the current assets of Marvel Precast amof unted tof Rs. 1,11,53,002/-, which included trade receivables of Rs. 1,50,044/-, cash & cash equivalents of Rs. 8,62,459/- and Rs. 95,73,580/- being an amof unt advanced by way of lof an and advances tof third parties/vendof rs. The details alsof shof wed that there was No of charge of n the assets of the said LLP.

9.18.3. That Marvel OF ra Residences LLP, of ne of the a of resaid 18 entities, was alsof actively carrying of n its business. As per the Balance Sheet of r FY 2019 - 2020, the value of its current assets was Rs. 59,99,94,667/- and current capital accof unt was Rs.18,86,91,887/-. Further, the current assets included cash equivalent of Rs. 5,745/-, shof rt term lof ans advanced by Marvel OF ra amof untng tof Rs. 59,99,94,667/- (advanced tof related parties) and of ther current assets amof untng tof Rs. 55,27,180/-. Further, as per the recof rds available of n the of fcial website of the Ministry of Cof rpof rate Affairs, there was No of charge of n the assets of this entity.

9.18.4. That in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities annexed tof the 3rd Disclof sure Afdavit read with the Mof rtgage Dof cuments fled by Respof ndent No of . 4, Shri Jhavar of n behal of Respof ndent No of . 4, sof ught tof represent that Respof ndent No of . 4 was debt ridden and all its prof jects and the unsof ld units therein were mof rtgaged tof variof us banks and/of r fnancial institutiof ns due tof which it was unable tof pay the said Decretal Amof unt. Hof wever, cof ntrary tof the a of resaid representatiof n, Shri Jhavar of n 20th September, 2020 had addressed an email tof all its custof mers/purchasers inter aaia in of rming them that in the last 18 mof nthas Marvel Grof up had sof ld of ver 1000 units acrof ss their variof us prof jects, including Marvel Cerise, Marvel Arcof , Marvel Brisa, Marvel Ecasof , Marvel Cascada, etc. and had been simultaneof usly success ul in reducing its debt by 70% and have a target tof be debt- free by

March 2021. The Petitioner stated that this clearly showed that Respondent No. 4 has been consistently making false and misleading statements regarding its financial status before this Court to suit its benefit.

9.18.5. That Respondent No. 4 of its Official Website, www.marvelrealtors.com, has stated that it was one of the "Top Real Estate Developers in Pune" and has developed various projects in Pune and Bangalore. Further, it was also stated on the Website that Respondent No. 4 and its group entities had completed 35 projects in Pune and Bangalore. Further it was stated that Respondent No. 4 and its group companies were currently developing 10 projects in Pune, viz. Marvel Piazza, Marvel Ideal Space, Marvel Fria, Marvel Acquanas, Selva Ridge, Marvel Ribera, Marvel Aurum, Marvel Basil, Marvel Ecos, Marvel Isola and 2 projects in Bangalore viz. Marvel Arista and Marvel Official.

9.18.6 That Respondent No. 4 had several FIR's registered against it of offences punishable under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Maharashtra Ownership of Flat Purchasers Act, 1963.

9.19. Thereafter, Respondent No. 4 filed its Affidavit of Disclosure dated 16th February, 2021 ("4th Disclosure Affidavit"), without any liberty being granted to Respondent No. 4 to file such Affidavit. In any event, we accepted the said Affidavit and took it on record. By the said Affidavit, Respondent No. 4 sought to justify the Non-disclosures of Respondent No. 4, as pointed out by the Petitioner in its aforesaid Affidavit dated 9th February, 2021. The explanation provided by Respondent No. 4 in the 4th Disclosure Affidavit is summarized as under:

9.19.1. That in its 1st Disclosure Affidavit, it disclosed only assets in Marvel Ribera because they were under the impression that the assets in the said project were "sufficient" to comply with the Order dated 6th March, 2020.

9.19.2. Respondent No. 4 admitted that it had only provided disclosure of bank accounts of its "major" entities.

9.19.3. Respondent No. 4 admitted that it had not provided details of certain projects as they were "completed" and therefore the disclosure was "irrelevant". The said statement / admission statement of Respondent No. 4 is reproduced hereunder:

"3. I say that myself have already disclosed the bank accounts of the major entities. I say that so far as remaining entities are concerned, following is the detail chart as to the status of the said bank accounts and perusal of the said chart would itself make it clear that most of the projects are complete and therefore the disclosure of the same was irrelevant. ...

9. ...I say that major projects have already been disclosed by me. I say that so far as the Petitioner's contention is concerned in respect of the remaining projects; I say that the said are irrelevant in respects of the present subject

matter." (Emphasis supplied)

9.19.4. Respondent No of . 4 sought to disclose details of the assets of the following projects: Marvel Castella, Marvel Crest, Marvel Ecasof , Marvel Senitel, Marvel Selva Ridge, Marvel OF rial, Marvel Sangria, Marvel Fria, Marvel Piazza, Marvel Izarra, Marvel Amof ra, Marvel Clarof , Marvel Diva.

9.19.5. Respondent No of . 4 admitted that it had not fled disclosure of the group entities because the same was "irrelevant". Respondent No of . 4 by this Affidavit sought to provide a status of the other group entities. It is necessary to reproduce this statement of Respondent No of . 4:

"4. So far as para No of . 15 is concerned, I say that myself has disclosed the information of the major group entities. I say that so far as the other group entities are concerned the disclosure of the same was irrelevant and the below chart would clearly reflect the same.

(Emphasis supplied)

9.19.6. Respondent No of . 4 admitted that it had only disclosed "major projects" and did not disclose of the other projects as their details were "irrelevant".

9.20. According to the Petitioner, even the 4th Disclosure Affidavit was incomplete and also of the following reasons:

9.20.1. Respondent No of . 4 only disclosed bank account numbers of the projects Marvel Castella, Marvel Crest, Marvel Ecasof , Marvel Senitel, Marvel Selva Ridge, Marvel OF rial, Marvel Sangria, Marvel Fria, Marvel Piazza, Marvel Izarra, Marvel Amof ra, Marvel Clarof , Marvel Diva. No bank statement or details of monies lying therein were disclosed of these Projects.

9.20.2. According to Respondent No of . 4's official website, projects Marvel OF rial, Marvel Fria, Marvel Piazza, Marvel Selva Ridge are 'ongoing' projects, which Respondent No of . 4 falsely represented as 'completed'. The websites and other information of the Marvel Group that are available online clearly establish this.

9.20.3. No disclosure of sold / unsold inventory is made with regard to Marvel Izara, Marvel Zephyr, Marvel Cerise, Marvel Ideal Spaciof , Marvel Brisa, Marvel Citrine, Marvel Arise, Marvel Cascada, Marvel Crest, etc.

9.20.4. Even in respect of the entities referred to in the chart / table below paragraph 4 (described as 'other group entities whose disclosure is irrelevant'), it is clear that there were assets that ought to have been disclosed even if these entities are not carrying out any projects. This would include disclosure of unsold inventory of Kappa In ra Ventures Private Limited; the land owned by Marvel Luxury Realtors Private Limited; the land of consideration of sale of land by Marvel Mega Realtors Private Limited; the current assets including the receivables of Marvel Precast Structures India LLP

and Marvel OF ra Residences.

9.21. According to the Petitioner, despite having filed of our Disclosure Affidavits, Respondent No of . 4 has still not fully complied with the orders of the said OF orders dated 6th March, 2020 and 14th January, 2021, passed by this Court and the offloading assets still remain undisclosed:

9.21.1 Details/particulars of when the amount of Rs. 18,54,05,681/- is receivable from sold units in 'Marvel Ribera'.

9.21.2. Movable and Immovable assets of the offloading entities - Kappa Intra Ventures Pvt. Ltd., Marvel Skyscrapers Pvt. Ltd., Marvel Dreamland Homes Pvt. Ltd., Marvel Foundation, Marvel Edge Realtors Pvt. Ltd., Epsilon Real Estate Pvt. Ltd., Marvel Asta Construction Pvt. Ltd., Kappa Homes LLP, Marvel Precast structures India LLP, Marvel OF ra Residences LLP, Marvel Group of Holdings and Investments LLP, Marvel Elegant Homes LLP.

9.21.3. Bank account statements and details of monies lying therein of the offloading projects owned by Respondent No of . 4 and its group entities viz. Marvel Castella, Marvel Crest, Marvel Ecosof, Marvel Senitel, Marvel Piazza, Marvel Merlot, Marvel Zephyr, Marvel Isola, Marvel Amara, Marvel Clarof, Marvel Diva, Marvel Arista.

9.21.4. Even of the projects disclosed, all bank account details have not been provided.

9.21.5. Inventory of sold and unsold flats of the offloading projects owned and developed by Respondent No of . 4 viz., (i) Marvel Aries (ii) Marvel Cascada (iii) Marvel Crest and (iv) Marvel Castella.

9.21.6. Inventory of sold and unsold flats of the offloading projects owned and developed by the group entities of Respondent No of . 4 viz., (i) Marvel Izara (ii) Marvel Tupe (iii) Marvel Cerise (iv) Marvel Chaitanya (v) Marvel Vimannagar (vi) Marvel Ideal Spaciof (vii) Marvel Brisa (viii) Marvel Cetrine (ix) Marvel Arista (x) Marvel Merlot (xi) Marvel Zephyr, etc.

9.21.7. Marvel Precast Structures India LLP and Marvel OF ra Residences LLP, are two group entities whose financial statements and assets were not disclosed. The Petitioner states that this is significant because both of them disclose substantial current assets in their financial statements. In the case of Marvel OF ra Residences LLP, the current assets amount to Rs. 59,99,94,667/- and the capital account reflects an amount of Rs. 18,86,91,887/-. This entity appears to have given a short-term loan to another group entity. The Petitioner states that these details have been withheld in the earlier disclosures because it would show the capacity of Respondent No of . 4 and its related entities to satisfy the Recovery Certificate, which it is obstructing.

ORDER PASSED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA :

10. On 28th February, 2021, after this Court had granted three of the

opportunities to Respondent No. 4 to fully comply with the Orders of Disclosure dated 6th March, 2020 and 14th January, 2021, and the Respondent No. 4 had filed three Disclosure Affidavits, Respondent No. 4 challenged these Orders by filing SLP (C) No. 2122/2021 and SLP (C) No. 2123/2021 before the Supreme Court.

10.1. By an Order dated 12th February, 2021, the Supreme Court while upholding the approach adopted by this Court, dismissed the said SLPs. By the said Order, the Supreme Court held as under:

Court to ensure that in no manner of whatever the petitioner has obtained the decree which has been passed against him. The Special Leave Petition is dismissed.

Pending applications stand disposed of."

(Emphasis supplied)

It is relevant to note here that Respondent No. 4 never served a copy of the said SLPs upon the Petitioner. The Petitioner had not filed a caveat before the Supreme Court and was therefore not aware of the filing of the SLP or the Order. Further Respondent No. 4 also suppressed the said Order dated 12th February, 2021 from this Court, despite the matter having been heard at that time. This Court learnt of the said Order only upon receiving a copy of it from the Supreme Court Registry. In fact, Advocate Shri Amit Gharte representing Respondent No. 4 before us informed us that even he was not aware of the SLPs being filed by Respondent No. 4 before the Supreme Court, since the same were filed by engaging some of the Advocates.

SUBMISSIONS OF THE PARTIES:

ISSUE NO. 1 : AS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 7.1.:

11. Shri Sharan Jagtiani, Learned Senior Advocate representing the Petitioner has made the following submissions :

11.1. That after the Order dated 6th March, 2020 was passed, this Court granted multiple opportunities to Respondent No. 4 to comply with its Orders. Respondent No. 4 not only failed to comply with the said Orders but also made false and incorrect statements in the said two Disclosure Affidavits in order to mislead this Court thereby obstructing the administration of justice and delaying the hearing of this Writ Petition for grant of urgent interim reliefs.

11.2. That the following instances clearly show that Respondent No. 4 has disobeyed the Orders passed by this Court and made false and incorrect statements during the hearing of the present Writ Petition, to mislead the Court:

11.2.1. In its 1st Disclosure Affidavit, despite this Court specifically directing Respondent No of . 4 to disclose all assets of Respondent No of . 4 and its group entities, Respondent No of . 4 only disclosed details in respect of its project 'Marvea Ribera'. Respondent No of . 4 knew very well that this was not the only project and/or asset of Respondent No of . 4 and its group entities, made a false statement that other than the said project Marvel Ribera, it had no other assets. He submitted that filing of three more Affidavits thereafter by Respondent No of . 4 itself shows that the aforesaid statement was false and was made willfully and deliberately in order to mislead this Court at the first instance.

11.2.2. In the 4th Disclosure Affidavit, Respondent No of . 4 has sought to justify its 1st Disclosure Affidavit by stating that it did not disclose of other assets because it was under the impression that disclosure in respect of the project Marvel Ribera and the assets in the said project would be "sufficient" so as to comply with the Order passed by this Court. The 1st Disclosure Affidavit clearly stated that out of 27 flats, 11 had been sold and 16 unsold units were mortgaged. Further it was also stated in the said Affidavit that a sum of Rs. 18,54,05,681/- was receivable from the purchasers of the sold units, but when at the hearing of on 14th January, 2021, this Court enquired whether the said amount had been received, Respondent No of . 4's answer was in the negative. In the aforesaid circumstances, Respondent No of . 4 could never have been under the belief that the assets disclosed in the 1st Disclosure Affidavit were sufficient.

11.2.3. The first three Affidavits filed by Respondent No of . 4 only disclosed limited entities and projects and sought to represent to this Court that these were the only entities and projects of Respondent No of . 4 and its group entities. However, after the Petitioner pointed out in its Affidavit dated 9th February, 2021 that Respondent No of . 4 had not disclosed various of other entities and projects, Respondent No of . 4 in the 4th Disclosure Affidavit admitted that it had disclosed only "major" entities and projects of Respondent No of . 4 and its group entities as disclosure with respect to others was "irrelevant".

11.2.4. In the 4th Disclosure Affidavit, Respondent No of . 4 has stated that it did not disclose assets of projects Marvel Office, Marvel Fria, Marvel Piazza as the same are "completed" projects. The said statement is belied by the fact that Respondent No of . 4 on its official website has represented that these three projects, are 'ongoing' projects of Respondent No of . 4.

11.2.5. In the 4th Disclosure Affidavit, Respondent No of . 4 has stated that it did not disclose the group entities Marvel Precast Structures India LLP and Marvel Office Residences LLP as they are not operational. This statement of Respondent No of . 4 is belied by the financial statements of these entities produced by the Petitioner which clearly show that in the Financial Year 2019-2020 one of the LLP's has advanced loan amounts of approximately

Rs. 60 crore to its related parties. That it again begs the question how these entities had managed to advance such huge loans if they were not operational.

11.3. That these acts of Respondent No. 4 and of Shri Jhavar, in repeatedly disobeying the orders and willfully breaching the undertakings given by it to this Court, amounts to civil contempt, of which the Petitioner may initiate separate proceedings. In addition thereto, the acts of Respondent No. 4 and Shri Jhavar in repeatedly making false and incorrect statements of fact before this Court, in order to interfere with and obstruct the administration of justice, also amounts to contempt in face of the Court, as well as perjury. In view thereof, he submitted that Respondent No. 4 and Shri Jhavar ought to be held guilty of contempt and detained in custody.

11.4. That the above submissions are affirmed by the Judgment in Cipla Limited vs. Mr. Krishna Dushyant Rana 2016 SCC Online Bom 5895 - Paras 1 to 22 and 27 wherein a Learned Single Judge of this Court ordered civil imprisonment of the Defendant for a period of three months in view of the Defendant's deliberate, willful, contumacious conduct in disobeying the orders passed by the Court, by making false and incorrect statements of fact, thereby obstructing the administration of justice. That like the acts of the present case, in Cipla Limited, supra, the defendant being a Judgment Debtor had been directed by this Court to disclose of fact all his assets (movable and immovable). The defendant filed of successive Affidavits to disclose its assets and in each of the Affidavits, suppressed its assets and did not provide a complete disclosure. In view thereof, this Court held that as the defendant had made false and incorrect statements to the Court, the defendant was guilty of having committed grave and serious act of contempt of this Court. This Order and Judgment was challenged by the Defendant before the Division Bench of this Court in Commercial Appeal No. 18 of 2016. The Division Bench by its Order dated 19th December 2017 Mr. Krishna Dushyant Rana vs. Cipla Limited (Commercial Appeal No. 18 of 2016) - Rel Paras 24, 29 to 37 dismissed the Appeal and upheld the Judgment passed by the Single Judge. The Defendant then challenged the said Order dated 19th December 2017 by filing SLP (Civil) No. 3872 of 2018 before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court also dismissed the said SLP on 19th February, 2018 Mr. Krishna Dushyant Rana vs. Cipla Limited - SLP No. 3872 of 2018 and upheld the Order passed by the Single Judge and the Appeal Court.

12. Shri Amit Gharte, Learned Advocate representing Respondent No. 4 made the following submissions :

12.1. That the Petitioner's contention that Respondent No. 4 has not disclosed its assets and of its group entities is incorrect.

12.2. That when the said Order dated 6th March, 2020 was passed, Respondent

ndent No of . 4 immediately fled the 1st Disclof sure Afdavit disclof sing the assets in respect of the prof ject 'Marvel Ribera'.

12.3. That the said Afdavit was fled under a bof na fde belie that as the Mr. Krishna Dushyant Rana vs. Cipla Limited (Cof mmercial Appeal No of . 18 of 2016) - Rel Paras 24, 29 tof 37 Mr. Krishna Dushyant Rana vs. Cipla Limited - SLP No of . 3872 of 2018 subject amof unt invof lved in the present Writ Petitiof n was approf ximately Rs. 14,00,00,000/, the said Disclof sure that Respofof ndent No of . 4 is tof receive approf ximately Rs. 18,00,00,000/- in the said Prof ject rof m 11 sof ld fats, wof uld be a suficient disclof sure of r the amof unt invof lved in the present Writ Petitiof n.

12.4. That of n the next of ccasiof n i.e. 14th January, 2021, when it was in of rmed that a detailed disclof sure needs tof be fled by Respofof ndent No of . 4, Respofof ndent No of . 4 immediately fled its 2nd Disclof sure Afdavit of n 20th January, 2021, which included the chart as tof the number of prof jects and the lof ans of utstanding against the Respofof ndent No of . 4 and its grof up entities.

12.5. That therea ter vide the 3rd and 4th Disclof sure Afdavits, the Respofof ndent No of . 4 has in detail disclof sed the assets, liabilities, fats sof ld and unsof ld, bank details of Respofof ndent No of . 4 and its grof up entities.

12.6. That there of re Respofof ndent No of . 4 has tof the best of its ability made every efof rt tof cof mply with the OF rders of Disclof sures and there of re canNo of t be held guilty of cof ntempt.

12.7. That it is No of t the case of any party that the said disclof sures fled of n recof rd are also of r misrepresenting.

12.8. That Respofof ndent No of . 4 has No of t cof mmitted any 'wil ul' breach of any undertaking of r statement given tof this Cof urt and there of re No of cof ntempt actiof n can be initiated against Respofof ndent No of . 4.

12.9. That the Supreme Cof urt has in its Judgment in the case of Anil Sarkar vs. HIRAK GHOSH AIR 2002 SC 1405, inter aaia held that a mere disof bedience of an of rder may No of t be suficient tof amof unt tof a civil cof ntempt within the meaning of Sectiof n 2(b) of the Cof ntempt of Cof urts Act, 1971. The element of willingness is an indispensable requirement tof bring hof me the charge within the meaning of the Cof ntempt Act.

12.10. That i the Petitiof ner is aggrieved by No of n-disclof sure of cof mplete assets of f Respofof ndent No of . 4, which accof rding tof the Respofof ndent No of . 4 has been disclof sed, the Petitiof ner instead of seeking a cof ntempt actiof n, of ught tof have sof ught of r en of rcement of the said OF rder. That in the case of Kanwar Singh Saini vs. High Cof urt of f Delhi (2012)4 SCC 307 - Para 18 the Supreme Cof urt has held that of r en of rcement of the interim and fnal of rders / decree of cof urts, including undertaking given tof the Cof urt, a prof per and advisable frst mof de of r en of rcement of the of rder is tof fle an applicatiof n seeking en of rcement of interim of rder / undertaking given tof the Cof urt,

rather than fling a contempt proceeding seeking contempt action. When the matters relate to infringement of a decree of the decretal of order embodying rights between the parties, contempt jurisdiction cannot be invoked merely because the other remedy would take time; further the contempt jurisdiction is attracted when disobedience of Court's order of undertaking to the Court is wilful and contumacious (see part C of the Written Arguments of Respondent No. 4).

12.11. That the Supreme Court in *Fof of d Court of ratio of f India vs. Sukhadeo Prasad* (2009) 5 SCC 665, has held that contempt action cannot be used for enforcement of monetary decree or directions/order of payment of money. That the said principles are also applicable in the acts of the present case and under the garb of contempt proceedings, the enforcement of monetary decree cannot be ordered.

12.12. That the Petitioner has failed to file any proceedings including contempt proceedings against Respondent No. 4. That neither have the contempt proceedings been preferred, nor has this Court taken suo motu cognizance of any such contempt. Further, no contempt notice has been issued or a show cause notice prior to such contempt notice has been issued to Respondent No. 4 stating the charges and/or contemptious acts which the present Respondent No. 4 needs to answer.

12.13. That Respondent No. 4 is unaware of what grounds/charges the Petitioner is seeking contempt action against them. That without anything of record / of affidavit, as to under what circumstances and of what grounds the Petitioner is seeking contempt action against Respondent No. 4, the Petitioner cannot merely rely upon a Judgment passed in *Cipla Ltd.* (supra) to seek contempt action. In any event the Judgment in *Cipaa Ltd.* arises out of a Summary Suit, which was pending on the Original Side of this Court and the Single Judge was exercising the powers of the Civil Court. Further in paragraph 12, the Single Judge has specifically held that the Defendant had filed a false affidavit and made false statement before the Court, which resulted in the contempt action. That this Court is not exercising jurisdiction of a civil court in its original jurisdiction and the present proceedings are under Article 226 and therefore no contempt proceedings will lie.

12.14. That Chapter XXXIV of the Bombay High Court Rules, Appellate Side, regulates the procedure for initiating contempt action under Article 215 of the Constitution of India and the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. Rules 8, 9, 10, 22 and 24 of the said Rules makes it clear that the relief sought by the Petitioner for holding Respondent No. 4 guilty of contempt cannot be granted inter alia unless the Petitioner files a separate application for disobedience of order by Respondent No. 4; a notice is issued to the contemptor by this Court calling upon the contemptor to show cause why no action should be taken against him and Respondent No. 4 is

granted 14 days to reply to such notice.

13. Shri Jagtiani, in rejoinder, submits that the aforesaid Judgment in Anil Sarkar (supra) relied upon by Respondent No. 4 does not support the Respondent No. 4's contention, as the question whether the disobedience of the order will or is required to be ascertained on the basis of facts of each case. He also submitted that by the Judgments in the case of Kanwar Singh (supra) and Fof v. C of P of India (supra), the Supreme Court held that contempt jurisdiction cannot be used for enforcement of decree passed in a civil suit as the person had initiated proceedings under Order 39 Rule 2A of the Code of Civil Procedure for breach of a decree, instead of filing execution proceedings under Order 21 Rule 32 of CPC. He submitted that the said ratio is not applicable to the facts in the present case as the Petitioner is not seeking contempt of or non-compliance of the decree at all.

13.1. Shri Jagtiani also submitted that the fulfilment of Rules 8, 10, 22 and 24 of the Appellate Side Rules, as relied upon by Respondent No. 4 are not necessary when the contempt is committed in the face of the Court. Shri Jagtiani relied upon Section 14(1) of the Contempt Act read with Rule 4 of the Appellate Side Rules which deal with contempt in the face of the court.

ISSUE NO. 2 AS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 7.2

14. Shri Sharan Jagtiani, Learned Senior Advocate representing the Petitioner has made the following submissions :

14.1. That in the present case, the Collector and Tahsildar have completely failed to discharge their statutory duties and exercise powers conferred on them under the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966 ("the Code") to execute the said Recovery Certificate. That despite receiving the direction from RERA on 15th April, 2019 to execute the Recovery Certificate, the Tahsildar sent demand notices to Respondent No. 4 of only on 11th September, 2019 and then on 10th January, 2021, which Respondent No. 4 failed to comply with. Thereafter, the Tahsildar carried out a search of Respondent No. 4's properties from the property cards available with her. According to the Tahsildar, the Property Cards disclosed names of certain properties in the name of Marvel Imperial Cooperative Housing Society Limited, Marvel Crest Condominium, etc. However, as the names of these Property Cards were not the same as that of Respondent No. 4, i.e. 'Marvel Sigma Homes Pvt. Ltd.', she was unable to execute the said Recovery Certificate. That the Property Card annexed, itself shows that Marvel Crest Condominium is owned by Respondent No. 4, which the Tahsildar failed to consider. That instead of exercising the powers conferred on revenue officers under the Code to execute a Recovery Certificate, the Tahsildar vide her Letter dated 11th March, 2020 informed RERA that as she could not locate the properties of Respondent No. 4, she was unable to execute the Recovery Certificate.

Thus, it is clear that there has been complete inaction by the Collector and the Tahsildar in complying with their statutory obligations.

14.2. That the events that have transpired during the hearing of the present Writ Petition, clearly show that Respondent No. 4 has no intention of complying with the said Recovery Certificate and/or of paying the said Decretal Amount. That Respondent No. 4 has made every attempt to delay the payment of the said Decretal Amount to the Petitioner. Initially, Respondent No. 4 did not comply with the demand notices of the Tahsildar. Thereafter, once the present Writ Petition was filed, Respondent No. 4 in order to delay the hearing of the present Writ Petition did not provide complete disclosure of its assets and that of its group entities, despite repeated orders passed by this Court.

14.3. That in the various Disclosure Affidavits filed by Respondent No. 4, Respondent No. 4 has sought to represent to this Court that it was debt ridden and had no means to pay the dues of the Petitioner. However, from a perusal of these Disclosure Affidavits, the Petitioner has been able to ascertain that at least an amount of Rs. 2,90,15,211.69/- (Rupees Two Crores Ninety Lakhs Fifteen Thousand and Two Hundred Eleven and Sixty-Nine Paise) is lying in the bank accounts of Respondent No. 4 and its group entities which have no charge on it. There are various of their bank accounts as well, which have not been disclosed by Respondent No. 4 and which may also have monies lying therein, which are free of any charge / lien. That as per the list of sold and unsold units in various projects disclosed by Respondent No. 4, there are 192 unsold units in the projects owned by Respondent No. 4 and approximately 449 unsold units in the various projects owned by the group entities of Respondent No. 4. Further, group entities of Respondent No. 4 has been advancing monies to the tune of Rs.60 crores to its related entities, which clearly show that Respondent No. 4 and its group entities have the required funds to pay the Decretal Amount but is with malafide intention of avoiding to pay the same. In view thereof, he submitted that Respondent No. 4 despite having the means to pay the said Decretal Amount was refusing to pay the same to the Petitioner.

14.4. That the Supreme Court by its Order dated 12th February, 2021 passed in SLP (C) No. 2122-2123 of 2021, has already upheld the approach of this Court in ensuring that in no manner or the other the Respondent No. 4 has not evaded the decree which has been passed against it. That in view of the aforesaid Order, the interim reliefs sought by the Petitioner ought to be granted.

14.5. That prayer clauses b (ii) and b (iii) ought to be granted. That the Petitioner apprehends that if the aforesaid interim reliefs are not granted, Respondent No. 4 may deal with all its assets in order to deprive the Petitioner of its undisputed dues. That the ratio laid down by the Supreme Court in the case of *Deoraj vs. State of Maharashtra* 2004 4 SCC 697 - Paras 10 to 13 in

support of the necessity of grant of interim reliefs in a Writ Petition keeping in mind the ends of justice, is squarely applicable to the facts and circumstances of the present case, more particularly to the conduct of Respondent No. 4 in the present case.

14.6. That in exercise of its powers under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, this Court has the jurisdiction to pass orders and/or directions against a private person and in the present case against Respondent No. 4, which is a Private Limited Company. That the Allahabad High Court in the case of *Shri Ram Singh & Anr. vs. Special Judge E.C. Act & Orders*, 1993 SCC Online All 38 - Paras 10 to 18 has held that a High Court, while being seized of a writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution, can also pass any order including an order in the nature of an injunction against a private person in exercise of its powers. That while arriving at the aforesaid finding, the Allahabad High Court has relied upon the Judgment of the Supreme Court in *Dwarka Nath vs. Income-tax Officer* AIR 1966 SC 81, wherein the Supreme Court, while considering the scope and ambit of the powers of the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution, held that the High Court while exercising its writ jurisdiction can issue any order or direction, which it considers necessary to be issued.

15. Shri Amit Gharte, Learned Advocate representing Respondent No. 4, has made the following submissions :

15.1. That Respondent No. 4 is a Private Limited Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and does not perform a public function and further does not discharge any public duty and therefore Article 226 of the Constitution of India and the Writ of Mandamus and/or any other writ or order or direction cannot be invoked or passed against Respondent No. 4.

15.2. That Respondent No. 4 is governed by RERA and therefore the grievance of action, if any, against Respondent No. 4 has to be within the framework of RERA.

15.3. The Supreme Court, in its Judgment in the case of *VST Industries Limited vs. VST Industries Workers Union and another*, has held that Article 226 can be invoked only when the authority of a person performs a public function, or discharges a public duty and not against a private person.

15.4. That the Judgment in *Shri Ram Singh (supra)* relied upon by the Petitioner is not applicable to the facts of the present case as the same does not specifically deal with issuance of the Writ of Mandamus against a private limited company.

15.5. That interim reliefs sought by the Petitioner will severely affect the projects of the Marvel Group and that the Marvel Group and Respondent No. 4 would be agreeable to the Petitioner selling of the Flat agreed to be

purchased by the Petitioner and to retain the sale proceeds in satisfaction of the Recovery Certificate.

16. Shri Jagtiani has distinguished the Judgment relied upon by the Respondent No. 4 in VST Industries (supra) and submitted that the said Judgment relied upon by the Respondent No. 4 has no application in a situation where the final relief is undoubtedly directed against a statutory authority that is a part of the 'State' and in aid of that, interim relief is directed against a private party that has benefited from the inaction of the statutory authority. He submitted that in the present case the Petitioner has sought issuance of a Writ against the Respondent No. 4, which is a Private Limited Company.

16.1. Without prejudice to the aforesaid, Shri Jagtiani submitted that the said Judgment in VST Industries (supra) does not consider the judgment of the Supreme Court in Dwarka Nath (supra) and is therefore per incuriam, or at any rate, cannot be relied upon to defeat the grant of interim relief.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS :

ISSUE NO. 1 : "Whether Respondent No. 4 and its Director Shri Jhavar have interfered with the administration of justice by filing false and incorrect affidavits of disclosure and by also violating and breaching various orders of this Court? If so, the consequences of such breach?"

17.1. The liability of the Respondent No. 4 under the Recovery Certificate is not in dispute. The Recovery Certificate has attained finality. The amount owed to the Petitioner is a repayment of the amount already paid by the Petitioner to Respondent No. 4 for purchase of a flat in its project, and interest of that amount as ordered by the Adjudicating Officer. Thus, the Orders of Disclosure against Respondent No. 4 are a step-in aid of the recovery of this amount, which is sought for in the above Petition filed against Respondent Nos. 2 and 3 for failure to discharge their statutory duties in relating to realising the amount due under the Recovery Certificate.

17.2. Having set out and considered the various Orders and the Affidavits of Disclosure filed by Respondent No. 4, as also the Affidavit of the Petitioner commenting on the lack of disclosure, and having also considered the submissions of both sides on this aspect, we have no hesitation in concluding that Respondent No. 4 and its Director, Shri Jhavar, have wilfully and deliberately breached the Court's Orders. Not only is this a case of wilful disobedience of our Orders but in the acts of this case, such wilful non-compliance and false and incomplete affidavits also tend to interfere with the administration of justice, as these disclosures are necessary to enable us to pass effective orders in the Writ Petition.

17.3. The fact that Respondent No. 4 has filed our Affidavits of Disclosure, all of them in purported compliance of this Court's Order dated 6th March, 2020 (and reiterated by the Order of 14th January, 2021), itself indicates that

the first three Affidavits, even according to Respondent No. 4, were inadequate and Non-compliant. What is relevant to No. 4 is the casual manner, in which these Affidavits have been filed in brazen disregard to what was stated in the Orders. For instance, in the 1st Disclosure Affidavit, Respondent No. 4 has only given details of one of the projects of Respondent No. 4, i.e. the subject project 'Marvel Ribera'. The purported disclosure made qua the subject project was that out of the total 27 fats, 11 fats have been sold and an amount of Rs. 18,54,05,681 was receivable towards sale consideration of the said fats. The remaining 16 fats are unsold, but were mortgaged to ICICI Home Finance Ltd., under a Mortgage Deed dated 29th May, 2017. Further in paragraph 7 of the 1st Disclosure Affidavit, Respondent No. 4 made a statement that, "Marvel Sigma Homes Private Limited apart from above has No other property". Details of other projects of Respondent No. 4 or of any of the group entities were not disclosed. In the 4th Disclosure Affidavit, at paragraph 2, there is an attempt to justify this by saying that details of other projects were not disclosed since Respondent No. 4 was under the impression that the amount of assets including receivables disclosed by Respondent No. 4 in the 1st Disclosure Affidavit would be sufficient to comply with the Court's Order dated 6th March, 2020 (wrongly referred to as 4th March, 2020).

17.4. The above stand of Respondent No. 4 is belied by the fact that after the 1st Disclosure Affidavit was filed, in response to the Court's query as to realisation of the receivable of Rs. 18,54,05,681/-, Respondent No. 4 told the Court that this amount has not been received and no indication was given as to when this amount would in fact be received. In fact, no particulars of this substantial amount of receivables were disclosed in any of the later Affidavits especially when the 4th and last Disclosure Affidavit was filed on 12th February, 2021 and the 1st Disclosure Affidavit was filed on 12th March, 2020. Despite this, Respondent No. 4 seeks to justify its breach in the 1st Disclosure Affidavit by suggesting that what was disclosed was sufficient. That apart, the determination of whether a disclosure is sufficient or not, is not to be made by the party who is ordered to make disclosures by the Court when the terms of the Order seeking disclosure are clear and categorical. Thus, the conduct of wilful breach and obstruction commenced with the 1st Disclosure Affidavit which was sought to be justified by the Respondent No. 4 even after about a year, by which time the Respondent No. 4 was obviously aware that the Court was not satisfied with the disclosures made.

17.5. The conduct of Respondent No. 4 in not taking responsibility to ensure full compliance with our Orders stood exposed from the statement made in the 3rd Disclosure Affidavit namely, "I say that since the Respondent No. 4 and its other companies are vast, there might be some of the assets/ projects, which inadvertently are not stated in the Affidavits, the Respondent No. 4 crave leave of Hon'ble Court to put the said properties in affidavits if the same is pointed out to us." (Emphasis

Supplied)

17.6. We are there of re of the view that such an Affidavit is unacceptable and a clear indicatiof n that Respofo ndent No of . 4 had No of intentiof n to make seriof us efof rts to cof mply with of ur OF rders as No of ted abof ve. In act, as the 4th Disclof sure Affidavit demof nstrates, the reasof n of r No of t making ull disclof sures in the earlier Affidavits is No of t because Respofo ndent No of . 4 of r its Directof r cof uld No of t access details of Respofo ndent No of . 4's prof jects and assets of thof se of its grof up entities, but because Respofo ndent No of . 4 and Shri Jhavar of nly chof se to make disclof sure of assets of "majof r" entities and prof jects that they regarded as relevant. This is in cof mplete breach of of ur OF rders, which are clear and unqualified qua the disclof sure that was required to be made.

17.7. We are alsof in agreement with the submissiof n of the Petitiof ner that the also and incof mplete disclof sures up to the fling of the 3rd Disclof sure Affidavit have been highlighted in the Petitiof ner's Affidavit dated 9th February, 2021. The cof ntents and submissiof ns in relatiof n to this Affidavit of 9th February, 2021 have been set of ut and discussed in the of regof ing paragraphs and the same are there of re No of t reprof duced herein. Hof wever, it is pertinent tof No of te that up to the fling of the 3rd Disclof sure Affidavit, the disclof sures of variof us grof up entities had No of t been made. Sof me of thof se grof up entities appear tof be develof ping of ngof ing prof jects. In of ther instances, they have cof mpleted prof jects, and wof uld there of re in all prof bability have unsof ld inventof ry. OF ther grof up entities, such as Marvel Precast Structures LLP and Marvel OF ra Residences LLP, appear tof have assets in the of rm of receivables of lof ans advanced by them. In the case of Marvel OF ra Residences, the amof unt lof aned by it is substantial, being abof ut Rs. 59.99 crof res. This disclof sure is relevant since it indicates that the grof up entities have unds and resof urces of r access tof unds and resof urces which are being used tof fnance of ther grof up entities rather than the Marvel Grof up discharging its liability tof persof ns such as the Petitiof ner. At this stage, hof wever, what is mof re impof rtant tof No of te is the act that these disclof sures were never made by the Respofo ndent No of . 4 and were brof ught tof light by the Petitiof ner in its Affidavit of 9th February, 2021.

17.8. The of ther impof rtant aspect of the No of n-disclof sure is what is set of ut in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Petitiof ner's Affidavit dated 9th February, 2021. This is in relatiof n tof variof us prof jects that have No of t been disclof sed, including thof se of the seven entities in respect of which sof me disclof sure was made by Respofo ndent No of . 4. The details of these prof jects have already been listed abof ve. The Petitiof ner has relied upof n the Website of the Marvel Grof up being available at the url: www.marvelrealtofs.com. The Petitiof ner has then alsof placed of n recof rd the entities and prof jects in relatiof n tof which No of bank accof unt details and disclof sures have been made.

17.9. Respofo ndent No of . 4 has attempted tof justi y its No of n-disclof sures in

its 4th Disclosure Affidavit dated 12th February, 2021, the contents of which have also been set out above. In paragraph 3, Respondent No. 4 has stated that the Non-disclosure of bank account details of various projects is because most of the projects are complete. A list of those supposedly completed projects is then given. The act that a project is complete is not a reason to not disclose it. It is possible that even for a complete project, there may be undisclosed inventory and the bank accounts maintained would be a relevant part of any disclosure.

17.10. Moreover, the Petitioner has correctly pointed out by relying upon the Website of the Marvel Group that certain projects namely, Marvel Oriental, Marvel Fria, Marvel Piazza and Marvel Selva Ridge, are in active ongoing projects and not 'complete'. The relevant extracts of the Website of the Respondent No. 4 / the Marvel group are reproduced below :

Thus, it can be seen that the statements made by Respondent No. 4 are clearly also to its own knowledge and contrary to the information that Respondent No. 4 is providing to the public at large in relation to its own business.

17.11. We are also of the view that the reason of the Non-filing disclosure of the entities mentioned in paragraph 4 of the 4th Disclosure Affidavit, by describing it as irrelevant, because disclosure of major group entities had been made, is wholly untenable. As has been noted above, the Petitioner's response to this part of Respondent No. 4's Affidavit also establishes that at least some of those entities had assets or undisclosed inventory that were substantial and had to be disclosed. We reiterate that it is not for Respondent No. 4 to unilaterally decide what is relevant and irrelevant in complying with an Order of Disclosure. As already pointed out, the current assets (including receivables from the short-term loans advanced) of Marvel Oriental Residences LLP are very substantial and clearly indicate that the Marvel Group has access to funds, the source of which is not being disclosed. As noted in the context of the Petitioner's Affidavit of 9th February, 2021, even some of the other group entities have assets, which Respondent No. 4 never disclosed, because it described them as 'irrelevant' and outside the category of 'major' entities.

17.12. In view of what is set out above, it would be relevant to set out the observations of a Single Judge of this Court in Cipaa Limited, (supra).

"1. This is one of those matters where the Court is anguished with the conduct of the defendant who despite being given repeated opportunity has repeatedly abused the liberty granted by the Court. It is rather unfortunate that the defendant, who is probably in his 30's at least from the appearance, if asked to continue with his behaviour, it would erode the faith that the public have in judiciary. The rule of law is premised upon the faith reposed by the people in the justice delivery system. To prevent erosion of

that faith of contemptuous behaviour in the face of the Court needs a strict treatment.

15. It should be noted that in every successive affidavit defendant stated that he has disclosed every asset, whereas the fact that he has been filing successive affidavits to disclose more and more assets and give particulars thereof shows the defendant was making false statement in each of the affidavits.

18. The defendant has made false and incorrect statements and has given undertaking to this Court that he has disclosed every asset that he has, knowing well the same to be false and incorrect. I am satisfied that the defendant is guilty of having committed grave and serious act of contempt of this Court. This Court gave a very strong rope to the defendant to come out clean, to come out honestly, to come out truthfully and be transparent to the Court but every opportunity given has been abused by the defendant. Repeatedly false statements have been made. The attempt is to drag on the matter so that the defendant can get away. The conduct of the defendant has scandalized and lowered the dignity of the Court in the eyes of the public. The action of the defendant has been deliberate, unlawful and purposeful done with a view to mislead the Court, by making deliberate, false, misleading and incorrect statements. In *Advocate General, High Court of Karnataka v. Chidambaram*, the Karnataka High Court has observed that any person who makes a false statement of fact would be interfering with the administration of justice.

19. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the case of *Re: Bineet Kumar Singh v. Union* has in clear terms held that a false or misleading or wrong statement deliberately and unlawfully made by a party to the proceedings would amount to interference with the due course of judicial proceeding.

20. In the present case the conduct of the defendant clearly brings to light the fact that the defendant has no respect for this Court. It clearly shows that the defendant feels that making false statements including undertaking to the Courts and thereafter breaching them or not complying with the directions given by the Court would have no consequences. The conduct of the defendant is unlawful, deliberate and contemptuous. The Supreme Court in *Leea David v. State of Maharashtra*, in clear terms that the Court is not precluded from taking recourse to summary proceeding when a deliberate contempt takes place and the punishment is given forthwith by the Court or in holding the contemptuous guilty of contempt and sending them to prison.

21. In *Jennison v. Baker* it is stated that it should not be seen to sit by aimpay, while those who defy it go free, and those who seek its protection are helped. It is observed that a course of conduct which abuses

and makes a mockery of the judicial process and which thus extends its pernicious influence beyond the parties to the action and affects the interest of the public in the administration of justice needs a strict treatment.

22. The defendant has made a mockery of the judicial process. A decree has been passed against the defendant way back in 2011. The chamber summons was taken out for the reliefs as mentioned above. Even though the chamber summons was served upon the defendant in September-2013, the defendant did not make any repayment until June-2015. Even in the affidavit in repayment, i.e., first affidavit, he does not disclose the entire truth about the assets in his name. Still he states in the end of the affidavit that he has disclosed everything. When he was given another chance to explain, he files second affidavit in which, again, he does not disclose the assets but still makes a statement that he has disclosed all movable and immovable assets to the court. But when the annual returns which were annexed to the second affidavit was considered, it came to light that he had other assets in his name which have not been disclosed in his affidavit. 3rd opportunity and 4th opportunity was given to the defendant and he filed third affidavit dated 13.7.2015 and fourth affidavit dated 8.9.2015 but still chose to be economical with truth. When the court asked him as to how he paid the amount taken for the two scooters, the defendant's confusion in instructions from the defendant stated first it was paid by cash and then it was changed to of one car in cash and of other in cheque and again it was changed to everything by cheque from Cofsmiths bank, but there is no mention of Cofsmiths bank in any of the documents. At every stage whenever affidavits were filed, the defendant was made aware that he should be truthful in his affidavit. The defendant was also aware that he had to disclose all the assets and that is why in the affidavits he has been signing off by saying 'I disclosed my all movable and immovable assets'. He had stated that right in the first affidavit. If that was true, there would not have been a need to file the second affidavit in which also he has stated he has disclosed all assets. But still he had to file third and fourth affidavit. Therefore, the defendant knew all the time that he was making false statement before the court in the form of affidavits and in effect was making a mockery of the judicial process. The opportunity given to file further affidavit was misused and abused. The conduct of the defendant was contemptuous because he could not care. His demeanor has been that he could make false statements, give undertakings to the court and breach them and it would have no consequences. The action of the defendant has been deliberate, wilful and purposeful done with a view to contemptuously mislead this court. By making false statement of oath, knowing it to be false statement, the defendant has interfered with the administration of justice. In my view, if this conduct of the defendant is not dealt with firmly, that may result in scandalizing the institution and lowering its dignity in the eyes of the public.

25. In view of the above, I hold that the defendant has disobeyed the orders

made under Order XXI Rule 41(2) of the Code of Civil Procedure.

27. In view of the deliberate wilful conduct of the defendant and thereby obstructing the administration of justice, the defendant deserves to be detained in civil prison for three months, the maximum period provided."

17.13. As mentioned above, the Order and Judgment of the Single Judge was confirmed by a Division Bench and thereafter by the Supreme Court. Although, the Judgment in *Cipaa* (supra) was in the context of consequences of Non-disclosure under Order 21 Rule 41(3) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 ('CPC'), the Judgment itself also relies upon the general principles that are fundamental to the rule of law. The Judgment (which in turn refers to various of their relevant decisions of the Supreme Court and of other Courts) clearly supports the proposition that such brazen and continuous disregard of orders of the Court including by making false and misleading statements would also obstruct and interfere with the administration of justice. This entitles the Court in a given case to take recourse to summary proceedings when a deliberate contempt takes place and the punishment is given forthwith by the Court.

17.14. We are in agreement with the views expressed in *Cipaa* (supra). We also find that the Judgments relied upon by the Respondent No. 4 in the case of *Ania Sarkar* (supra) is of No relevance and renders No assistance to Respondent No. 4. For the reasons noted above, we find that the breach and Non-compliance of our Orders by Respondent No. 4 was indeed wilful and deliberate and did affect the administration of justice. It was not a case where there was no intention and thereafter Respondent No. 4 complied with our Orders.

17.15. The Judgments in *Kanwar Singh Saini* (supra) and *Fof of d Court of India* (supra) relied upon by the Respondent No. 4 to contend that the Court ought to exercise discretion when exercising powers under the Contempt of Courts Act and that the contempt jurisdiction ought not to be used for enforcement of a decree where proceedings in enforcement have been initiated, are equally of No assistance to the Respondent No. 4.

17.16. Although these are not proceedings under the Contempt of Courts Act, it would be entirely within the jurisdiction and power of this Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to deal with the very serious issue of Respondent No. 4's wilful disobedience and interference in the administration of justice by deliberately not complying with the various Orders of Disclosure made by this Court from time to time, and by filing false and incomplete Affidavits. As regards the exercise of discretion, before taking such action, we may note that we have given several opportunities to Respondent No. 4 to comply with our Orders. There is also no merit in the submission that contempt proceedings are not a substitute of

proceedings of execution of enforcement. This submission is of No relevance in the present case, where the grievance of the Petitioner is that the statutory authorities are taking No of steps to ensure recovery of the amounts under the Recovery Certificate, because of which the present Petition has been filed. The issue of Respondent No of . 4's willful breach and interference with the administration of justice has come up because of its conduct, in the course of this very Writ Petition. Thus, there is absolutely No of merit in the submission of Respondent No of . 4 by relying on the above Judgments.

17.17. This takes us to the question as to what action ought to be taken against Respondent No of . 4 and its Director Shri Jhavar, who, being an executive Director of Respondent No of . 4, has affirmed all the Affidavits of Respondent No of . 4. Though we would have been justified in interfering with considering Shri Jhavar's conduct as being interference in the administration of justice for all the reasons No of ted above, we are instead inclined to take suo motu cognizance of Respondent No of . 4 and Shri Jhavar's conduct, and direct that a No of tice be issued to Respondent No of . 4 and Shri Jhavar under Section 14 of the Contempt of Courts Act read with Rule 4 of the Appellate Side Rules, 1960, and call upon Respondent No of . 4 and Shri Jhavar to respond as to why Shri Jhavar should No of t be punished under the aforesaid provisions of obstruction and interference with the administration of justice and lowering the dignity of this Court. Such No of tice will be issued by the Appellate Side Registry of the Bombay High Court. All proceedings in relation to such No of tice will be in accordance with the provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act and the Appellate Side Rules. Of our observations as above may be considered relevant only for the purposes of our decision to take suo motu cognizance and of issuance of the said No of tice to Respondent No of . 4 and Shri Jhavar.

17.18. Independent of the above, the Petitioner will be at liberty to institute proceedings of civil contempt under the provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, if so advised.

17.19. For all of the above reasons we answer the first issue as set out above in the affirmative and the consequences of our conclusion are as set out hereinabove. **ISSUE NO OF . 2 : Whether the Petitioner is entitled to the interim reliefs as set out in prayer clauses (b)(ii) and (b)(iii) of the present Writ Petition, especially considering that Respondent No of . 4 is a Private Limited Company?**

18. As regards grant of interim reliefs prayed for, the following two questions arise for our consideration :

(i) whether a prima facie case has been made out against Respondent No of s. 2 and 3 of the No of n-performance of their statutory duties under the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, of realisation and recovery of the amount under the Recovery Certificate;

(ii) whether Respondent No of . 4, being a Private Limited Company, can be subjected to interim reliefs in exercise of our writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

18.1. Having considered the material on record, we are prima facie satisfied, that Respondent No of s. 2 and 3 have done nothing in discharge of their statutory duties to secure recovery of the Decretal Amounts under the Recovery Certificate. Although the Tahsildar issued a demand Notice dated 11th September, 2019, No of steps were taken especially considering that Respondent No of . 4 did not reply to the Notice. There are powers available to the Tahsildar under the provisions of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, inter alia under Section 263 and Section 267 read with Rule 17 of the Maharashtra Realisation of Land Revenue Rules, 1967, to facilitate such recovery. No of steps were taken pursuant to the powers available under these provisions. The Tahsildar did absolutely nothing thereafter, despite the Petitioner addressing letters to the Tahsildar to take steps for making the recovery under the Recovery Certificate.

18.2. The Affidavit filed by Respondent No of . 3 - Tahsildar dated 6th March, 2020 is itself an indication that there was complete and unjustified inaction on her part. We have already reproduced hereinabove paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Affidavit. The stand of the Tahsildar essentially is that since in the Property Card there is no project of a property that bears the name of Respondent No of . 4, No of action of a recovery could be taken. In fact, the Property Card annexed to the Affidavit of 6th March, 2020 itself indicates that Marvel Crest is a project of Respondent No of . 4 - Marvel Sigma Homes Pvt. Ltd. Despite this, No of steps were taken by the Tahsildar even in respect of the project Marvel Crest. This shows a complete lack of effort and application of mind by the office of Tahsildar in discharging its statutory duty.

18.3. It is pertinent to note that after filing the Affidavit dated 6th March, 2020, the Tahsildar addressed a letter to RERA on 11th March, 2020 that she could not locate the properties of Respondent No of . 4 and was unable to execute the Recovery Certificate. We have already referred to this letter above. The same establishes complete failure and abdication of duties by the Tahsildar. In fact, as of the date of writing this letter, the Tahsildar had done nothing to secure the execution and realisation of monies due under the Recovery Certificate. This letter is yet another indication that the Tahsildar was not interested in ensuring realisation of the amount under the Recovery Certificate.

18.4. Respondent No of . 4 contended that Respondent No of s. 2 and 3 are now taking steps and that the Tahsildar has, on 8th February, 2021, levied a charge on Respondent No of . 4's property of Rs. 6.25 crores at 30/A Bof at Club Road Pune. We find that this solitary measure during the pendency of the Writ Petition, and that too of a temporary inaction and abdication of duty, is not enough to satisfy us that Respondent No of s. 2 and 3 are taking

the necessary steps in accordance with law. It is not the contention of Respondent No. 2 and 3 that the Petition ought to be dismissed in view of the steps taken by them. Their Affidavit in record shows that they have pleaded helplessness in ensuring recovery of the amounts due under the Recovery Certificate. It is not for Respondent No. 4 to make a self-serving submission that the actions taken by Respondent No. 2 and 3 against Respondent No. 4 itself are enough to satisfy this Court. For these reasons, we find that a strong prima facie case has been made out in this Writ Petition to consider the grant of interim reliefs.

18.5. The next aspect that requires consideration is the contention of Respondent No. 4 that being a Private Limited Company of a entity, No relief can be granted against it in a Writ Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. This submission has been made in the Written Submissions filed on behalf of Respondent No. 4. Much after the application of a interim reliefs was reserved for Orders, Respondent No. 4 filed yet another Interim Application being IA (Stamp) No. 11023 of 2021 on 21st May, 2021. The same came to be listed before us on 15th June, 2021. By this Interim Application ('IA'), Respondent No. 4 sought to raise this very issue which was already argued by it as a preliminary issue affecting the maintainability of the Writ Petition. By our Order dated 15th June, 2021 we disposed of this IA by stating that the issue of grant of reliefs against a private entity such as Respondent No. 4 will be considered by us, as the same had been raised by Respondent No. 4.

18.6. In considering this submission of a proposition to grant of interim reliefs against Respondent No. 4, it is to be noted that the final reliefs in the Writ Petition seek a Mandamus against Respondent No. 2 and 3 to exercise their statutory duties and take effective steps for the realisation of the amount due and payable to the Petitioner under the Recovery Certificate. It is not the case of any of the Respondents including Respondent No. 4 that the Writ Petition seeking such a Writ of Mandamus is not maintainable or is misconceived. The maintainability of the Writ Petition must be determined with reference to the final reliefs that are sought, and we have no doubt that such a Writ Petition would be maintainable under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

18.7. It is well settled that grant of interim reliefs is in aid of final reliefs in any proceeding, such as a Writ Petition or a Suit. In the present case, the interim reliefs in terms of prayer clauses (b)(ii) and (b)(iii), which are directed against Respondent No. 4 (for deposit and injunction) and its assets, as also assets of its group entities, are clearly in aid of the final reliefs seeking action by the statutory authorities for realisation of the undisputed amounts under the Recovery Certificate. In the wide and extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, there would be no embargo, or restriction on the grant of interim reliefs against an errant

private party in aid of the final relief prayed for in the Writ Petition. The Court will of course have to be mindful, of the facts and circumstances in a given case, of whether a private law action is being substituted by exercise of a writ remedy. That is not the case here, since the Petitioner in the present case has already obtained an Order from the Adjudicating Officer constituted under the RERA Act for repayment of the amounts paid by the Petitioner with interest. That has, in turn, led to a Recovery Certificate. It is the failure to act in relation to that Recovery Certificate that has led to this Writ Petition and the interim relief sought for. If the interim relief as sought for by the Petitioner are not granted, it is extremely likely for possibility that Respondent No. 4 and its group entities will deal with, for further encumber for mortgage their assets and there will be no prospect of possibility of realisation under the Recovery Certificate. The conduct of Respondent No. 4 and its Director as noted above, justifies such apprehension.

18.8. We see merit in the reliance placed by the Petitioner on the Judgment of the Allahabad High Court in *Shri Ram Singh* (supra) which in turn relies upon and reproduces the relevant extract from the Supreme Court decision in *Dwarka Nath* (supra). The relevant paragraphs of the Judgment are reproduced hereunder :

"10. But as regards the second question as to whether the appealable order of revision passed by a district court is amenable to a writ jurisdiction, the Full Bench in *Ganga Saran's* case has held as under.

"With respect to the second question to be answered by us, we are not inclined to deal with it elaborately here. Suffice it to say that the view of the Supreme Court in *Qamaruddin's* case (supra) that ordinarily an interlocutory order passed in civil suit is not amenable to extraordinary jurisdiction of the High Court under Art. 226 of the Constitution, is based upon recognised principles taken into consideration by the court in refusing the writ. In our opinion, this view of the Supreme Court in *Qamaruddin's* case is based on assumption that a revision under S. 115, CPC to High Court is maintainable and the party aggrieved can invoke revision jurisdiction of the High Court. But in a situation where a revision is barred against the appealable order of revision passed by the district courts and said order suffers from patent error of law and further causes manifest injustice to the party aggrieved can it be said that such an order is not amenable to extraordinary jurisdiction of the High Court under Art. 226 of the Constitution. In our opinion, although every interlocutory order passed in civil suit is not subject to review under Art. 226 of the Constitution but if it is found from the order impugned that fundamental principles of law has been violated and further that such an order causes substantial injustice to the party aggrieved, the view taken by the Supreme Court in *Qamaruddin's* case (supra) will not preclude such a writ being issued by the High Court under Art. 226 of the Constitution. But only such writ

petition under Art. 226 of the Constitution would be maintainable where writ can be issued within the ambit of the well-established and recognised principles laid down by the Supreme Court as well as by the various High Courts in that regard. The opinion expressed by the Supreme Court in Qamaruddin's case (supra) to the extent that a writ of mandamus cannot be issued to a private individual unless he is under statutory duty to perform a duty is in accord with well established principles regarding writ of certiorari and mandamus and need not be reiterated on our hand.....

Where an aggrieved party approaches High Court under Art. 226 of the Constitution against an order passed in civil suit refusing to issue injunction to a private individual who is not under statutory duty to perform public duty or vacating an order of injunction, the main relief is for issue of a writ of mandamus to a private individual and such a writ petition under Art. 226 of the Constitution would not be maintainable. Following the decision of the Supreme Court in Qamaruddin's case

(supra) this court cannot issue a writ of mandamus to a private party unless he is under a statutory duty to perform a public duty."

(Emphasis supplied)

11. From the above passage quoted from Ganga Saran's case (supra) it is evident that so far as maintainability of writ of certiorari against the impugned order is concerned, it is not in doubt. It is also not in doubt that a writ of mandamus against the subordinate courts is maintainable. What is in doubt is whether a writ of mandamus against a private person can be issued if such private person is not under any statutory obligation to perform a public duty for the performance of which a writ of mandamus is normally issued.

12. In *Dwarika Nath v. Income-tax Officer*, AIR 1966 SC 81, the Supreme Court while considering the scope and ambit of powers of High Court under Art. 226 of the Constitution, has made the following observations (at page 84):

"This Article is couched in comprehensive phraseology and it ex facie confers a wide power on the High Court to reach injustice wherever it is found. The Constitution designedly uses a wide language in describing the nature of the power, the purpose for such and the person or authority against whom it can be exercised. It can issue writs in the nature of prerogative writs as understood in England but the scope of the those writ petitions as such is widened by the use of the expression 'nature' for the said expression does not equate the writ petition that can be issued in India with those in England but of nay draws an analogy from them. That apart, High Courts can also issue directions, orders or writs other than the prerogative writs. It enables the High Courts to mould the relief to meet

peculiar and complicated requirements of the country, any attempt to equate the scope of the power of the High Courts under Art. 226 of the Constitution with that of the English Courts to issue prerogative writs is to introduce an unnecessary procedural restriction upon the years in a comparative manner with England and with a unitary form of Government to a vast country like India functioning under a federal structure. Such construction defeats the purpose of Article itself."

13. The above observations of the Supreme Court in *Dwarika Nath's case* (supra) tend to support the view that a writ in the nature of a mandamus may be issued against a private individual in view of the language of the wide amplitude of Art. 226 is coupled with. It is not doubt true that a writ jurisdiction under Art. 226 of the Constitution is in the nature of supervisory jurisdiction and not appellate of one and that it is not a substitute for the ordinary remedies available under the law of the land and the High Court may under Art. 226 decline to interfere if an equally efficacious alternative remedy is available. The remedy for injunction is available under the Civil P.C. and the Specific Relief Act 1963 but this is only a safeguard restriction. There is no absolute bar. It is a question of discretion to be exercised on the sound principles of law, justice and equity. Whether to grant or not to grant an ad interim injunction is certainly a matter involving the exercise of judgment and discretion of the subordinate Civil Courts and the High Court may not interfere in the matter but in its supervisory jurisdiction under Art. 226 of the Constitution, the High Court can certainly see whether the orders passed by the subordinate courts suffer from any error of jurisdiction, patent illegality or perversity etc. and I am aware of the opinion that the High Court while exercising its writ jurisdiction against an appellate order of revision can issue a writ of certiorari/mandamus not only against the subordinate courts but it may also issue any order of direction, not necessarily in the nature of a writ, which it considers necessary to be issued in order to effectuate its certiorari jurisdiction.

14. I am aware of the opinion that the High Court while seized of a writ petition under Art. 226 of the Constitution can also pass any order including an order in the nature of an injunction against a private individual in exercise of its inherent powers. In *M.V. Easabath v. Harman Investment and Trading Pvt. Ltd.*, *Harman v. Easabath* (1992) 1 SCR 100, the Supreme Court observed that the High Court has the power to pass any order in the nature of an injunction against a private individual in exercise of its inherent powers.

(2) *JT 65*, his Lordship (R.M. Sahai, J.) of the Supreme Court in his concurring judgment has observed that "Art. 225 of the Constitution preserved jurisdiction including inherent jurisdiction which existed on the date the Constitution came into force and Art. 226 enlarged it by making it not only of the custody of fundamental rights of a citizen but as a repository of power to reach its arms to do justice..... The High Courts in India being courts of unlimited jurisdiction, repository of all judicial

power under the Constitution except what is excluded, are competent to issue directions for arrest of foreign ship in exercise of statutory jurisdiction of or even of otherwise to effectuate the exercise of jurisdiction."

15. Since the order impugned in this writ petition is amenable to certiorari jurisdiction of the High Court, it can safely be said, on the basis of the above quoted observations of the Supreme Court in *M.V. Easabath* case (supra), that while exercising certiorari jurisdiction, the High Courts may not of course demur to the error of orders passed by subordinate courts and direct them to perform their judicial duties in accordance with law but it can also issue orders of directions which may be considered necessary to be passed in order to "effectuate" its certiorari/mandamus jurisdiction. Such a course is open notwithstanding the strength of Art. 226 of the Constitution, but also of the dictum of Art. 225 of the Constitution which makes the High Court a Court of record having inherent jurisdiction in exercise of which jurisdiction, the High Court can, in my opinion, issue an order of directions in the nature of an injunction even against a private individual. Decision of the Supreme Court in *Qamaruddin's* case and that of the Full Bench in *Ganga Saran's* case (supra) do not, in my judgment, create any hindrance in the way of the High Court passing an order in the nature of an injunction in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction if it considers necessary to do so while disposing of the writ petition in order to effectuate its certiorari/mandamus jurisdiction against the subordinate courts or tribunals. The observations to the contrary in *Qamaruddin's* case (supra) were made in a different context and various aspects of the High Court's power as examined in *Dwaraka Nath's* and *Easabath's* cases (supra) were not considered in *Qamaruddin's* case nor was the question examined from this angle in *Ganga Saran's* case."

18.9. Our leaning towards granting interim relief is also supported by the dictum of the Supreme Court in the case of *Deoraj* (supra). We have noted that the Supreme Court has observed that in a given case, the failure to grant interim relief, even if they may be mandatory in nature, would defeat the ends of justice. It would be relevant to set out the said observations of the Supreme Court as under:

"11. The Courts and tribunals seized of the proceedings within their jurisdiction take a reasonable time in disposing of the same. This is in accordance of fair-procedure requirement which involves delay intervening between the previous and the next procedural steps leading towards preparation of case for hearing. Then, the courts are also overburdened and their hands are full. As the conclusion of the hearing of merits is likely to take some time, the parties press for interim relief being granted in the interim. An order of interim relief may or may not be a reasonable one but the facts of the prima facie case, irreparable injury and balance of convenience do work at the back of the mind of the one who passes an

Of order of an interim nature. Ordinarily, the court is inclined to maintain status quo as of obtaining of on the date of the commencement of the proceedings. However, there are a few cases which call for the court's leaning. Not in favour of maintaining the status quo and still lesser in percentage are the cases when an order tantamounting to a mandamus is required to be issued even at an interim stage. There are matters of significance and of moment posing themselves as moment of truth. Such cases do cause dilemma and put the wits of any judge to test.

12. Situations emerge where the granting of an interim relief would tantamount to granting the final relief itself. And then there may be converse cases where withholding of an interim relief would tantamount to dismissal of the main petition itself; for, by the time the main matter comes up for hearing there would be nothing left to be awarded as relief to the petitioner though the findings may be in his favour. In such cases the availability of a very strong prima facie case - of a standard much higher than just prima facie case, the consideration of the balance of convenience and irreparable injury of refusing to grant the interim relief would be rare and exceptional cases. The court would grant such an interim relief only if satisfied that withholding of it would prick the conscience of the court and do violence to the sense of justice, resulting in injustice being perpetuated throughout the hearing, and at the end the court would not be able to vindicate the cause of justice. Obviously such would be rare cases accompanied by compelling circumstances, where the injury complained of is immediate and pressing and would cause extreme hardship. The conduct of the parties should also have to be seen and the court may put the parties on such terms as may be prudent."

18.10. Respondent No. 4 has in response, relied upon the Supreme Court Judgment in the case of VST Industries Ltd. (supra) to contend that no relief can be granted against Respondent No. 4. This Judgment is of no assistance to Respondent No. 4 and has no application in the present case. VST Industries Ltd. was a case where the final relief in a Writ Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India sought a writ of mandamus against the Appellant (Original Respondent) to treat the members of the respondent union (original petitioner), who are employees of the canteen of the appellant's factory, as employees of the Appellant, and to grant of monetary and other consequential benefits. The Supreme Court observed that the appellant was a private entity involved in the business of manufacturing cigarettes and was a private party that was not discharging any public function or duty. In its discussion the Supreme Court also observed that a writ under Article 226 of the Constitution of India may lie against a private body in relation to discharge of a public duty. However, the Court stated that the obligation to maintain a canteen for welfare of its employees under Section

n 46 of the Factories Act, 1948, would not mean that the Appellant is discharging any public function so as to make it amenable to a writ of mandamus at the instance of the respondent labour union seeking abrogation of its workers as employees of the Appellant. It is for these reasons that the Supreme Court held that the Single Judge and the Division Bench fell into error that the Appellant was amenable to writ jurisdiction. Interestingly, even after holding this, the Supreme Court did not interfere with the order of the High Court on merits.

18.11. The Judgment in VST Industries Ltd., is wholly distinguishable and has no bearing on the issue that arises in the present Petition. In the present case, and as noted above, a Writ of Mandamus is sought against Respondent Nos. 2 and 3, who are statutory authorities and clearly amenable to the writ jurisdiction of this Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. We have already expressed our prima facie findings as to their failure to discharge statutory duties and responsibilities. This was clearly not the case in VST Industries Ltd., where the final relief of mandamus was sought only against a private entity that was held not to be discharging a public function or duty in relation to the subject matter of the dispute. Once we hold that the present Writ Petition is clearly maintainable and justified, it is certainly within the extraordinary and inherent jurisdiction of this Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to protect the rights and interests of the Petitioner by granting interim relief even against a private party Respondent that has wrongfully benefited from the inaction of on the part of the public authorities in discharge of their public duty. In fact, this issue did not arise or consideration in the case of VST Industries Ltd. Thus, we hold that the Judgment of the Supreme Court in VST Industries Ltd. extends no help / assistance to the Respondent No. 4.

18.12. Additionally, this submission of Respondent No. 4 to dismiss the Writ Petition against them, or to not grant interim reliefs against them, because they are a private entity is also contrary to the clear terms of the Order of the Supreme Court dated 12th February, 2021, dismissing Respondent No. 4's Special Leave Petition against this Court's Order dated 6th March, 2020 and 14th January, 2021. Both those Orders directed disclosure against Respondent No. 4 and its group companies. The Supreme Court not only dismissed the Special Leave Petitions but categorically went on to observe that, "we give our full imprimatur to the approach adopted by the High Court to ensure that in no manner or the other the petitioner has to use interim reliefs, or the reasons contemplated by Respondent No. 4, would be contrary to the very approach that has been approved by the Supreme Court.

18.13. Keeping in mind our above findings and the Order of the Supreme Court, we are of the view that a case has been made out for grant of interim reliefs, as prayed for against Respondent No. 4. From the Affidavits of Disclosure

sure fled, it appears that Respondent No of . 4 has 192 unsof Id units across its various projects being, Marvel Kyra (90 unsof Id units); Marvel Arcof (2 unsof Id units); Marvel Bof untly (18 unsof Id units); Marvel Sera (66 unsof Id units); Marvel Ribera (16 unsof Id units). This position may have changed as of n date, but the status of unsof Id units of Respondent No of . 4 can be readily ascertained from the RERA Website.

18.14. Accordingly, Respondent No of . 4 is restrained by an order of injunction from selling, transferring, further encumbering, or alienating, or creating any further third-party rights in respect of its unsof Id units as of n the date of uplodading of this Order. The monies lying to the credit of the bank accounts in respect of these projects, or to the credit of the general bank accounts of Respondent No of . 4, shall not be used except in the ordinary course of business.

18.15. As regards the prayer of injunction against the group companies, it is clear from the material placed before us that the Marvel Group has held itself out to be a single economic unit and that its projects are owned and operated or developed by various entities within the group. There has been no dispute that the various of these entities that have been referred to in the Affidavits of Disclosure are indeed group entities of Respondent No of . 4. This Court's approach in seeking disclosure of even group companies' assets has been approved by the Supreme Court. It is common for developers to set up different companies for special purpose vehicles to undertake projects as part of the development business of the group as a whole.

18.16. Prima facie we are of the view that recovery of monies under the Recovery Certificate, would in the acts and circumstances of the present case, also be permissible against the assets of group companies, especially in the non-payment of a clear undisputed amount is being illegally and dishonestly avoided, whilst at the same time very large sums of money are being raised and spent by the same group or carrying on large real estate development projects. To allow such persons to defeat and frustrate the recovery of monies by individual purchasers and at the same time, permit them to carry on their business as usual, would clearly undermine the rule of law and shake the confidence of the public at large.

18.17. From the disclosures made in the 3rd Disclosure Affidavits at Annexure 1, there are about 379 unsof Id units of the group companies/entities (other than Respondent No of . 4) in different projects. The present position of unsof Id units of the projects undertaken by group companies will be as per the status of n the RERA Website. In relation to the group companies that have been disclosed the order of injunction will operate only to the extent of those unsof Id units, if any, that are not encumbered or mortgaged. If those group companies intend to sell any of their unencumbered units they will have the liberty to apply to this Court, so that this Court may pass protective orders in respect of such sale proceeds.

18.18. Further, we direct Respondent No. 4 to deposit in this Court a sum of Rs. 11,36,33,625/- being the principal sum of the Petitioner, within of four weeks from the date of uploading of this Order. If such deposit is made, the order of injunction as ordered above will stand vacated. The Petitioner would be at liberty to seek withdrawal of this amount in part satisfaction of the Recovery Certificate. As regards the Petitioner's claim of interest at 10.05% (p.a.) of the amount stipulated in the Recovery Certificate, the same is effectively secured by the Tahsildar's charge by its Letter dated 8th February, 2021 on Respondent No. 4's land of the sum of Rs. 6.5 crore. The Tahsildar will not vacate that charge without the leave of this Court. Further, the Tahsildar ought to take steps in relation to that land in accordance with law and if any amount is realised against such land, the same shall be paid to the Petitioner in part satisfaction of the Recovery Certificate.

18.20. The application for interim relief is accordingly allowed in the aforesaid terms. Parties shall be at liberty to apply. Costs will be considered at the stage of final disposal of the Writ Petition.

19. After this judgment was reserved, it was brought to our notice that Respondent No. 4's Special Leave Petition against the Order and Judgment dated 9th March, 2021, has been dismissed by the Supreme Court on 14th July, 2021. This is noted for completeness.