

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

WRIT PETITION NO. 4049 OF 2026

Santosh Pilaji Sabale & Anr.Petitioners

Versus

The State of Maharashtra & Anr.Respondents

Mr. Suresh Pakale (Senior Advocate) a/w Mr. Nilesh Desai i/b. Ms. Padmaja Malgaonkar, for Petitioners.

Mr. S. V. Gavand a/w. Mr. P. H. Gaikwad, for Zilla Parishad Pune/Respondents.

Mr. P. P. Kakade, Addl. GP. a/w Ms. M. P. Thakur, AGP for the State.

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE &
HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR, JJ.
DATE : 17th APRIL, 2026**

P.C. :-

1. The issue raised by these Petitioners pertains to the date from which their seniority is to be reckoned with. They were initially working as Swayam Sevaks on a contractual basis. Subsequently, their services came to be absorbed in the Zilla Parishad. The Zilla Parishad has granted seniority from the date of absorption. The Petitioners, however, seek that their seniority be reckoned from the date of their engagement as Swayam Sevaks.

2. **Issue notice to the Respondents**, returnable on **24th June 2026**. The learned Additional Government Pleader waives service of notice on behalf of Respondent Nos. 1 to 5 and the learned Advocate waives service of notice on behalf of Respondent Nos. 6 and 7.

3. Let the affidavit-in-reply be filed on or before **12th June 2026**.

4. All office objections, if any, shall be removed on or before 4th May 2026, failing which, the Registry shall dismiss the Petition without reference to the Court on 5th May, 2026.

5. Parties to note that, if time permits, this matter would be heard finally at the admission stage.

(HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR, J.) (RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)