HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

TUESDAY, THE TWENTY THIRD DAY OF DECEMBER
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FIVE

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MRS JUSTICE SUREPALLI NANDA

WRIT PETITION NO: 31405 OF 2025

Between:

Amrita Amritraj, D/o. Jaideep Kumar Amritraj, Aged about 25 years, Occ. Student, R/o. H.No. 6-3-597/8, Anand Nagar, Khairtabad, Hyderabad-500 004, T.S.

...PETITIONER

AND

1. University Grants Commission (UGC), Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi, PIN: 110002, Rep. by its Secretary.
2. Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Open University, Prof. G.Ram Reddy Marg, Road No. 46, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, T.S.

...RESPONDENTS

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith, the High Court may be pleased to issue a Writ, Order or direction more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus to declare the action of the respondent No. 1 and 2 in discontinuing the course of Psychology for the academic year 2025-2026 notified in terms of Notification dated 03-10-2025 issued by Respondent No. 2/ Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Open University, Prof.G.Ram Reddy Marg, Road No. 46, Hyderabad, Rep. by its Secretary, after confirmation of admission of student to the course as illegal, arbitrary and against the principles of Natural Justice amounting to deprivation of education in terms of Art. 21 A of the Constitution of India and direct the respondents to continue the Psychology Course for the academic year 2025-2026.

IA NO: 1 OF 2025

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to direct the respondents to continue the Psychology Course for the academic year 2025-2026 of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Open University, Prof.G.Ram Reddy Marg, Road No. 46, Hyderabad, Rep. by its Secretary, pending disposal of the above writ petition.

Counsel for the Petitioner: SRI T.SHARATH

Counsel for the Respondent No.1: SRI M.P.KASHYAP, SC FOR UGC

Counsel for the Respondent No.2: SRI D.RAMA KRISHNA, SC FOR UNIV.

The Court made the following: ORDER

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

THE HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE SUREPALLI NANDA

WRIT PETITION No.31405 of 2025

DATE: 23.12.2025

BETWEEN:

Amrita Amritraj

...Petitioner

And

University Grants Commission (UGC),
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi,
PIN: 110 002, Rep. by its Secretary and another

....Respondents

ORDER

Heard Sri T. Sharath, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner, Sri M.P. Kashyap, learned Standing Counsel for University Grants Commission appearing on behalf of the respondent No.1 and Sri D. Rama Krishna, learned Standing Counsel for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University appearing on behalf of the respondent No.2.

2. <u>The petitioner approached the Court seeking prayer as under:</u>

> "....to issue a Writ, Order or direction more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus to declare the action of the respondent Nos. 1 and 2 in discontinuing the course of Psychology for the academic year 2025-2026 notified in terms of Notification dated 03-10-2025 issued by Respondent No.2/Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Open University Prof. G.Ram Reddy Marg Road No. 46, Hyderabad Rep. by its Secretary after confirmation of admission of student to the course as illegal arbitrary and against the principles of Natural Justice amounting to deprivation of education in terms of Art. 21 A of the Constitution of India and direct the respondents to continue the Psychology Course for the academic year 2025-2026 and to pass.."

3. <u>The case of the petitioner in brief as per the averments made in the affidavit filed by the petitioner in support of the present writ petition is as under:</u>

i) In pursuance to a notification issued in July 2025 by the respondent No.2, the petitioner applied for B.A. English with optional subjects Psychology and Sociology and was granted admission after certificate verification and payment of fees.

ii) Subsequently, the University issued a notification stating that in accordance with the UGC guidelines Psychology would not be offered in ODL/online mode from the academic year 2025–2026 onwards, and accordingly gave the students the option either to seek a refund or to change the subject.

iii) Although the UGC decision was taken on 22.04.2025, the respondents had issued the notification belatedly on 12.08.2025 discontinuing the Psychology course for the academic year 2025–2026, which was being offered by the 2nd respondent University on the basis of UGC guidelines. Aggrieved by the same, the petitioner has approached this Court by filing the present writ petition.

4. PERUSED THE RECORD

A) The relevant clause b(iii) of the UGC guidelines dated 11.08.2025 pertaining to implementation of 592nd commission decision regarding feasibility of offering programmes in the specialization of health care and allied disciplines falling under the NCAHP Act, 2021, in ODL and Online mode, is extracted hereunder:

"As a special case and considering the academic future and interest of students who are already enrolled in such programmes, HEIs shall be advised to offer such programmes in the hybrid mode, in compliance with the norms prescribed by the NCAHP."

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:

5. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner mainly puts forth the following submissions:

5.1 The respondent Nos. 1 and 2 cannot discontinue the Psychology course for the academic year 2025-2026 by way of the notification dated 12.08.2025 which was issued through the 2nd respondent University.

5.2 The petitioner's admission to the Psychology course for the academic year 2025-2026 had already been confirmed. Therefore, any subsequent decision of the UGC to discontinue the distance education and online mode for Psychology and few other subjects for the July-August 2025 academic session gives rise to a legitimate expectation in favour of the petitioner to pursue and complete the course for the academic year 2025-2026, and the same cannot be discontinued.

Basing on the aforesaid submissions, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner contends that the petitioner is entitled for the relief as prayed for in the preset writ petition.

6. Learned Standing Counsel appearing on behalf of respondent No.1, upon instructions and referring in particular to the specific UGC guidelines dated 11.08.2025, in particular Clause b (iii), contends that, as a special case, considering the academic future of students who were already enrolled, the HEIs shall be advised to offer the said programmes in hybrid mode in compliance with the norms prescribed by the NCAHP. It is further contended that respondent No. 2 University is bound by the specific guidelines dated 11.08.2025 issued by respondent No. 1-UGC, and therefore, respondent No. 2 University was obligated to continue the Psychology course for the academic year 2025–2026 under Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University as per the said guidelines.

7. Learned Standing Counsel appearing on behalf of respondent No.2 University submits that appropriate orders may be passed in accordance to law, in terms of the UGC guidelines dated 11.08.2025.

8. This Court opines that the respondent No. 2-University is bound by the specific guidelines dated 11.08.2025 issued by respondent No.1 and, hence therefore, respondent No.2 is under an obligation to continue the Psychology course for the academic year 2025-2026 under Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University.

9. <u>TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION:</u>

a) The aforesaid facts and circumstances of the case,

b) The submissions made by the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner, learned Standing Counsel for UGC appearing on behalf of the respondent No.1 and the learned Standing Counsel for Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Open University appearing on behalf of the respondent No.2,

c) The relevant clause b(iii) of the UGC guidelines dated 11.08.2025 (referred to and extracted above),

d) The discussion and conclusion as arrived at paragraph Nos.5 to 8 of the present order,

The writ petition is allowed, directing respondent No.2 University to abide by and strictly adhere to the UGC Guidelines dated 11.08.2025, in particular, Clause B and Sub-Clause 3 (referred to and extracted above), and to continue the Psychology course for the academic year 2025–2026 under Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, forthwith. However, there shall be no order as to costs.

Miscellaneous petitions, if any, pending in this Writ Petition, shall stand closed.

SD/-P. PONNA KRISHNA
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To,

3. The Secretary, University Grants Commission (UGC), Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi, PIN: 110002.
1. Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Open University, Prof. G.Ram Reddy Marg, Road No. 46, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, T.S.
2. One CC to SRI T.SHARATH, Advocate [OPUC]
3. One CC to SRI M.P.KASHYAP, SC FOR UGC [OPUC]
4. One CC to SRI D.RAMA KRISHNA, SC FOR UNIV. [OPUC]
5. Two CD Copies

BSR
BS

HIGH COURT

DATED: 23/12/2025



ORDER

WP.No.31405 of 2025

ALLOWING THE WRIT PETITION,

WITHOUT COSTS

24/02/26