CNR : KLHC011020482025

2026:KER:88223

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN

TUESDAY, THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026 / 26TH KARTHIKA, 1948

WP(C) NO. 45668 OF 2025

PETITIONER/S:

1 SHEEBA.P.S
AGED 52 YEARS
W/O.ADV.V.C.VALSAN, VATTAMKULANGARA HOUSE, KURUVILASSERY POST, VALIYAPARMB DESOM, KURUVILASSERY VILLAGE, CHALAKKUDY TALUK, THRISSUR DISTRICT, PIN - 680732

2 GIRIJA.K.B
AGED 54 YEARS
W/O.N.N.GOPINATHAN, NEENDOOR HOUSE, ELINJIPRA.P.O., ELINJIPRA DESOM, ELINJIPRA VILLAGE, CHALAKKUDY TALUK, THRISSUR DISTRICT, PIN - 680721

BY ADVS.
SRI.LINDONS C.DAVIS
SMT.E.U.DHANYA
SMT.CHINJU P. JOYIES
SHRI.VINAYAK MANOHARAN P.

RESPONDENT/S:

1 UNION OF INDIA
REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT, SASTHRI BHAVAN, C WING, DR.RAJENDRA PRASAD ROAD, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110001

2 NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE,

**A BLOCK, CGO COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI
REPRESENTED BY ITS DIRECTOR, PIN - 110003**

**3 STATE OF KERALA,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
PIN - 695001**

**4 DIRECTOR OF SCHEDULED CASTE DEVELOPMENT,
NANDHAVANAM, VIKAS BHAVAN.P.O,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695033**

**5 COMMISSIONER OF ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS,
7TH FLOOR, K.S.R.T.C.BUS TERMINAL COMPLEX,
THAMPANOOR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001**

**6 K.M.M.LAW COLLEGE,
THRIKKAKARA, PIPELINE JUNCTION, ERNAKULAM,
PIN - 682021**

**BY ADV
SHRI.P.ANIRUDHAN, CGC
SRI SUJAN K A, SPL GP (SC/ST)**

THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 17.11.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:

P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN, J

W.P. (C) No.45668 of 2025

Dated this the 17th day of November, 2026

JUDGMENT

This Writ Petition (C) is filed seeking the following reliefs:

> " i) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction, directing the 4th respondent to provide fee concessions, grants and stipends eligible for the SC students as per Ext.P4 to P6 directly to the petitioners;
> ii) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction, directing the 1st and 2nd respondents to remove the upper age limit of 50 years for one time registration in National Scholarship Portal to enable the registration of the petitioners and to apply for grant in e-Grantz web portal of the Kerala government.;
> iii) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction, directing the 2nd respondent to consider and pass orders on Ext.P7 and P8, within a time frame fixed by this Hon'ble Court;
> iv) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction, directing the 4th respondent to consider and pass orders on Ext.P9 and P10, within a time frame fixed by this Hon'ble Court, after hearing the petitioners;
> v) to dispense with the production of translation of vernacular documents;
> vi) And to pass such other appropriate orders or directions as this Hon'ble Court deems fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case."
>
> [SIC]

2. The petitioners belong to the Scheduled Caste community and are students undergoing the Three-year LL.B Course at KMM Law College, Thrikkakara, Ernakulam District. They secured admission through the Entrance Examination conducted by the Commissioner for Entrance Examinations and are therefore eligible for Post Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Caste students, is the submission. Scholarships for SC students are governed by Ext.P4 Guidelines issued by the Central Government. Clause 5.4 of Ext.P4 stipulates that the ceiling on age limit for admission as a regular student shall be decided by the respective institutions. It is submitted that neither the college nor the Entrance Commissioner has fixed any upper age limit for admission to the Three-year LL.B Course. Ext.P4 Guidelines were adopted by the State Government through Exts.P5 and P6, is the further submission. Thus, the petitioners, having secured admission through the Entrance Allotment, are fully eligible for fee concession, is the submission. It is also submitted that as per the procedure under the Kerala Government Orders, SC students eligible for fee concession and grant must apply through the e-Grantz web portal, for which completion of a one-time registration in the National Scholarship Portal is mandatory. However, while attempting registration, the

petitioners were unable to proceed since the portal restricts age entry to the range of 5 to 50 years. The petitioners submitted grievances through the Help Desk as Exts.P7 and P8, but the same were not considered, is the submission. According to the petitioners Exts.P3 to P6 contain no condition regarding any age ceiling. Therefore, introducing an age limit of 5 to 50 years for one-time registration in the National Scholarship Portal is without authority of law. The petitioners were already admitted to the three-year LL.B Course as per Exts.P3 to P6, and thereafter the respondents cannot deny the benefits available to eligible Scheduled Caste students, is the submission. Hence, this writ petition is filed to permit them to complete one-time registration in the National Scholarship Portal so as to enable them to apply for fee concession, grant and stipend through the e-Grantz portal.

3. Heard counsel for the petitioners, the Central Government Counsel appearing for respondents 1 and 2 and the Special Government Pleader for SC/ST.

4. Today, when the matter came up for consideration, the Central Government Counsel who appeared for the 1st and 2nd respondents submitted that he received instructions from the 2nd respondent to the effect that the upper age limit for one-time

registration is extended to 70 years. If that is the case, petitioners can be allowed to do the one-time registration, and the 2nd respondent should allow them to do the same by opening the portal. The Special Government Pleader submitted that there is no age limit for disbursing the fee concession for regular courses.

Therefore, this Writ Petition is disposed of with the following directions:

1. The 2nd respondent is directed to open the National Scholarship Portal to facilitate the petitioners to apply for one-time registration for getting the fee concession, within two weeks from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this judgment.

2. The 4th respondent will also do the needful to ensure that the petitioners are getting the fee concession for the academic year 2025 - 26 and 2026-27.

Sd/-
P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN, JUDGE

SSG

Judgment reserved	NA
Date of judgment	17.11.2026
Judgment dictated	17.11.2026
Draft Judgment Placed	18.11.2026
Final Judgment Uploaded	19.11.2026

APPENDIX OF WP(C) NO. 45668 OF 2025

PETITIONER EXHIBITS

Exhibit P1	**A COPY OF THE ALLOTMENT MEMO DATED 11.08.2025 OF THE 1ST PETITIONER ISSUED BY THE 5TH RESPONDENT**
Exhibit P2	**A COPY OF THE ALLOTMENT MEMO DATED 11.08.2025 OF THE 2ND PETITIONER ISSUED BY THE 5TH RESPONDENT**
Exhibit P3	**A COPY OF THE RELEVANT PAGES OF THE PROSPECTUS FOR 3-YEAR LL.B COURSE**
Exhibit P4	**A COPY OF THE GUIDELINES FOR POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE STUDENTS BELONGING TO SCHEDULED CASTES FOR STUDIES IN INDIA**
Exhibit P5	**TRUE COPY OF G.O.(P) NO.1/2023/SCSTD DATED 05.01.2023**
Exhibit P6	**TRUE COPY OF G.O.(P) NO.2/2023/SCSTD DATED 05.01.2023**
Exhibit P7	**A COPY OF THE GRIEVANCE SUBMITTED BY THE 1ST PETITIONER DATED 14.11.2025**
Exhibit P8	**A COPY OF THE GRIEVANCE SUBMITTED BY THE 2ND PETITIONER DATED 14.11.2025**
Exhibit P9	**A COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION SUBMITTED BY THE 1ST PETITIONER DATED 26.11.2025**
Exhibit P10	**A COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION SUBMITTED BY THE 2ND PETITIONER DATED 26.11.2025**
Exhibit P11	**A COPY OF THE APPLICATION DATED 30.10.2025 SUBMITTED BY SRI. NIRANJAN VALSAN**
Exhibit P12	**A COPY OF THE REPLY WAS ISSUED BY THE 4TH RESPONDENT AS PER LETTER NO. SCDD/6498/2025-B2 (EDN B) DATED 20.11.2025**