

Maharashtra Rifle Association

Registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950

Affiliated to the National Rifle Association of India and the Maharashtra Olympic Association

MRA Shooting Ranges, Worli Sea face North, Mumbai 400 030.

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11.04.2025

To,

All Affiliated District Association/Clubs/Unit/Athletes.

Subject: Order dated 04.07.2025 passed by Hon'ble Bombay High Court.

Sir,

All concerned are hereby informed that the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in Criminal Writ Petition (St.) No. 3317 of 2025 (Cyres K. Mehta v/s State of Maharashtra & Ors.) vide order dated 04.07.2025 has directed that the Licensing Authorities in the State of Maharashtra ought to strictly adhere to the time-line as per Schedule V of the Arms Rules, 2016, more particularly as regards to the applications made by individual deserving target shooters who have achieved requisite MQS and recognized rifle clubs/ associations (Sports Exempt Category).

The Maharashtra Rifle Association as well as the National Rifle Association of India were impleaded in the instant Writ Petition as one of our shooters i.e. the Petitioner had moved a Writ seeking direction to the Commissioner of Police, Mumbai to decide his application for grant of additional weapons which was pending for last more than 8 months with the licensing authority.

The undersigned in her capacity as Gen. Secretary, Maharashtra Rifle Association (MRA) and Jt. Secretary General, National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) put forth the stand of the Associations. Though the Ld. Advocate General vehemently opposed our request for issuance of appropriate direction, Hon'ble Court being fully convinced with our request, incorporated it verbatim in the final order as a direction to the State Government and the Police Authorities. The MRA and the NRAI were represented by Advocates Viraj Shelatkar (Athlete & ISSF certified judge) as advocate for Respondent Nos. 4 and 5.

The said order is a boon not only for the athletes and clubs/associations whose applications are pending for years together. All concerned may sight the same before their respective licensing authority.

Regards,

Sd/-

Sheila Kanungo

Hon. Gen. Secretary

(Jt. Sec. General, NRAI)



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

CRIMINAL WRIT PETITION (STAMP) NO. 3317 OF 2025

Cyres K. Mehta ... Petitioner

Versus

The State of Maharashtra & Ors. ... Respondents

Ms. Sakshee P. Chavan for the Petitioner

Dr. Birendra Saraf, A.G. a/w Ms. P. P. Shinde, A.P.P for the
Respondent Nos.1 to 3-State

Mr. Sumedh Ruikar a/w Mr. Yogesh Birajdar i/b Mr. Viraj
Shelatkar for the Respondent Nos. 4 and 5.

***CORAM : REVATI MOHITE DERE &
DR. NEELA GOKHALE, JJ.***

DATE : 4th APRIL 2025

P.C.:

1. By this petition, the petitioner seeks a direction to the respondents to immediately process his application for additional firearms from the category of “Renowned Shooter” as per the MHA Notification No. S.O. 665(E) dated 12th February 2020.

2. The petitioner was constrained to file the aforesaid petition considering that his application seeking additional firearms was pending for almost six months. Several orders were passed in this petition from time to time.

3. Today, Dr. Saraf, learned Advocate General, appearing on behalf of the respondent Nos.1 to 3, on instructions, submits that the petitioner has been issued 5 licenses for his weapons i.e. for 3 rifles and 2 pistols/revolvers. It may be noted that the petitioner already has 2 arms license, one for his protection and one for sports. Dr. Saraf, further on instructions, submits that a composite license will be issued in favour of the petitioner vis-a-vis the 5 new licenses which have been granted to the petitioner. He submits that the said composite license will be issued to the petitioner within one week from the date of payment for the said license. Statements accepted.

4. In view of the aforesaid, nothing survives for further consideration in this petition. However, we deem it appropriate to direct the State of Maharashtra/Police Authorities to ensure that the authorities shall strictly adhere to the time-line as per Schedule – V of the Arms Rules, 2016, more pertinently, as regards the applications made by individuals deserving target shooters who have achieved requisite MQS and recognized affiliate rifle clubs/associations (Sports Exempted Category) in order to give complete effect to the MHA Notification No. S.O.665(E) dated 12th February 2020, both in letter as well as in spirit.

5. Petition is disposed of on the aforesaid terms.

. All concerned to act on the authenticated copy of this order.

DR. NEELA GOKHALE, J.

REVATI MOHITE DERE, J.