

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIRCUIT BENCH AT KOLHAPUR
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO. 11 OF 2026

Tanaji Vishwas Nalawade and Another. ...Petitioners.
Versus
The State of Maharashtra and Others. ...Respondents.

Ms. Ahilya T. Nalawade and Mr. Jolly Bhutelo for the Petitioner.
Mr. Vijay Killedar for the Respondent No.7.
Mr. A. S. Shalgaonkar, AGP for the Respondent Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 to 12.

Coram : Madhav J. Jamdar &
Pravin S. Patil, JJ.

Date : March 4, 2026.

P. C. :

1. Heard learned Counsel appearing for the Petitioners.
2. Issue notice to the Respondents, returnable on 2nd April 2026. In addition to Court notice, Petitioner to serve the Respondents by private notice and file affidavit of service before the returnable date.
3. Mr. Shalgaonkar, learned AGP waives notice for Nos.1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 to 12. Learned counsel Mr. Killedar waives notice for Respondent No.7.
4. This Public Interest Litigation raises important issue regarding implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. One of the contentions raised in this PIL is that the Government of Maharashtra has closed many public schools over

the last 15 years. The closure of Government schools has caused irreparable social harm, particularly in tribal and economically backward areas where the Government schools often constitute the sole and indispensable means of access to education. As this is an important public issue, the Respondents are directed to file affidavit-in-reply on or before 25th March 2026. Rejoinder, if any, to be filed on or before 1st April 2026.

5. Stand over to 2nd April 2026 at 2.30 p.m.

[Pravin S. Patil, J.]

[Madhav J. Jamdar, J.]