

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

WRIT PETITION (L) NO. 15666 OF 2025

The People's Education Society & Ors.Petitioners

Versus

The State of Maharashtra & Ors.Respondents

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Mr. Uday Warunjikar i/b. Aarti R. Dharamsey, for Petitioner.
Ms. Nazia Shaikh, AGP for State.
Mr. Rui Rodrigues, for Respondent No. 3.
Mr. Ankit Tiwari i/b. V. B. Tiwari & Co., for Respondent No. 4.

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE &
ABHAY J. MANTRI, JJ.
DATE : 20th JANUARY, 2026**

P.C. :-

1. Leave to add the University Grants Commission (UGC) as Respondent No. 5, is granted. Addition/correction be carried out forthwith.

2. The learned Advocate, Mr. Rodrigues, has appeared for Respondent No. 3 and informs that he is also appearing on behalf of Respondent No. 5. Respondent No. 4 desires to file an Affidavit-in-Reply. A similar request is made on behalf of Respondent Nos. 3 and 5. Let these parties enter their Affidavits-in-reply on or before **05th February, 2026**. Copies thereof would be served upon the

learned Advocate for the Petitioners, who would carry out the necessary corrections in the pagination, if required, so as to ensure that the Affidavits-in-Reply are arranged date-wise and are properly paginated in continuation. Let this exercise be completed on or before **13th February, 2026**.

3. Rejoinder Affidavit, if the Petitioners so desire, be filed on or before **13th February, 2026**.

4. List this Petition in the 'Urgent Admissions Category' on **24th February, 2026**.

5. We would first deal with the locus of Petitioner No. 1 in filing this Petition, in the light of the Judgment delivered by the learned Single Judge on 21st October, 2024 in Writ Petition No. 6677 of 2023.

6. All office objections shall be removed on or before 05th February 2026, failing which, the Petition shall stand dismissed without further reference to the Court, on 06th February, 2026.

(ABHAY J. MANTRI, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)