



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

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO.36 OF 2022

Vaijanath Pandurang Vaze ...Petitioner
Versus
The Registrar General
High Court of Bombay and Anr. ...Respondents

***WITH
CONTEMPT PETITION NO.258 OF 2023***

Maharashtra State Judges Association
Through its President – Dilip S. Ghumare ...Petitioner
Versus
Manu Kumar Shrivastava and Anr. ...Respondents

Petitioner - Vaijanath Pandurang Vaze, is present in-person.

Mr. S. R. Nargolkar, for the Respondent No.1 – High Court.

Mr. P. P. Kakade, Additional Government Pleader with Mr. M. M. Pable, A.G.P. and Mr. V. G. Badgujar, A.G.P. for the Respondent-State.

Ms. Raufa Shaikh i/b Mr. Yuvraj P. Narvankar, for the Petitioner in CP/258/2023.

***CORAM: BHARATI DANGRE &
SARANG V. KOTWAL, JJ.***

DATE : 28th JANUARY 2026

P.C. :

1. Mr. Kakade, learned Additional Government Pleader has placed before us the Notification issued by the Law and Judiciary Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai on 1st December 2025, thereby amending the Maharashtra Judicial Service Rules, 2008. The Notification has come into effect from the date of its publication in the Government Gazette i.e. on 1st December 2025.

2. The learned counsel for the respondent No.1- High Court makes a statement that since the Rules are now amended, the path is clear for initiating the process for recruitment and for promotion.

3. As Mr. Vaze, the party in-person has urged before us and we must say repeatedly, that there are some 3500 posts which are additionally created/sanctioned, and the process must be expedited. We only deem it necessary to express a word of caution that though the posts are created, for filling up the posts, the procedure as prescribed in the Maharashtra Judicial Service Rules, 2008 will have to be strictly adhered to, and it is a time consuming process, as we are cautious that

the appointments/promotions are to be effected based on judging the suitability of the candidate and this process definitely consumes time.

4. In any case for the present, we deem it appropriate to direct the High Court to place before us a blue print of the steps which it intend to follow in filling-up the sanctioned posts including the posts which are vacant and this include the post of Civil Judge Junior Division, Civil Judge Senior Division/Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate as well as the Judges of the Small Causes and Metropolitan Magistrate along with the District Judges/Additional District Judges and Chief Judge and Additional Chief Judge of the Small Causes.

5. We expect the High Court to place before us a blue print of the procedure that it intend to implement for the year 2026 and the affidavit to be placed before us shall give (i) The number of total posts sanctioned by the State in different cadres (ii) The vacancies as on 1st January 2026 (iii) The time lines within which the advertisements shall

be issued including the number of posts for which the advertisements are to be issued, with the phases in which the recruitment process shall be initiated.

6. As we are cautious that the appointment process for Judicial Officers cannot be made time bound, we expect expediency on part of the High Court as well as the Law and Judiciary Department as, if the State has to target the aim of 'speedy justice' it must supplement it with the appointment procedure which shall be effectively implemented by the High Court as well as the Maharashtra Public Service Commission ('MPSC') as it is the recruiting agency for the feeder cadre.

7. We expect the affidavit to be filed on or before **23rd February 2026** with a copy thereof being furnished to Mr. Vaze. Renotify to **27th February 2026**. To be listed at 03:00 p.m.

SARANG V. KOTWAL, J.

BHARATI DANGRE, J.