



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

952 WRIT PETITION NO. 5842 OF 2026

GAJANAN PRABHAKAR KANTHE

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS SECRETARY AND
OTHERS

...

Mr. Phatale Sagar S., Advocate for the Petitioner

Mr. S. B. Jadhav, AGP for Respondent-State

....

**CORAM : SANDIPKUMAR C. MORE AND
VAISHALI PATIL-JADHAV, JJ.**

DATED : 12/06/2026

P. C. :

1. Heard.
2. By this petition, the petitioner seeks expeditious disposal of his tribe claim of belonging to the 'Koli Mahadev' Scheduled Tribe, pending since 20/09/2013 with the respondent / Scrutiny Committee.
3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that, during the pendency of this tribe claim, the petitioner's employer issued a letter on 21/05/2026, calling upon the petitioner to submit tribe validity certificate.
4. Learned AGP, on instructions, submits that the tribe claim of the petitioner is pending since 20/09/2013 and it will be decided within a period of four months.

5. In view of the above, we direct Respondent No. 2 / Scrutiny Committee to decide the tribe claim of the petitioner within a period of four months from today.
6. Till the tribe claim of the petitioner is decided, respondent No.3 i.e. the employer of the petitioner shall not take any coercive action against the petitioner solely on the ground of non submission of validity certificate.
7. Needless to state that, the protection granted by this court will be in operation only till the tribe claim of the petitioner is decided and he would not claim any equities.
8. The petitioner shall extend full co-operation in deciding the tribe claim.
9. With these directions, the writ petition stands disposed of.

(VAISHALI PATIL-JADHAV, J.) (SANDIPKUMAR C. MORE, J.)