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W.P. No.5854 of 2026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 17.03.2026

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M. DHANDAPANI

W.P. No.5854 of 2026

G.Maheswari

Petitioner

Vs

1. The University Grants Commission
(UGC)
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
New Delhi 110 002.

2.The Vice Chancellor
Hindustan Institute of Technology
and Science
Kelambakkam 603 103

3.The Registrar
Hindustan Institute of Technology
and Science
Kelambakkam 603 103

4.The Head of The Department (HOD)
Department of Information Technology
Hindustan Institute of Technology and
Science Kelambakkam 603 103.

5.The Supervisor
Department of Information Technology
Hindustan Institute of Technology and
Science Kelambakkam 603 103.

6.The Ph.D. Coordinator
Department of Information Technology



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Hindustan Institute of Technology and
Science Kelambakkam 603103.

Respondents

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PRAYER : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents to consider the petitioner's representation dated 29.01.2026 seeking to permit the petitioner to submit the Ph.D course renewal application and to allow the petitioner to continue the Ph.D course as an external scholar in accordance with law.

For Petitioner : Mr.G. Santhanu
For Respondents : Ms.V. Sudha,
Sr. Central Govt. Standing Counsel for R1
Ms.Vandana
for Ms. Surana & Surana for R2 to R5
R6 – Served – No appearance

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed seeking a direction to the 2nd respondent University to consider the Petitioner's representation dated 29.01.2026 for renewal of her Ph.D. registration and permit her to continue the Ph.D. course as an External Scholar.

2. It is stated that the petitioner has been working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Information Technology in the 2nd Respondent University since 2022. Simultaneously, she has been pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from the academic year 2022 as an Internal Scholar in the



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research area relating to a multimodal medical diagnostic framework using deep learning techniques. It is stated that the Petitioner has successfully completed five papers in the Ph.D. programme and is presently pursuing the final paper.

3. According to the petitioner, due to alleged harassment and mental stress caused by certain staff members, she was constrained to submit her resignation on 04.11.2025. A departmental enquiry was conducted on the same day and thereafter she submitted a detailed explanation on 19.12.2025, but no orders have been passed till date.

4. While so, the 2nd respondent issued a Notification dated 08.01.2026 calling for renewal of Ph.D. registration for the January 2026 session, fixing the last date as 29.01.2026. She submitted her renewal application along with a representation dated 29.01.2026 expressing her willingness to convert her status from Internal Scholar to External Scholar and to pay the requisite fees. It is her case that despite payment of Rs.53,000/- towards Ph.D. fees on 24.06.2025 and submission of all required documents, her application has not been considered.



5. Aggrieved by the non-consideration of the said representation, the present writ petition has been filed.

6. Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that it would suffice, if a direction is issued by this Court to consider the petitioner's representation dated 29.01.2026 seeking permission to submit renewal application of the petitioner for PH.D. course as well as allow the petitioner to continue the said course as an external scholar.

7. Per contra, learned counsel appearing for the 2nd respondent submitted that the petitioner's representation dated 29.01.2026 will be considered on its own merits and appropriate orders will be passed within a reasonable time frame.

8. Heard the submissions made by learned counsel on either side and perused the entire records.

9. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is of the view that no prejudice would be caused to the respondents if the petitioner's representation is considered in accordance with the applicable regulations.



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10. In view of the above, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the claim, this Court directs the 2nd respondent to consider the petitioner's representation dated 29.01.2026, seeking renewal of her Ph.D. registration and conversion of status, and pass appropriate orders on merits and in accordance with law, within a period of six weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

11. With the above directions, this writ petition stands disposed of. No costs.

17.03.2026

Index : Yes / No
Speaking Order / Non-speaking order
Neutral Citation Case : Yes / No
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M. DHANDAPANI, J.

vsi2

To

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Science Kelambakkam 603103

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