IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 03-11-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE N. ANAND VENKATESH

SUB APPL No. 1326 of 2025
AND
SUB APPL NO. 1334 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1332 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1331 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1333 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1327 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1328 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1330 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1329 OF 2025

S. Prabakaran,
S/o. Samandham,
12/3, Kamarajan Nagar,
Near Kottiyam Street,
Chidambaram.

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Dr, M. PRAKASH,
   The Registrar,
   Annamalai University,
   Annamalai Nagar,
   Chidambaram.
2. The Government of Tamil Nadu,
   represented by the Secretary to Government,
   Finance, Fort St. George,
   Chennai-9.

   (Suo motu impleaded as 2nd Respondent as per the Order of the Hon'ble Court made in Sub Appl. No. 1326 to 1334 of 2025, dated 10.07.2026)

..Respondent(s)

SUB APPL No. 1334 of 2025

R. Ravi,
S/o. R.Rajamani,
3/23-Thuravadi Street,
Chidambaram - 608001.

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Dr, M. PRAKASH,
   The Registrar,
   Annamalai University,
   Annamalai Nagar,
   Chidambaram.

2. The Government of Tamil Nadu,
   represented by the Secretary to Government,
   Finance, Fort St. George,
   Chennai-9.

   (Suo motu impleaded as 2nd Respondent as per the Order of the Hon'ble Court made in Sub Appl. No. 1326 to 1334 of 2025, dated 10.07.2026)

..Respondent(s)

SUB APPL No. 1332 of 2025

S. Gopalakrishnan,
S/o. N.Swaminathan,
No. 230, Melanuvampattu,
Keelanuvampattu Post,
Chidambaram - 608102.

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Dr, M. PRAKASH,
   The Registrar,
   Annamalai University,
   Annamalai Nagar,
   Chidambaram.
2. The Government of Tamil Nadu,
   represented by the Secretary to Government,
   Finance, Fort St. George,
   Chennai-9.

   (Suo motu impleaded as 2nd Respondent as per the Order of the Hon'ble Court made in Sub Appl. No. 1326 to 1334 of 2025, dated 10.07.2026)

..Respondent(s)

SUB APPL No. 1331 of 2025

M. Balasundaram,
S/o. S.Mahadevan,
No.221, West Street,
Nakkaravandhankudi Post,
Chidambaram - 608002.

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Dr, M. PRAKASH,
   The Registrar,
   Annamalai University,
   Annamalai Nagar,
   Chidambaram.
2. The Government of Tamil Nadu,
   represented by the Secretary to Government,
   Finance, Fort St. George,
   Chennai-9.

   (Suo motu impleaded as 2nd Respondent as per the Order of the Hon'ble Court made in Sub Appl. No. 1326 to 1334 of 2025, dated 10.07.2026)

..Respondent(s)

SUB APPL No. 1333 of 2025

K. Ravichandran,
S/o. Kaliyaperumal,
Plot No. 6, Anex. 12, Muthaiya Nagar,
Annamalai Nagar,
C.Kothangudi,
Cuddalore.

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Dr, M. PRAKASH,
   The Registrar,
   Annamalai University,
   Annamalai Nagar,
   Chidambaram.
2. The Government of Tamil Nadu,
   represented by the Secretary to Government,
   Finance, Fort St. George,
   Chennai-9.

   (Suo motu impleaded as 2nd Respondent as per the Order of the Hon'ble Court made in Sub Appl. No. 1326 to 1334 of 2025, dated 10.07.2026)

..Respondent(s)

SUB APPL No. 1327 of 2025

R. Thiruvalluvan,
S/o. N.Ramakrishnan,
151/340, Baradhi Salai,
Muthaiya Nagar,
Chidambaram.

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Dr, M. PRAKASH,
   The Registrar,
   Annamalai University,
   Annamalai Nagar,
   Chidambaram.
2. The Government of Tamil Nadu,
   represented by the Secretary to Government,
   Finance, Fort St. George,
   Chennai-9.

   (Suo motu impleaded as 2nd Respondent as per the Order of the Hon'ble Court made in Sub Appl. No. 1326 to 1334 of 2025, dated 10.07.2026)

..Respondent(s)

SUB APPL No. 1328 of 2025

S. Sridhar,
S/o. S.Sadagopan,
No. 8/11, Annex-6, Muthaih Nagar,
Annamalai Nagar,
Chidambaram - 608002.

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Dr, M. PRAKASH,
   The Registrar,
   Annamalai University,
   Annamalai Nagar,
   Chidambaram.
2. The Government of Tamil Nadu,
   represented by the Secretary to Government,
   Finance, Fort St. George,
   Chennai-9.

   (Suo motu impleaded as 2nd Respondent as per the Order of the Hon'ble Court made in Sub Appl. No. 1326 to 1334 of 2025, dated 10.07.2026)

..Respondent(s)

SUB APPL No. 1330 of 2025

R. Neelavanan,
S/o. M.Rathinam,
No. 74/25, Birunthavanam,
Theradi pillayar kovil Street,
Chidambaram - 608 001.

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Dr, M. PRAKASH,
   The Registrar,
   Annamalai University,
   Annamalai Nagar,
   Chidambaram

2. The Government of Tamil Nadu,
   represented by the Secretary to Government,
   Finance, Fort St. George,
   Chennai-9.

   (Suo motu impleaded as 2nd Respondent as per the Order of the Hon'ble Court made in Sub Appl. No. 1326 to 1334 of 2025, dated 10.07.2026)

..Respondent(s)

SUB APPL No. 1329 of 2025

D. Muthukumaran,
S/o. Duraisingam,
No.8/A, Kasimada Street,
Chidambaram - 608001.

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Dr, M. PRAKASH,
   The Registrar,
   Annamalai University,
   Annamalai Nagar,
   Chidambaram.

2. The Government of Tamil Nadu,
   represented by the Secretary to Government,
   Finance, Fort St. George,
   Chennai-9.

   (Suo motu impleaded as 2nd Respondent as per the Order of the Hon'ble Court made in Sub Appl. No. 1326 to 1334 of 2025, dated 10.07.2026)

..Respondent(s)

SUB APPL No. 1326 of 2025

To re-open the contempt petition in Cont.P.No. 4067 of 2024 which was closed on 08.09.2025

SUB APPL No. 1334 of 2025

To re-open the contempt petition in Cont.P.No. 4075 of 2024 which was closed on 08.09.2025

SUB APPL No. 1332 of 2025

To re-open the contempt petition in Cont.P.No. 4073 of 2024 which was closed on 08.09.2025

SUB APPL No. 1331 of 2025

To re-open the contempt petition in Cont.P.No. 4072 of 2024 which was closed on 08.09.2025

SUB APPL No. 1333 of 2025

To re-open the contempt petition in Cont.P.No. 4074 of 2024 which was closed on 08.09.2025

SUB APPL No. 1327 of 2025

To re-open the contempt petition in Cont.P.No. 4068 of 2024 which was closed on 08.09.2025

SUB APPL No. 1328 of 2025

To re-open the contempt petition in Cont.P.No. 4069 of 2024 which was closed on 08.09.2025

SUB APPL No. 1330 of 2025

To re-open the contempt petition in Cont.P.No. 4071 of 2024 which was closed on 08.09.2025

SUB APPL No. 1329 of 2025

To re-open the contempt petition in Cont.P.No. 4070 of 2024 which was closed on 08.09.2025

For Applicant(s): Mr .Singaravelan
Senior Counsel
for Mr.M.Muruganantham

For Respondent(s): Mr.S.Nambi Arooran
for M/s.Ajmal Associates

ORDER

When the matter was taken up for hearing today, the learned Standing Counsel appearing on behalf of the Registrar, Annamalai University submitted that the process of disbursement of pension to the eligible pensioners is underway and he sought for sometime to file an affidavit before this Court.

2.Mr.Singaravelan, learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioners submitted that a practical difficulty is faced by the Registrar of the University since the Annamalai University does not have a Vice Chancellor and a Syndicate and the University is being run by a Convenor Committee appointed by the Government headed by an IAS Officer. Therefore, there is an absolute lack of communication.

3.The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has already flagged the issue regarding 14 Tamil Nadu Universities functioning without regular Vice Chancellors. This Court questioned as to how key decisions are being taken by the Registrars incharge and convenor Committee who are administering the Institutions. A report was also sought for by the Madurai Bench while dealing with a case pertaining to Madurai Kamaraj University in WP(MD).No.23417 of 2026, by order dated 19.09.2026.

4.It is not known as to whether the Government has responded to the queries that was posed by this Court.

5.I had an opportunity to deal with yet another major issue pertaining to the Madras University where almost 500 retired persons were waiting for final settlement for years together and after a prolonged pressure exerted by this Court, the amounts were settled to them. There is yet another major issue pertaining to Anna University and contempt petitions are pending due to non-implementation of the order passed by this Court. These contempt petition pertain to Annamalai University.

6.The common thread that runs through these Universities is the functioning of Universities without Vice Chancellors and properly constituted Syndicate which presently is functioning with the assistance of temporary Registrars and Convenor Committees.

7.In the instant case, the Registrar of Annamalai University is attempting to get the particulars regarding the amounts settled for the eligible pensioners and it is getting postponed. So is the case with the other Universities since the Registrars/incharge Registrars will have to get the concurrence of the Convenor Committee headed by the IAS Officer, who is the Principal Secretary of the Higher Education Department.

8.The Convenor Committee headed by the IAS Officer, at the best can only be a temporary arrangement and it is virtually impossible for this Committee to run the Universities and administer the Colleges falling under the purview of those Universities. This status is continuing for more than 3 to 4 years and it has a direct impart on the functioning of the Educational Institutions. If the State Government does not take immediate steps to set right this anomaly, it will directly impact the higher education in Tamil Nadu which includes the students, staff, teachers and retired employees of various Colleges. This situation has to be remedied and this Court has to necessarily take Judicial notice of the prevailing situation.

9.In view of the above, the Government of Tamil Nadu represented by the Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Chennai-9, is suo motu impleaded as the 3rd respondent in these applications.

10.Mr.Suresh, learned Special Government Pleader shall take notice on behalf of the impleaded 2nd respondent. This Court requests the learned Advocate General to appear on behalf of the 3rd respondent and inform this Court the further course of action to be taken by the State Government to restore normalcy in the functioning of 14 Universities which do not have a Vice Chancellor or a Syndicate for the last three to four years.

11.Post these Sub Applications and contempt petitions for hearing on 17.11.2026 at 2.15 p.m. On that day, the Registrar of Annamalai University shall file an affidavit in compliance of the earlier order passed by this Court on 6.10.2026.

03-11-2026

KP

To

1. Dr, M. PRAKASH,
   The Registrar,
   Annamalai University,
   Annamalai Nagar,
   Chidambaram.

2. The Government of Tamil Nadu,
   represented by the Secretary to Government,
   Finance, Fort St. George,
   Chennai-9.

N.ANAND VENKATESH J.

KP

SUB APPL No. 1326 of 2025
AND
SUB APPL NO. 1334 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1332 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1331 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1333 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1327 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1328 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1330 OF 2025,SUB APPL NO. 1329 OF 2025

03-11-2026