



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 05-01-2026

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THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY

WP Nos. 38 & 41 of 2026

WP No.38/2026

Fatima Michael College Of Engineering And
Technology

Rep. By Its Chairman Dr.M.Stalin Arockiaraj,
Senkottai Village, Kalimangalam Panchayat
Sivaganga Main Road, Madurai 625020.

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. Anna University, Rep. by its Registrar,
Sardar Patel Road, Chennai 600025.
2. University Grants Commission,
Rep. by its Secretary,
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi 110002.

..Respondent(s)

Prayer: The Writ Petition is filed under Section 226 of the Constitution of India for the issuance of Writ Of Mandamus, directing the 1st Respondent to scrupulously adhere to Regulation 4.2 of University Grants Commission (Conferment of Autonomous Status upon Colleges and measures for maintenance of Standards in autonomous colleges) Regulation 2023 and forthwith notify the autonomous status granted to the petitioner college in the order of the University Grants Commission in No. F2-10/2023 (AC -Policy) dated 06.06.2025.

WP.No.41/2026

St.Michael College of Engineering & Technology,
Rep. By its Chairman, DR.M.Stalin Arockiaraj,
St.Santhiagaper Nager, Kalayarkoil,
Sivaganga District – 630551.

..Petitioner(s)



Vs

1. Anna University, Rep. by its Registrar,
Sardar Patel Road, Chennai 600025.

2. University Grants Commission,
Rep. by its Secretary,
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
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For Petitioner(s) in
both the Writ Petitions: Mr.K.Selvaraj

For Respondent(s) in
both the Writ Petitions: Mr.U.Baranidharan for R1;
Mr.V.Sudha, for R2.

COMMON ORDER

These Writ Petitions are filed with prayers to direct the 1st respondent University to notify the autonomous status granted to the petitioner College by the 2nd respondent, University Grants Commission, wide order in No. F2-10/2023 (AC-Policy) dated 06.06.2025, as per Clause 4.2 of University Grants Commission (Conferment of Autonomous Status upon Colleges and measures for maintenance of standards in autonomous colleges) Regulation 2023.



2. Heard Mr.K.Selvaraj, learned counsel for the petitioners in both the writ petitions.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the legal position on these matters has been settled by the Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court. The issue was subsequently taken up to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by the University, which confirmed the Division Bench's judgment. As per the prevailing regulations, once the 2nd respondent (UGC) grants autonomous status to the petitioner College, the 1st respondent University is obligated to notify the same without any discretion.

4. Per contra, Mr.U.Baranidharan, the learned counsel appearing for the 1st respondent University, would submit that it is true that, in an earlier round of litigation, the concerns raised by the University regarding infrastructural requirements were negated by this Court, and that decision was confirmed up to the Honourable Supreme Court. However, to verify the current factual situation in this specific matter, the learned counsel requests that a short adjournment be granted, as the matter is listed for admission today, to enable the University to formally place any other potential objections on record by way of a formal counter-affidavit.



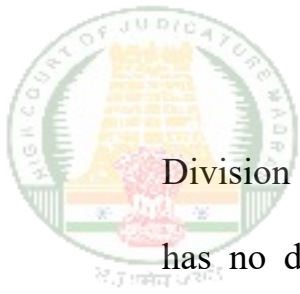
5. I have considered the said submission made by the learned counsel for the 1st respondent University.

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6. This specific prayer is consistently being brought before this Court in several matters. Since the issue has already been definitively settled by the Honourable Division Bench of this Court during the earlier round of litigation, there is no valid reason or point in further adjourning the matters.

7. It can be seen that earlier, when the 1st respondent University sought to raise grounds regarding its right to verify the eligibility of a concerned educational institution to be granted autonomous status, specifically concerning academic standards and infrastructure, this Court by an order in a batch of Writ Petitions in W.P. Nos. 38 of 2025, etc., dated 05.02.2025, allowed the Writ Petitions, where it was held that once the University Grants Commission (UGC) takes a decision to grant autonomous status to a College, it becomes incumbent upon the affiliating university (the 1st respondent) to notify that status. The affiliating university cannot, at that stage, seek to re-verify the infrastructure or other eligibility criteria of the College.

8. The said judgment was challenged by way of intra-Court Appeals before the Honourable Division Bench of this Court in Writ Appeal Nos. 2514, 1778, and 1840 of 2025. In a judgment dated 02.09.2025, the Honourable



Division Bench ruled that, under Regulation 4.2, the 1st respondent University has no discretion other than to notify the autonomous status granted to the petitioner College. As a matter of fact, the University filed a Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 29057 of 2025 against the said order of the Honourable Division Bench, which was summarily dismissed by the Honourable Supreme Court of India.

9. In view thereof, this Writ Petitions are **allowed**, and the 1st respondent University is directed to notify the autonomous status granted to the petitioner Colleges by the University Grants Commission (UGC) vide Order No. F.2-10/2023 (AC-Policy) dated 06.06.2025, as per Clause 4.2 of University Grants Commission (Conferment of Autonomous Status upon Colleges and measures for maintenance of standards in autonomous colleges) Regulation 2023, with this notification process to be completed within a period of four (4) weeks from the date of receipt of the web copy of this order, without waiting for the certified copy of the order. There shall be no order as to costs.

05-01-2026

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY, J.

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To

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Chennai 600025.

2. University Grants Commission,
Rep. by its Secretary,
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