

rajshree

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

(SR.NO.11)WRIT PETITION NO.5344 OF 2026

Akash Nandkishor Kagliwal Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.12)WRIT PETITION NO.5346 OF 2026

Akash Nandkishor Kagliwal Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.13)WRIT PETITION NO.5347 OF 2026

Akash Nandkishor Kagliwal Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.14)WRIT PETITION NO.5352 OF 2026

Sweta Akash Kagliwal Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.29)WRIT PETITION NO.5332 OF 2026

Rajeshwari Vedvyas Pai & Anr. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.42)REJECTED CASE NO.1708 OF 2017
Sanjay Chhotalal Ajmera & Anr.. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Principal Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.42)WRIT PETITION NO.11487 OF 2015
Madhu Ashokkumar Gad & Anr. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Principal Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.....Respondents

(SR.NO.44)WRIT PETITION NO.1295 OF 2020

WITH

INTERIM APPLICATION (ST) NO.4363 OF 2021
Shilpa Pankaj Kothari Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Principal Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.44)WRIT PETITION NO.1297 OF 2020
Pankaj Navinchandra Kothari Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Principal Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.3597 OF 2026
Gyandrakumar Das & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION(ST) NO.5580 OF 2026

Devendra Mukund Dewasthal Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.3600 OF 2026

Bharat Narsu Pawar & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.3598 OF 2026

Balu Narayan Garud & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.3599 OF 2026

Shamrao Laxman Palekar & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2921 OF 2026

Jerestin Bomi Hansotiya & Anr. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2915 OF 2026

Ashutosh Arora Through POA Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.3597 OF 2026

Gyandrakumar Das & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2903 OF 2026

Mahadev Damji Patel Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2906 OF 2026

Jagdish Anant Kamat & Anr. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2910 OF 2026

Manoj Sainani Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2908 OF 2026

Sandip Kisan Bhaye Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2899 OF 2026

Shehnaaj Gustaabji Jhariri

....Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.

....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2904 OF 2026

Somnath Bhiku Kalekar

....Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.

....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2924 OF 2026

Shehnaaj Gustaabji Jhariri

....Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.

....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2925 OF 2026

Shankar Baburao Kalekar & Anr.

....Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.

....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2905 OF 2026

Nidhi Rakesh Mehta & Ors.

....Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.

....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2902 OF 2026

Rajesh Subhash Mehta

....Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2920 OF 2026

Vimla Motilal Oswal & Anr. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.46)WRIT PETITION NO.2922 OF 2026

Vanita Siddharth Bhandari Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.48)WRIT PETITION NO.3694 OF 2026

Prime Estate Pvt. Ltd. Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.49)WRIT PETITION NO.4008 OF 2026

Shanti Chopra Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.52)WRIT PETITION NO.5381 OF 2026

Karan Kadir Shaikh & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.54)WRIT PETITION NO.5422 OF 2026

Majihar Yakub Contractor & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.54)WRIT PETITION NO.5545 OF 2026

Mangesh Kisan Murhe Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.55)WRIT PETITION NO.5834 OF 2026

Nitin Shamrao Palekar & Anr. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.56)WRIT PETITION NO.5837 OF 2026

Narayan Pandudrang Patil

Deceased through LRs & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.57)WRIT PETITION NO.7235 OF 2026

Paresh Indravan Mujumdar & Anr. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH
(SR.NO.58)WRIT PETITION NO.7382 OF 2026
Santoshkumar Ramrichpal Gupta Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Principal Secretary, Revenue & Forest
Dept. & Ors Respondents

WITH
(SR.NO.59)WRIT PETITION NO.7625 OF 2026
Saurabh Joma Tandel & Anr. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH
(SR.NO.60)WRIT PETITION NO.7630 OF 2026
Narendra Lakshmanprasad Sharama & Anr. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH
(SR.NO.61)WRIT PETITION NO.8108 OF 2026
Pralhad Laxman Jadhav Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH
(SR.NO.62)WRIT PETITION NO.8167 OF 2026
Batul Shabbir Nuruddidn Alias

Batul Aliasager Ezzuddin & Anr. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,
Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.63)WRIT PETITION NO.8168 OF 2026

Chetan Gulab Jedhe & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.64)WRIT PETITION NO.8170 OF 2026

Rekha Ajay Khemka Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.65)WRIT PETITION NO.8177 OF 2026

Ajay Popatlal Shah Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.66)WRIT PETITION NO.8184 OF 2026

Nitin Raghunathrao Somwanshi & Anr. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.67)WRIT PETITION NO.8632 OF 2026

Ganesh Dagdu Patil Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Principal Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.67)WRIT PETITION NO.9770 OF 2026

Chandrakant Balvantray Shah Through PoA Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Principal Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.67)WRIT PETITION NO.3696 OF 2026

Prem R Raheja Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Principal Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.68)WRIT PETITION NO.8725 OF 2026

Sharadchandra Tibriwal Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through its Secretary, & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.69)WRIT PETITION NO.10066 OF 2026

Vikas Laxman Patil Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Principal Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.71)WRIT PETITION NO.10093 OF 2026

Pooja Dipak Kadu & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Principal Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.70)WRIT PETITION NO.10078 OF 2026

Naresh Aggarwala & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.

....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.74)WRIT PETITION NO.10215 OF 2026

Rohan H. Kilachand & Ors.

....Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Principal Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.....Respondents

WITH

(SR.NO.76)WRIT PETITION(ST) NO.21049 OF 2026

Bharat Ganpathy & Anr.

....Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Principal Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.....Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION(ST) NO.24543 OF 2026

Shehnaz Sagar Shaikh

....Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors.

....Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION(ST) NO.24541 OF 2026

Bilkis Kadir Shaikh

....Petitioner

V/S

Chief Conservator of Forest, Pune & Ors.

....Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION NO.10426 OF 2026

Harvinder Singh Anand

....Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION NO.13048 OF 2018

Sunanda Sudhir Deshmukh & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION NO.4865 OF 2019

Rekha Ravindra Sawant Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION NO.3146 OF 2026

Gwendoline Maria Fernandes Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION NO.8276 OF 2026

Satish Vasant Mhatre & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Mantralaya & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION NO.9173 OF 2026

Magpie Chemulzans

Through Proprietor Satish Mhatre Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through Secretary, Revenue & Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION NO.4330 OF 2026

Bharat Sudam Bradwade & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through its Secretary, & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION NO.4332 OF 2026

Vanita Siddharth Bhandari & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through its Secretary, & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION NO.4333 OF 2026

Niranjan Umeshchandra Joshi Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through its Secretary, & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION NO.3695 OF 2026

Bhagwan Shankar Gaikwad & Anr. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through its Secretary, & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION NO.4329 OF 2026

Nirmal Surya Through PoA Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through its Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION (ST) NO.24162 OF 2026

Amit Goyal Petitioner

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through its Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION(ST) NO.24164 OF 2026

Amit Goyal & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through its Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION (ST) NO.24169 OF 2026

Shridhar Shantaram Geete & Ors. Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through its Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

WITH

(NOB TOB) WRIT PETITION (ST) NO.24505 OF 2026

Abdul Razzak Mohd. Yasin Qadri & Ors.

Through PoA Petitioners

V/S

The State of Maharashtra,

Through its Secretary, Forest Dept. & Ors. Respondents

Mr.Drupad Patil a/w Suyash Sule, Mr.Balasaheb Ligade, Srushti Chalke, and Namit Pansare for the Petitioner in WP No.5344/2026, WP No.5346/2026, WP No. 5347/2026, WP No. 5352/2026, WP No.5332/2026, WP No.4008/2026, WP No.5381/2026, WP No.5834/2026, WP No.5837/2026, WP No.7235/2026, WP No.7625/2026, WP No.7630/2026, WP No.10078/2026, WP(ST) no.24543/2026, WP(ST) No.24541/2026, WP No.10426/2026.

Mr.Sukand Kulkarni for the Petitioner in RC No.1708/2017 a/w WP No.11487/2015, WP No.1295/2020, WP No.1297/2020.

Mr.Swapnil Telang for the Petitioners in WP No.3597/2026, WP No.3600/2026, WP NO.3598/2026, WP No.3599/2026, WP

No.8108/2026, WP No.8167/2026, WP No.8168/2026, WP No.8170/2026, WP No.8177/2026, WP No.8184/2026, WP(ST) NO.24162/2026, WP(ST) No.24164/2026, WP(ST) No.24169/2026, WP(ST) No.24505/2026

Mr.V.A. Gangal for the Petitioners in WP(ST) No.5580/2026, WP No.13048/2026, WP No.4865/2019, WP No.3146/2026, WP No.8725/2026.

Ms.Shweta Parab for the Petitioners in WP No.8276/2026, WP No.9173/2026.

Mr.Atharva R. B. for the Petitioners in WP No.2921/2026, WP No.2915/2026, WP No.2903/2026, 2906/2026, WP NO.2910/2026, WP No.2908/2026, WP NO.2899/2026, WP No.2904/2026, WP NO.2924/2026, WP No.2925/2026, WP No.2905/2026, WP No.2902/2026, WP No.2920/2026, WP No.2922/2026, WP No.5422/2026, WP No.9770/2026, WP No.10215/2026, WPST No.21049/2026.

Mr.Yash Naik for the Petitioners in WP No.5545/2026.

Mr.Atharva R.B. i/b Ms.Saniya Patki for the Petitioner in WP No.3694/2026, WP No.4330/2026, WP No.4332/2026, WP NO.4333/2026, WP NO.3695/2026, WP NO.4329/2026.

Mr.Aashit Kankariya a/w Ms.Sheetal Mishra for the Petitioners in WP No.8632/2026.

Mr.Saket Mone a/w Ms.Srushti Thorat and Mr.Archit Rao i/b Vidhii Partners for the Petitioners in WP NO.3696/2026.

Mr.Prithviraj Gole for the Petitioner in WP No.10066/2026, WP No.10093/2026.

Mr.Amarlal Ramrakhiani i/b Mr.Vaibhav Shinde for the Petitioners in WP No.7382/2026.

Mr.S.D. Vyas, Addl. GP a/w Mr.O.A. Chandurkar, Addl. GP, Mr.P.P. Kakade, Addl. GP, Mr. Karan Thorat, B Panel counsel, Mr.M.M. Pable, AGP and Ms.Savita Prabhune, AGP for State in WP No.3597/2026, WP No.3600/2026, WP NO.3598/2026, WP No.3599/2026, WP No.5580/2026, WP No.2921/2026, WP No.2915/2026, WP No.2903/2026, 2906/2026, WP NO.2910/2026, WP No.2908/2026, WP NO.2899/2026, WP No.2904/2026, WP NO.2924/2026, WP No.2925/2026, WP No.2905/2026, WP No.2902/2026, WP No.2920/2026, WP No.2922/2026.

Mr.M.M. Pable, AGP for the State in RC No.1708/2017 a/w WP No.11487/2015, WP No.1295/2020, WP No.1297/2020, WP No.5422/2026, WP No.5545/2026.

Ms.Shruti Vyas, Addl. GP a/w Mr.Karan Thorat, B Panel Counsel for State in WP No.5344/2026, WP No.5381/2026

Ms.Shruti Vyas, Addl. GP a/w Mr.S.H. Kankal, AGP for State in WP NO.5346/2026.

Mr.A.I. Patel, Addl. GP a/w Mr.M.M. Pable for State in WP No.5347/2026.

Ms.M.P. Thakur, AGP for State in WP No.4332/2026

Mr.S.H. Kankal, AGP for State in WP No.5352/2026m WP (ST) No.24543/2026, WP(ST) No.24541/2026, WP(ST) No.24169/2026, WP No.7382/2026.

Mr.Karan Thorat, B Panel Counsel for State in WP No.5332/2026, WP NO.4008/2026, WP No.5834/2026, WP No.7235/2026, WP No.10078/2026, WP No.10426/2026, WP No.8168/2026, WP No.8177/2026, WP No.10066/2026, WP No.10093/2026, WP No.10215/2026, WPST No.21049/2026, WP No.13048/2018, WP No.4333/2026, WP (ST) No.24162/2026, WP(ST) NO.24505/2026, WP No.4330/2026.

Mr.Karan Thorat, B Panel Counsel a/w Ms.Savita Prabhune, AGP for State in WP No.8632/2026, WP No.3696/2026, WP No.9770/2026.

Ms.Savita Prabhune, AGP for State in WP No.3146/2026, WP No.9173/2026.

Mr.M.M. Pable, AGP for State in WP No.5837/2026, WP No.4865/2019, WP No.4329/2026, WP No.8276/2026, WP(ST) No.24164/2026,

Mr.P.P. Kakade, Addl. GP a/w Mr.Karan Thorat, B Panel Counsel for State in WP No.7625/2026, WP No.3695/2026,

Mr.P.P. Kakade, Addl. GP for State in WP No.8108/2026.

Mr.S.P. Kamble, AGP for State in WP No.7630/2026, WP No.3694/2026, WP No.8167/2026.

Mr.Vaibhav Charalwar, B Panel Counsel for State in WP No.8170/2026, WP No.8725/2026.

Ms.Leena Patil, B Panel Counsel for State in WP No.8184/2026.

**CORAM : BHARATI DANGRE &
ASHISH S. CHAVAN, JJ**

DATE : 24th AUGUST 2026

ORDER (PER BHARATI DANGRE, J) :

1 In the wake of the directions issued by us in a bunch of Writ Petitions, the lead Petition being WP No.1536/2017, decided on 23/07/2026, we expected the State Government to adopt a systematic approach to deal with the issue of 'Private Forest' as several Writ Petitions were instituted before this Court in the past and are still pending for consideration, which involve the said issue.

While dealing with the said Writ Petitions, we find the cases to be governed by the decision of the Hon'ble Apex Court in *Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd. & Anr. vs. State of Maharashtra & Ors.*¹, and once again very recently in the case of *Rohan Vijay Nahar & Ors. vs. State of Maharashtra & Ors.*² and despite this, since the issue as regards whether the procedure prescribed under Section 35 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (for short 'the Act of 1927') has been adhered to, was required to be scrutinized by the High Court, we expected the State Government to constitute a Committee to scrutinize all such cases, which have the involvement of private forest and also covering the aspect of vesting as well as restoration of the land under Section 22A of the Maharashtra Private Forest Act, 1975, and we made an earnest request to the learned Advocate General to advise the Government.

2 Today, the Additional Government Pleader has placed before

1 (2014) 3 SCC 430

2 (2026) 2 SCC 182

us a Government Resolution issued by the Revenue and Forest Department dated 13/08/2026 implementing the said direction and we have taken the Government Resolution on record.

3 The learned counsel Mr.Drupad Patil representing some of the Petitioners in the Petitions which are listed before us today, on going through the Government Resolution, has expressed his satisfaction over the mechanism that has been culled out.

We must also appreciate the efforts taken by the learned Advocate General Dr.Milind Sathe in advising the Government resulting into constitution of the Committee by the Government Resolution, which definitely would reduce the burden upon this Court in determining the issue which is already put to rest by the decisions of the Apex Court and by this Court. Now, it is the turn of the Government to follow the mandate of law laid down as regards the applicability of the provisions of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975 and vesting of the land in the Government as well as the restoration of land under Section 22A of the Act of 1975.

4 The Government Resolution has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief conservator (Forest Force) Nagpur, alongwith Additional Chief Conservator of Forest, Nagpur, as Member, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Pune as its Secretary and other Members of the Committee shall be invited as and when need arises, which would include legal advisers, government officials etc.

The terms of the reference of the said Committee are specifically set out with reference to the direction of this Court dated 23/07/2026 in the backdrop of the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975.

The methodology to be adopted is also specified by setting out that those owners/occupants who have any grievance, shall approach the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forest, who shall in turn forward the proposal to the Scrutiny Committee, within a period of 8 days from its receipt.

Upon the necessary material available being perused and on consideration of the submission in writing, if any, the Committee shall scrutinize the proposals/representations, in the wake of the directions issued by this Court in its Judgment dated 23/07/2026 and a decision shall be arrived at. This decision shall be placed before the State Government for appropriate consideration.

As per the Government Resolution, the Scrutiny Committee shall conduct its sitting once in every 15 days and shall have all assistance and necessary infrastructure being attached to it.

5 While scrutinizing the proposals, if the Committee require assistance of the Advocate representing the Parties in order to ascertain certain factual aspects or when the Committee is of the view that the case do not fall within the four corners of law as laid down, it shall be imperative for it to grant an opportunity of hearing to the Advocates representing the Parties.

We expect the entire exercise to be completed by the Department with expediency, since the issue involved in the Writ

Petitions is pending for a considerable length of time and in our view despite clear directions being issued about the parameters that would govern acquisition of Private Forest. We, therefore, expect utmost promptitude on behalf of the State Government.

On culmination of the proceedings, if the decision is arrived at to delete the entry of 'Private Forest' or any other ancillary entry in relation thereto, we expect the State Government to issue specific directions to rectify the mutation entries forthwith.

6 We must note that though the Government Resolution state that the scrutiny of the proposals shall be based upon the decision of this Court dated 23/07/2026, we clarify that the Scrutiny Committee shall also take into consideration the decisions of the Hon'ble Apex Court in case of **Godrej & Boyce** (supra) and **Rohan Nahar** (supra) since its reference has come in the decision delivered by us on 23/07/2026.

7 Since we find that several Writ Petitions are pending before us, while we dispose of the Writ Petitions, we permit the copies of the Petitions to be treated as representations by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forest and the said representations shall be taken as trigger point for the Scrutiny Committee to follow and conclude the procedure contemplated in the Government Resolution, to receive a final approval from the State Government.

Needless to state that, if in some case the Scrutiny Committee as well as the Government hold against the Petitioner, the Petitioners are entitled to approach this Court by seeking appropriate relief.

8 In light of the aforesaid, by accepting the compliance of the directions issued by us in *WP No. 1536/2017 (Valuable Properties Pvt. Ltd. Through the Director and Anr. vs. The State of Maharashtra Through Its Secretary and Ors.)* in form of Government Resolution dated 13/08/2026, we dispose of the Writ Petitions in the aforesaid terms.

Interim Applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

[ASHISH S. CHAVAN, J.]

[BHARATI DANGRE, J.]