

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD**

925 WRIT PETITION NO. 770 OF 2026

RAKESH DEVIDAS DAMALE

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND ANOTHER

...

Mr. Chandrakant Thorat, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. S.P. Sonpawale, A.P.P. for respondents-State.

...

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

DATED : 23 JANUARY 2026.

Per Court :

1. Heard.
2. By this writ petition, the petitioner is seeking direction to decide his tribe claim of being "Koli Mahadev" Scheduled Tribe expeditiously, which is pending since 18.02.2025.
3. Since the petitioner is in service and apprehends termination of his service on the ground of non submission of caste validity certificate, we direct the respondent/Scrutiny Committee to decide the tribe claim of the petitioner as expeditiously as possible and preferably within a period of three months from today.
4. Till the tribe claim of the petitioner is decided, the employer shall not take any adverse action against the

petitioner solely on the ground that the petitioner failed to submit validity certificate.

5. We make it clear that protection granted by this Court will only be in operation till the tribe claim of the petitioner is decided.

6. With these directions, the petition stands disposed of.

(ABASAHEB D. SHINDE)
JUDGE

(SANDIPKUMAR C. MORE)
JUDGE