

Sharayu Khot.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION NO. 6128 OF 2026

Ujwala Murlidhar Pawar

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Maharashtra & Ors.

...Respondents

Mr. R.K. Mendadkar for the Petitioner.

Mr. P.P. Kakade, Addl. G.P. a/w Smt. Savina R. Crasto, AGP for the
Respondent No. 1-State.

Mr. Y.S. Bhate for the Respondent No. 4.

CORAM : R.I. CHAGLA J
ADVAIT M. SETHNA, J

DATE : 6 May 2026

ORDER :

1. Mr. Mendadkar, the learned Counsel for the Petitioner has sought permission to amend prayer clause (d) of the Writ Petition by correcting "Respondent no. 4" with "Respondent no. 3". This correction shall be carried out forthwith. Re-verification is dispensed with.

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2. By this Petition, the Petitioner has sought setting aside of the impugned order dated 10th April 2026 passed by Respondent No. 2 - Scrutiny Committee with direction to Respondent No. 2 – Scrutiny Committee to issue certificate of validity in respect of caste certificate dated 21st September 2020 issued by the Competent Authority of jurisdiction.

3. Mr. Mendadkar states that the Respondents have been served with the Writ Petition and undertakes to file Affidavit of Service by tomorrow.

4. Mr. Mendadkar has referred to the order dated 14th January 2026 passed by the Division Bench of this Court by which this matter was remanded back to the Scrutiny Committee for fresh determination on merits of the caste claim of the Petitioner. He has referred to paragraph 3 of the said order dated 14th January 2026, wherein the Division Bench had referred to a document viz. School Leaving Certificate of the Petitioner's father, which indicated that he belongs to Thakar caste and the Petitioner's father born in the year 1940. The Petitioner's father left the school in the year 1954 and there is entry indicating his caste as 'Thakar'. The caste 'Thakkar' was

notified as Scheduled Tribe in 1977.

5. The Bench had accordingly, considered it appropriate that this document be considered by the Scrutiny Committee in the light of the fact that the caste Thakkar was notified as Scheduled Tribe only in 1977 and the Petitioner's father left school much prior to 1977.

6. Respondent No. 2 – Scrutiny Committee had pursuant to the order dated 14th January 2026 considered the caste claim of the Petitioner. *Prima facie* it appears that the aforementioned document though referred to had not been considered.

7. Respondent No. 2 – Scrutiny Committee is directed to file Affidavit in Reply to the Writ Petition on or before 12th June 2026.

8. The Petitioner shall file Affidavit in Rejoinder thereto on or before 17th June 2026.

9. The Respondent No. 3 – Employer of the Petitioner is

restrained from taking any coercive steps against the Petitioner based upon the impugned order passed by the Respondent No. 2 - Scrutiny Committee.

10. Place the Writ Petition for consideration on 22nd June 2026.

[ADVAIT M. SETHNA, J.]

[R.I. CHAGLA J.]