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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
BENCH AT AURANGABAD

928 WRIT PETITION NO. 916 OF 2026

Mahesh Vithoba Raut

VERSUS

The Union Of India Through Its Secretary And Others

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Mr. Mayur R. Achar, Advocate for Petitioner

Mr. R.B. Bagul, Central Government Counsel for Respondents No.1 and 3

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CORAM : SMT. VIBHA KANKANWADI AND  
HITEN S. VENEGAOKAR, JJ.

DATE : 25 FEBRUARY, 2026

**PER COURT :-**

1. Heard the learned advocate for the petitioner.
2. The submission of the learned advocate for the petitioner is that on 16.01.2025, when the advertisement in respect of PhD entrance test (PET) 2024-25 was issued, the reference was made to the University Directions No.01/2020, which is available on the University website. The said directions, specifically Clause 14(6), do not restrict the application to be submitted only by those candidates who once participated in the full-time course, but also permit part-time candidates to apply. In pursuance of that, the application has been submitted by the petitioner. However, subsequently, on 20.02.2025, the University issued Corrigendum-1, thereby clarifying that only the candidates who want to pursue the full-time Ph.D. course should submit the application for the

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Ph.D. programme along with a No Objection Certificate from their present employer for the full-time Ph.D. programme. He submitted that Corrigendum-1 dated 20.02.2025 is contrary to University Direction No. 1 of 2020 as well as to the Regulations issued by the UGC.

3. Issue notice to respondents. Learned Central Government Counsel Mr. R.B. Bagul waives service of notice for respondents No.1 and 3.

4. Notice of respondents No.2, 4 and 5 is made returnable on 25.03.2026.

5. In the meantime, respondents No.1 and 3 to file their response to the present petition with an advance copy to be served upon the advocate for the petitioner.

6. The learned advocate for the petitioner also permitted to place on record the eligibility criteria documents, which was published along with the advertisement inviting applications for the PET examination.

**[ HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR ]**  
**JUDGE**

**[ SMT. VIBHA KANKANWADI ]**  
**JUDGE**