

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. NITIN JAMDAR
&
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SYAM KUMAR V.M.

Tuesday, the 18th day of November 2025 / 27th Karthika, 1947
WP(PIL) NO. 126 OF 2025(S)

PETITIONER:

MEHNA IBRAHIM, AGED 29 YEARS, D/O P.R. IBRAHIM,
KALLAMPARAMBIL (H), PUZHAVATHU P.O., CHANGANASSERY,
KOTTAYAM, PIN - 686 101.

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF SECRETARY, ROOM NO.202, NORTH SANDWICH BLOCK, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
2. THE GENERAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
3. THE DIRECTOR OF GENERAL EDUCATION, DIRECTORATE OF GENERAL EDUCATION, JAGATHI P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 014.
4. THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
5. THE DIRECTOR, THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, DIRECTORATE OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, POOJAPURA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 012.
6. THE SOCIAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, REPRESENTED BY ITS SPECIAL SECRETARY, VIKAS BHAVAN, PMG 5TH FLOOR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 011.
7. THE DIRECTOR, DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, VIKAS BHAVAN, PMG 5TH FLOOR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 011.
8. STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING (SCERT), REPRESENTED BY ITS VICE CHAIRMAN, VIDHYABHAVAN, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 012.
9. THE DIRECTOR, SCERT-KERALA, STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING, VIDHYABHAVAN, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 012.
10. THE CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, VIKAS MARG, C BLOCK, PREETHI VIHAR, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 062.
11. THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, BSNL RTTC CAMPUS, KAIMANAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 040.
12. KERALA STATE COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRPERSON, TC 14/2036, SREE GANESH, VANROSS JUNCTION, NEAR BAKERY JUNCTION, KERALA UNIVERSITY P.O, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 034.

13. KERALA STATE COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (SC/ST COMMISSION), REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRPERSON, SASTHA GARDENS RESIDENCY ROAD, NEAR GOVT. GUEST HOUSE, THYCAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 014.
14. UNION OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, SHASTRI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 001.
15. THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, REPRESENTED BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, GOVT. OF INDIA, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 001.

Writ petition (Public Interest Litigation) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(PIL) the High Court be pleased to direct the Respondents to file a consolidated status report within a period of two weeks, specifically indicating: (a) the steps taken in compliance with the judgment dated 06.12.2021 in W.P.(C) No. 18027 of 2017; (b) the current status of policy formulation, inter-departmental coordination, and curriculum development for the foundational stage (ages 3–6); and (c) whether any draft curriculum, regulatory framework, or implementation plan has been prepared, and if so, to place the same on record; pending final disposal of the above Writ Petition.

This petition coming again on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(PIL), this Court's order dated 10/11/2025 and upon hearing the arguments of M/S. LEO LUKOSE, ENOCH DAVID SIMON JOEL, S.SREEDEV, RONY JOSE, KAROL MATHEWS SEBASTIAN ALENCHERRY, DERICK MATHAI SAJI, KARAN SCARIA ABRAHAM & ITTOOP JOY THATTIL, Advocates for the petitioner, SRI. THOUFEEK AHAMED, STANDING COUNSEL along with MS. M.KRISHNA PRIYA, Advocate for R12, SMT. GAYATHRI KRISHNAN, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COUNSEL for R14 & R15 and of SRI.V.TEKCHAND, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.

Nitin Jamdar, C.J. & Syam Kumar V.M., J.

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Dated this the 18th day of November, 2025

ORDER

Heard Mr. Leo Lukose, learned counsel for the Petitioner, Ms.Gayathri Krishnan, learned Central Government Counsel for Respondent Nos.14 and 15, Ms.M.Krishna Priya, learned counsel representing Mr.Thoufeek Ahamed, learned Standing Counsel for the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, and Mr.V.Tek Chand, learned Senior Government Pleader.

2. Dr.Sharmila Mary Joseph I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development Department, Dr.K.Vasuki I.A.S., Secretary, General Education Department have joined online hearing at our request.

3. It was as far back as on 06 December 2021 that the Division Bench of this Court disposed of W.P.(C) No.18027 of 2017 with the following direction:

“Inasmuch as the Government have assured to issue an order under Article 162 of the Constitution of India, within two months, with reference to the prayers sought for, placing on record the same, we dispose of the writ petition directing the Principal Secretary to the Government, Social Justice Department, Thiruvananthapuram/ respondent No.1 to complete the process of finalising the policy

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decision and issue guidelines under Article 162 of the Constitution of India, within two months from the date of receipt of a copy of this judgment. It is made clear that this writ petition is pending from the year 2017 onwards and hope that there may not be any administrative delay in issuing the guidelines.”

Till date, no guidelines as envisaged under the judgment have been issued.

4. The Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development Department, and the Secretary, General Education Department have submitted that the work of framing the draft guidelines is in progress. Considering the fact that a direction was issued as far back as in 2021, we expect the completion of the draft guidelines to fructify into final guidelines to be issued in the public domain at the earliest.

5. To report further progress, post on 2 December 2025.

Sd/-

Nitin Jamdar
Chief Justice

Sd/-

Syam Kumar V.M.
Judge

ds 18.11.2025