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Order QR

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 03-11-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.SUSHRUT ARVIND DHARMADHIKARI,
CHIEF JUSTICE
AND
THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE G.ARUL MURUGAN

Case QR

WP No. 19365 of 2026
CNR: {HCMA011107522026}
and
WMP Nos. 20635 & 20735 of 2026

Ramesh Veerappa Gounder
S/o.Veerappa Gounder
No.6, kallan kattu Valasu,
Polavakalipalayam,
Gobichettipalayam,
Erode – 638 476.

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Commissioner,
   Gobichettipalayam Municipality,
   Municipal Office, Erode Main Road,
   Gobichettipalayam – 638 452.

2. The Panchayath Secretary,
   P.Vellalapalayam Panchayat,
   5/25, Main Road, P.Vellalapalayam,
   Gobichettipalayam Taluk,
   Erode District – 638 452.

3. Assistant Director (Panchayath)
   Erode District Collector Office,
   Theeran Chinnamalai Maligai,
   Sampath Nagar, Erode – 638 011.

4. The Chief Educational Officer,
   No.333 Ground Floor,

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Old Railway Station Road,
Erode - 638301.

5. The District Educational Officer
(Matriculation Schools),
No.333 Ground Floor,
Old Railway Station Road,
Erode – 638 301.

6. Directorate of Matriculation Schools,
DPI Campus,
Opposite to Sankara Neethralaya Hospital,
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034.

7. CBSE Regional Office,
No.3 A" J" Block,
16th Main Road, Anna Nagar West,
Chennai – 600 040.

8. Directorate of Town and Country Planning,
CMDA Office Complex,
E & C Market Road,
Virugambakkam, Koyambedu,
Chennai – 600 107.

9. District Town and Country Planning,
Uzhavar Sandhai Back Side Gate,
Erode – 638 001.

10. Erode District Collector,
Theeran Chinnamalai Maligai,
Sampath Nagar, Erode – 638 011.

11. Bharathi Vidhyalaya Educational Trust
(Trustees)
No.44-A, Karattur,
Veerapandi Village,
Gobichettipalayam,
Erode District – 638 476.

12. Mr.P.R.Velumani
S/o.Ramasamy,
44-A, Karattur, Kasba,
Bharathi Vidhyalaya School Campus,

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Veerapandi Village,
Gobichettipalayam Taluk – 638 476.

13. Mrs.P.Amutham,
W/o.P.R.Velumani,
44-A, Karattur, Kasba,
Bharathi Vidhyalaya School Campus,
Veerapandi Village,
Gobichettipalayam Taluk – 638 476.

..Respondent(s)

PRAYER: Writ Petition has been filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents 1 to 10 to stop the illegal functioning of the 11th respondent school from the upcoming academic year 2026-2027 and onwards and also forbid any sort of educational activities including new admission, training, tutorial, appointments etc., without any valid recognition or approval, thereby endangering the life, safety, education and future of all student children.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.D.Rajagopal

For Respondent(s): Mr.M.Roshan Atiq
Additional Government Pleader For R1
Mr.C.Kathiravan For R11.

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by G.Arul Murugan J.]

The writ petition, styled as Public Interest Litigation (PIL), is filed seeking a direction to the official respondents 1 to 10 to stop the illegal functioning of the 11th respondent/School from the upcoming Academic Year 2026-2027 onwards.

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2. It is averred by the petitioner that, in the Academic Year 2023-2024, his child studied U.K.G. in the 11th respondent/School. During that time, he noticed that the School had violated several norms and safety requirements; thereby, later, for the Academic Year 2025-2026, he decided to admit his child in the CBSE School, viz., Bharathi Vidhyalaya CBSE School. Thereafter, he approached the authorities for an enquiry and subsequently found that school's affiliation had expired on 31.03.2025. Therefore, he has come up with the present PIL seeking to close the 11th respondent/School.

3. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that since the School is running without valid affiliation, action is to be taken to close the School, as the interest of the students would otherwise be prejudiced.

4. In response to the contentions made, learned Additional Government Pleader appearing on behalf of the State, by furnishing the proceedings of the Joint Director, Directorate of Private Schools, Chennai dated 25.10.2026, submitted that the authorities have already considered the application of the 11th respondent/School. Due approval has been granted for the Renewal of Recognition to the School for standards from L.K.G. to XII for the period from 01.06.2024 to 31.05.2027. Consequently, as on date, the 11th respondent/School is being run with a valid approval

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granted by the authorities.

5. Learned counsel appearing for the 11th respondent/School submitted that the present writ petition is completely motivated and is a personal interest litigation, as the petitioner was an erstwhile employee of the 11th respondent/School. The employment was during the time when the School was governed by the former Trustees, i.e., respondents 12 and 13, and now at the instance of respondents 12 and 13, the petitioner has been set up to initiate proceedings against the 11th respondent/School, by making false averments under the guise of a PIL. Further, he pointed out earlier orders passed by this Court where similar writ petitions filed under the guise of PILs were dismissed by this Court.

6. We have heard the submissions made on either side and perused the materials available on record.

7. At the outset, it has to be noted that on an earlier occasion, one Mr.R.Dinesh had approached this Court with a writ petition in the nature of PIL through W.P.No.10123 of 2026, with a similar prayer to direct the official respondents to stop the illegal functioning of the School for the upcoming Academic Year 2026-2027. By order dated 17.03.2026, that writ petition came to be dismissed as the petitioner therein sought to withdraw

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the writ petition. Subsequently, another individual, one Mr.A.V.Balu, filed a writ petition in the nature of a PIL in W.P.No.13449 of 2026, again with a similar relief, seeking a direction to the official respondents to stop the illegal functioning of the School for the Academic Year 2026-2027. Again, by order dated 15.04.2026, the writ petition came to be dismissed as the petitioner sought to withdraw the writ petition.

8. Now, the present writ petitioner has also filed this present writ petition under the guise of espousing a public cause, contending that the 11th respondent/School is running without any affiliation and, therefore, action is to be taken. We find that when two writ petitions filed as PILs have already been dismissed by this Court, the petitioner has now again come before this Court seeking to reopen the very same issue which was not entertained earlier.

9. Further, from a perusal of the records, more particularly, records of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for the years 2013-2018, as rightly pointed out by the 11th respondent/School, we find that the petitioner was in fact, an employee of the 11th respondent/School. Since the petitioner was an employee of the 11th respondent/School during the period when it was governed by the erstwhile Trustees i.e., respondents 12 and 13, the petitioner is, undoubtedly a person interested. The present

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writ petition has not been filed to espouse any genuine public cause, but only to wreak vengeance against 11th respondent/School and settle personal scores under the guise of public interest. Even from the averments made in the affidavit, we find that the petitioner admitted his child to the 11th respondent/School, thereby rendering him a personally aggrieved party, if at all any grievance exists.

10. Further, we find that the 11th respondent/School had regular approval in the past, having been running the School since 1987. Presently, the authorities, by an order dated 25.10.2026, granted renewal of recognition for the period from 01.06.2024 to 31.05.2027. Therefore, it cannot be said that the 11th respondent/School, as on date, does not have affiliation and it is run illegally.

11. In view of the fact that the present writ petition has clearly been filed with a vested interest to settle scores with a private party (11th respondent/School) and considering that Public Interest Litigation, which is intended to espouse genuine causes is being exploited, we are inclined to dismiss the writ petition by imposing terms on the petitioner.

12. In view of the above, the Writ Petition is dismissed with costs of Rs.25,000/- payable by the petitioner to the Tamil Nadu Advocates Clerk's

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Association, Madras High Court, High Court Buildings, Chennai 600 104, within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. Consequently, the connected Miscellaneous Petitions are closed.

(SUSHRUT ARVIND DHARMADHIKARI, C.J.) (G.ARUL MURUGAN J.)

03-11-2026

Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
Neutral Citation: Yes/No

ab/Jeni

To

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Gobichettipalayam Municipality,
Municipal Office, Erode Main Road,
Gobichettipalayam – 638 452.

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