

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD

942 WRIT PETITION NO. 2275 OF 2026

Kishor Rangnath Sutar

VERSUS

State Of Maharashtra Through Its Rural Development Department And
Others

...

Mr. D. P. Palodkar h/f Mr. S. S. Khoche - Advocate for the Petitioner

Mr. A. B. Girase - GP for the State

Mr. Sachindra Shetye – Advocate for Respondent No. 4

...

AND

943 WRIT PETITION NO. 2278 OF 2026

Shyam S/o Vijay Rahane And Another

VERSUS

State Of Maharashtra Through Its Principal Secretary And Ors.

...

Mr. Pralhad D. Bachate - Advocate for the Petitioner

Mr. A. B. Girase - GP for the State

Mr. S. B. Pulkundwar – Advocate for Respondent No. 5

...

AND

944 WRIT PETITION NO. 2280 OF 2026

Sopan Bhujangrao Aglawe

VERSUS

The State Of Maharashtra Through Secretary And Panchyati Raj
Department And Others

...

Mr. S. V. Adwant and Mr. Harish S. Adwant - Advocate for the Petitioner

Mr. A. B. Girase - GP for the State

Mr. U. B. Bondar – Advocate for Respondent No. 2

Mr. Sachindra Shetye – Advocate for Respondent No. 4

...

CORAM : SMT. VIBHA KANKANWADI

AND

HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR, JJ.

DATED : 27TH FEBRUARY, 2026

PER COURT : -

1. In Writ Petition No. 2275 of 2026, at the outset, the learned advocate Mr. D. P. Palodkar, holding for Mr. Shubham Khoche for the Petitioner, makes a statement that he would restrict the challenge in the Petition only to the Government Notification dated 20.02.2026 issued by Respondent No. 1. He submits that he is not pressing the further part of the prayer i.e. “further be pleased to direct the respondent authorities to immediately notify the elections of Gram Panchayats in Maharashtra State, whose term has been expired” and, therefore, we are entertaining the Petition.

2. In all the matters, issue notice to the Respondents, returnable on 24th March, 2026. The learned Government Pleader waives service of notice on behalf of Respondent Nos. 1, 2, 5 and 6 in WP No. 2275 of 2026, on behalf of Respondent Nos. 1 to 4 in WP No. 2278 of 2026, and on behalf of Respondent No. 1 in WP No. 2280 of 2026. Learned Advocates Mr. Sachindra Shetye waives service of notice on behalf of Respondent No. 4 in WP No. 2275 of 2026, Mr. S. B. Pulkundwar waives service of notice for Respondent No. 5 in WP No. 2278 of 2026, and Mr. U. B. Bondar waives service of notice for Respondent No. 2 & Mr. Sachindra Shetye waives service of notice for Respondent No. 3 in W.P. No. 2280 of 2026.

3. The affidavit-in-reply shall be filed by all the Respondents on or before 18.03.2026. A copy of the same shall be furnished to the other side in advance.

4. Learned Government Pleader, upon instructions, makes a statement that, in respect of District Ahilyanagar, the Chief Executive Officer has issued orders on 23.02.2026 directing the Sarpanch to take over charge as Administrator. However, presuming that charge has now been taken over, we direct the Chief Executive Officer, Ahilyanagar, to instruct all the Administrators not to take any financial decisions until the next date.

5. Insofar as Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar District is concerned, it is stated that the orders have been prepared, however, they have not yet been issued. In view of this statement, we direct the Chief Executive Officer, District Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, not to issue those orders until the next date.

[HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR]
JUDGE

[SMT. VIBHA KANKANWADI]
JUDGE