HC-KAR

NC: 2026:KHC:61247-DB
WP No. 12499 of 2025

CNR: KAHC010286322025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 4TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE ANU SIVARAMAN

AND

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K.S.BHARATH KUMAR

WRIT PETITION NO. 12499 OF 2025 (GM-RES-PIL)

BETWEEN:

AKHILA KARNATAKA BRAHMANA MAHA SABHA
(REGD)
A SOCIETY REGISTERED UNDER
THE KARNATAKA SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT,
1960 HAVING ITS OFFICE AT NO.3070, GAYATHRI
BHAVAN 8TH MAIN ROAD, 14TH CROSS
BANASHANKRI 3RD STAGE
BENGALURU 560 070
REPRESENTED BY ITS PRESIDENT
MR.RAGHUNATH

Digitally signed by PAVITHRA N
Location: High Court of Karnataka

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI.ASHWINI N. RAVINDRA, ADV. FOR
SRI. SUMANA NAGANAND, ADV.)

AND:

1. STATE OF KARNATAKA
REP. BY ITS CHIEF SECRETARY
VIDHAN SOUDHA, AMBEDKAR VEEDHI
BENGALURU-560 001

2. STATE OF KARNATAKA
REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
M.S. BUILDING
BENGALURU - 560 001

3. KARNATAKA EXAMINATION AUTHORITY
COMMON ENTRANCE TEST CELL
18TH CROSS, MALLESHWARAM
BENGALURU-560 003
REP. BY ITS EXECUTIVE OFFICER

…RESPONDENTS

(BY SMT. PRAMODHINI KISHAN, AGA FOR R1 & R2;
SRI. N.K.RAMESH, ADV. FOR R3)

THIS WRIT PETITION IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 AND 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, PRAYING TO DIRECT FORMULATION OF SPECIFIC GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING CONDUCT OF EXAMINATIONS IN THEN STATE OF KARNATAKA GENERALLY AND SPEICIALLY WITH REGARD TO FRISKING BY THE OFFICIALS AT THE EXAMINATION CENTRES ESTABLISHED BY THE 3RD RESPONDENT.

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING, THIS DAY, JUDGMENT WAS DELIVERED THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE ANU SIVARAMAN
and
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K.S.BHARATH KUMAR

ORAL JUDGMENT

(PER: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE ANU SIVARAMAN)

This writ petition is filed seeking the following reliefs:

"*i) Direct formulation of specific guidelines and instructions regarding conduct of examinations in then State of Karnataka generally and specifically with regard to frisking by the officials at the examination centers established by the 3rd Respondent;*

ii) Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus and direct respondent No.2 to consider the representation dated 17.04.2025 (Annexure C)

iii) Declare that the action of Respondents in not permitting students wearing scared thread from appearing in Common Entrance Examination 2025 held from 17.04.2025 to 19.04.2025 is unconstitutional, arbitrary and illegal;

iv) Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus and direct Respondents to reconduct the Common Examination Test held on 17.04.2025 to 19.04.2025 for the victims of such illegal acts;

v) Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus and direct Respondents not to discriminate the students who

wear scared tread and not to interfere in professing their essential religious practice;"

2. We have heard the learned counsel appearing for the writ petitioner as well as the learned counsel appearing for the respondents.

3. It is submitted by the learned counsel appearing for the writ petitioner that there have been instances of the respondents selectively not permitting students to wear scared threads to the Common Entrance Test (CET) which is a discrimination. It is further submitted that even after the writ petition has been filed, there has been such incidents. It is submitted that it is in the said circumstances that the writ petition has been filed seeking the framing of specific guidelines and instructions with regard to the conduct of the examinations and specifically with regard to frisking by the officials at examination centres.

4. Learned counsel appearing for the writ petitioner has also placed on record a memo producing First Information Reports (FIR) registered on 18.04.2025 by the Shimoga Police.

5. A Statement of objections has been placed on record by respondent No.3 stating that the Deputy Commissioners of the Districts are the Chief Superintendent for the conduct of the entrance test in each of the Districts. The Deputy Chief Superintendents are appointed in all districts to assist the Commissioners to conduct the examination. It is submitted that the guidelines regarding 'Dress Code' to be adhered to by the students is also issued by the respondents and is produced as Annexure-R1.

6. It is further submitted that there are no instructions or guidelines instructing students to remove the 'Sacred Thread' worn by them and that were such incidents have been reported, necessary steps have

been taken. It is submitted that Karnataka State Human Rights Commission and Karnataka Child Rights Protection Commission had taken cognizance and issued notice to the respondent and had called for a status report and such status reports have been filed. It is submitted that necessary instructions are being issued to the Deputy Commissioners and to all persons involved in the conduct of the examinations to prevent such incidents in the future.

7. Having considered the contentions advanced, we are of the opinion that it is for respondent No.3 to take appropriate steps to see all arrangements for the proper conduct of the examinations are uniformly provided across the State. In view of the submission made by the learned counsel for the respondent that necessary steps and instructions will be given to avoid incidents in the future, we are of the opinion that the nothing further remains in the matter.

8. The writ petition is accordingly ***disposed of*** recording the submissions made by the learned counsel and directing that appropriate steps shall be taken for the conduct of the examinations in an orderly and uniform manner across the State and for the issuance of appropriate directions to the Commissioners and Deputy Superintendents in this regard.

Sd/-
(ANU SIVARAMAN)
JUDGE

Sd/-
(K.S.BHARATH KUMAR)
JUDGE

RAK,
List No.: 1 Sl No.: 14