

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION  
WRIT PETITION NO. 347 OF 2026**

Umesh Subhash Shirke & Anr. ....Petitioners

***Versus***

The State of Maharashtra & Anr. ....Respondents

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Mr. Narendra V. Bandiwadekar, Senior Advocate a/w. Mr. Vinayak R. Kumbhar, Mr. Rajendra B. Khaire i/b. Ms. Ashwini N. Bandiwadekar, Advocates for Petitioners.  
Mrs. P. N. Diwan, AGP for State all Respondents.

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**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE &  
ABHAY J. MANTRI, JJ.  
DATE : 08<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2026**

**P.C. :-**

1. **Issue notice to the Respondents**, returnable, on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026. The learned Additional Government Pleader waives service of notice on behalf of all the Respondents. Let Affidavit-in-Reply be filed at least 10 days prior to the returnable date.

2. Since the Petitioners are contractual employees and have been working for more than 10 years and 5 years, respectively, they are apprehending replacement by adhoc employees.

3. In view of the above, until further orders, the Petitioner would not be replaced by adhoc or contractual employees. In the

event the Respondents intend to follow the due procedure applicable for Recruitment in public employment, the Petitioner would be at liberty to apply.

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

**(ABHAY J. MANTRI, J.)**

**(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)**