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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION**

WRIT PETITION NO. 637 OF 2026

The People's Education Society and anr. ... Petitioners

Versus

State of Maharashtra and ors.

.... Respondents

Dr. Uday Prakash Warunjikar i/b Mr. Dhanesh Sanjay Sharma a/w
Ms.Aarti R. Dharamasey, for the petitioners.

Mr. Rui Rodrigues, for respondents no. 3 & 5.

Ms.Jyoti Chavan, Addl. GP a/w Smt. Gauri Sawant, AGP for the
respondent-State.

**CORAM : M. S. KARNIK &
S. M. MODAK, JJ.**

DATE : 23rd APRIL, 2026

P.C. :

1. Heard learned counsel for the parties.
2. Our attention is invited to the impugned order dated 13/05/2025. It has been almost one year, since the incumbent in-charge has been working on a temporary basis and this arrangement was worked out as a temporary measure. Further, in the said order, it has been recorded by the University that such an arrangement is subject to further orders. We find that for a period of 1 year, the temporary charge has been with the present incumbent i.e. respondent no.4.

3. Mr. Rodrigues, learned counsel for the University made an attempt to submit that it is because of the disputes between several groups of Management that the University was left with no other alternative but to bring in place the present arrangement so as to ensure that the academic activities of the College are carried on in the best interest of the Law College. We do appreciate the anxiety of the University. However, such a temporary arrangement cannot continue endlessly. Moreover, there is nothing on record to indicate as to what steps have been taken by the University to resolve the problem when the University itself had stated that the said temporary arrangement is subject to further action.

4. Mr. Rodrigues then submitted that it is for the petitioner to submit a proposal in accordance with law for appointment of regular principal taking an overall view of the matter of a candidate who would be best suited to be a regular principal. Learned counsel for the petitioner on instructions submitted that such a proposal would be submitted within a period of 2 weeks from today. On such a proposal being submitted to the University, the University to take further steps/initiate action within a period of 2 weeks thereafter. By the next date, the developments on such

a proposal be placed on record. This would be without prejudice to the rights and contentions of the petitioner in this petition.

5. Affidavit of UGC is permitted to be filed in office within 2 weeks from today.

6. Considering that the Law College of such repute which has been established in the year 1960 is facing some issues which need to be resolved amicably, we request the Secretary, Higher Education and Joint Director of Higher Education to convene a meeting with the rival fractions of the Society when all parties could aim at resolving the dispute for ultimately this will be in the interest of the students and in the best interest of the Law College.

7. Stand over to 10/06/2026.

(S. M. MODAK, J.)

(M. S. KARNIK, J.)