

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

WRIT PETITION NO. 16780 OF 2025

Vitthal Bhausahab Banote & Ors. ... Petitioners
versus
The State of Maharashtra & Ors. ... Respondents

...
Mr.Narendra V. Bandiwadekar, Senior Advocate with Mr.Vinayak
R.Kumbhar and Mr.Rajendra B. Khaire i/b. Ms.Ashwini N. Bandiwadekar
for the Petitioners.
Mr.Kedar B. Dighe, Addl. GP for all the Respondents -State.
...

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE &
ABHAY J. MANTRI, JJ.**

DATE : JANUARY 09, 2026

P.C:

1. **Issue notice to the Respondents**, returnable, on 16th February 2026. The learned Addl.GP waives service of notice on behalf of all the Respondents. Let the affidavit-in-reply be filed, at least, ten days prior to the returnable date.
2. Since the Petitioners are contractual employees and have been working in between 8 years and 16 years, they are apprehending replacement by ad-hoc employees.

3. In view of the above, until further orders, the Petitioners would not be replaced by ad-hoc or contractual employees. In the event the Respondents intend to follow the due procedure applicable for Recruitment in public employment, the Petitioners would be at liberty to apply.

4. All office objections shall be removed, on or before 22nd January 2026, failing which, the Petition would stand dismissed without reference to the Court, on **23rd January, 2026**.

(ABHAY J.MANTRI, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)