



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD

954 WRIT PETITION NO. 8928 OF 2025

ATMARAM PANDURANG TOTEWAD

....Petitioner

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH SECRETARY AND
OTHERS

.....Respondent

AND

955 WRIT PETITION NO. 9844 OF 2025

ROHIDAS VISHNUDAS TOTEWAD THR FATHER AND NATURAL
GUARDIAN VISHNUDAS PANDURANG TOTEWAD

....Petitioner

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH SECRETARY AND
ANOTHER

.....Respondents

.....

Advocate for the Petitioner : Mr. O. B. Boinwad

AGP for Respondent/State: Mr. N. B. Patil

....

**CORAM : SANDIPKUMAR C. MORE AND
ABASAHEB D. SHINDE, JJ.**

DATED : MARCH 18, 2026

ORAL ORDER (PER ABASAHEB D. SHINDE, J):-

1. Heard.
2. By these Writ Petitions, the petitioners are challenging the common judgment and order dated 16.06.2025 passed by respondent No.2 / Scrutiny committee by which the tribe claims of the petitioners of belong to "Koli Mahadev" Scheduled Tribe have been invalidated.

3. The petitioners are uncle and nephew respectively. The brother of petitioner in Writ Petition No. 9844 of 2025 namely Shravan Vishnudas Totewad, whose tribe claim was invalidated by the respondent No.2/ Scrutiny committee had approached this Court by way of Writ Petition No. 12484 of 2024 and this Court by an order dated 29.11.2024, after considering the selfsame record, has granted conditional validity.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioners, therefore, submit that, the petitioners deserve to be granted conditional validity in the light of validity granted to their blood relative.

5. Learned A.G,P does not dispute the aspect of granting conditional validity to the blood relative of the petitioners by this Court nor the relationship of the petitioners with the said validity holder.

6. In that view of the matter, without dealing with the reasons elaborately, we propose to pass the following order.

O R D E R

- (I) The Writ Petitions are partly allowed.
- (II) The impugned judgment and order dated 16.06.2025 passed by respondent No.2/ Scrutiny Committee is hereby quashed and set aside.
- (III) The respondent No.2/ Scrutiny Committee is directed to issue caste validity certificates of belonging to “Koli Mahadev”

Scheduled Tribe to the petitioners.

- (IV) The caste validity certificates issued in favour of petitioners will be subject to outcome of proposed reverification to be undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee in respect of the validity certificate of one Devidas Totewad, who has earlier granted validity certificate and on whose validity certificate the petitioners have placed reliance.
- (V) The petitioners will not claim any equities.

(ABASAHEB D. SHINDE)
JUDGE

(SANDIPKUMAR C. MORE)
JUDGE

YSK/