

**HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT
HYDERABAD**

**MAIN CASE: WRIT PETITION Nos.4835, 4855, 4871, 4900, 4905,
4910, 4912, 4915, 4935, 5021, 5023, 5580, 7095, 10047, 10330,
10332, 10334, 10335, 10336, 10345, 10375, 10444, 10448, 10455,
10472, 10476, 10479, 10484, 10489, 10494, 10504, 10530, 10561,
10574, 10584, 10606, 10621, 10623, 10624, 10628, 10630, 10638,
10659, 10662, 10664, 10674, 10739, 10860, 10905, 10933, 10935,
10937, 10960, 11029, 11046, 11065, 11261, 11269, 11477, 11505,
11513, 11609, 11617, 11690, 11699, 11873, 11935, 12513, 12517,
12518, 12643, 12648, 12672, 12682, 12686, 12694, 12767, 12771,
12799, 12822, 12844, 13148, 13802, 14439, 14476, 14506, 14512,
15458, 15954, 16110, 16514, 16517, 17340, 17341, 17342, 17357,
17388 and 17418 of 2026, W.P.Nos.12945, 19912, 19934, 19937,
20346, 20371, 20372, 21589, 21595 and 22343 of 2025,
W.P.No.23615 of 2019 and W.P.No.35204 of 2024**

PROCEEDING SHEET

SI. No.	DATE	ORDER	OFFICE NOTE
	25.08.2026	<u>JS,J</u> Heard Sri S.Sri Ram, Sri Avinash Desai, learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the learned counsel for the petitioners and Sri Tarun G. Reddy, learned counsel for the petitioners; and Sri P. Sri Raghuram, learned Senior Counsel, representing the Scheduled Castes Development Department, on behalf of Sri S.Rahul Reddy, learned Special Government Pleader, representing the Office of the learned Additional Advocate General. When these matters have been taken up for hearing, Sri P. Sri Raghuram, learned Senior Counsel, representing Sri S. Rahul Reddy,	Tr. to I/O. folder before corrections, if any.

		learned Special Government Pleader, representing the Office of the learned Additional Advocate General, submitted that the present affidavit has been filed by the Secretary to Government, Scheduled Castes Development Department, explaining the steps taken by the respondent authorities towards compliance with the directions issued by this Court on 09.07.2026 in W.P.No.4835 of 2025 and batch cases. Learned Senior Counsel submitted that, pursuant to the directions of this Court, the e-PASS portal was kept open and remained fully functional throughout the relevant period, enabling the petitioners-institutions and students to update the particulars of fresh admissions, existing students and renewal applicants and facilitating verification and processing of the applications. It is submitted that the respondent authorities have been diligently undertaking the verification, sanction and payment process in respect of the applications received from the colleges. The payments are being made through the prescribed Direct Benefit Transfer mechanism, including Aadhaar-based payments through the NPCI gateway.	
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		Learned Senior Counsel further submitted that, as on the date of filing of the affidavit, 1,45,621 applications have been received from the colleges, out of which 52,419 applications have already been processed and payments amounting to approximately Rs.163.67 Crores have been disbursed to eligible students. Learned Senior Counsel further submitted that the department-wise position placed before this Court demonstrates the progress made by the respondent authorities. In particular, 33,877 applications under BC Welfare, 2,873 applications under EBC, 3,880 applications under Minority Welfare, 9,788 applications under SC Development and 2,001 applications under ST Welfare have already been paid, apart from the applications processed under the other departments. It is further submitted that the applications which remain pending are not being kept pending deliberately or on account of any inaction on the part of the respondent authorities. The balance applications are under various stages of mandatory verification, sanction, bill processing, Treasury processing and Aadhaar-based payment.	
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		Learned Senior Counsel further submitted that, in the case of renewal students, the authorities are required to verify the complete student particulars, including course details, photograph and previous marks memo, followed by sanction of the scholarship, digital authentication/signature, Treasury processing and transfer of the sanctioned amount through the NPCI gateway into the eligible student's bank account. In respect of fresh students, learned Senior Counsel submitted that verification of caste, income, residence and educational certificates, along with verification of bank and Aadhaar particulars and eligibility, is required to be completed before sanction, preparation and processing of bills and eventual payment through the Treasury and NPCI gateway. Learned Senior Counsel further submitted that, particularly in the present academic year, Aadhaar-based payments have been introduced for students covered under the ST, BC, Minority, EBC and Disabled Welfare Departments. Consequently, necessary modifications and integrations had to be carried out in the e-PASS software for implementation of the revised procedure contemplated under G.O.Ms.No.9.	
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		It is further submitted that e-PASS has also been integrated with the IFMIS portal from the current academic year. The integration required certain technical and procedural changes to facilitate processing of sanctions, bills and payments through the Treasury system. The initial implementation of these changes consumed some time. Learned Senior Counsel further submitted that the aforesaid circumstances are placed before this Court only to explain the time taken in processing the pending applications and not by way of seeking to avoid or dilute compliance with the directions of this Court. The respondent authorities have, in fact, taken steps to streamline the revised mechanism and expedite the processing of the balance applications. Learned Senior Counsel further submitted that the Department is continuously monitoring the status of the applications, sanctions and payments and is taking all necessary measures to ensure that the admissible amounts are released to all eligible students at the earliest. It is further submitted that a college-wise statement indicating the number of students and the amounts paid has also been placed before this Court, thereby demonstrating the progress achieved by the respondent authorities pursuant	
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		to the directions issued on 09.07.2026. Learned Senior Counsel further submitted that there is no deliberate or willful disobedience of the directions of this Court. On the contrary, substantial compliance has already been achieved and the respondent authorities are actively pursuing the remaining applications for completion of the verification and payment process. With the above submissions, learned Senior Counsel prayed that the respondent authorities may be granted a short extension of seven days to complete the processing and make payments in respect of the pending eligible applications, as sought for in the affidavit. Learned Senior Counsel assures this Court that the respondent authorities shall make every endeavour to complete the pending verification and payment process within the extended period and shall ensure that the admissible amounts are disbursed to all eligible students expeditiously. Learned Senior Counsel further submitted that, having regard to the substantial progress already made, the technical and procedural changes involved in implementing the revised	
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		Aadhaar-based payment mechanism and the integration of e-PASS with IFMIS, therefore, he prayed to grant seven days' time to the respondent authorities to complete the payments in respect of the pending eligible applications, in the interests of justice. On the other hand, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioners opposed the request for extension of time, contending that the affidavit filed by the respondent-authorities does not disclose the correct figures relating to the applications received and registrations made. It was submitted that the actual number of applications received and registrations made is substantially higher than the figures reflected in the affidavit. It was further contended that granting extension of time at this stage may result in the respondent-authorities seeking further extensions in future, thereby delaying compliance with the directions already issued by this Court. Learned Senior Counsel also submitted that several technical issues continue to persist in the e-PASS web portal, contrary to the stand taken by the respondent-authorities that the portal has remained fully functional. At this stage, Sri P. Sri Raghuram, learned Senior Counsel, submitted that the respondent-	
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	authorities would file a detailed affidavit by the next date of hearing, specifically setting out the technical issues, if any, encountered in the e-PASS portal and the status of the registration and processing of the applications. In response thereto, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioners submitted that, in respect of the applications already received by the respondent-authorities, extension of time may be granted up to 03.09.2026. Insofar as the applications and registrations which have not been reflected in the affidavit filed by the respondent-authorities are concerned, he sought a further period of one week for completing the payment process. He further sought a direction to the respondent-authorities to file a better and comprehensive affidavit by the next date of hearing, clearly setting out the number of applications received, the number of applications registered, the number of applications processed and the amounts paid thereunder. Having heard the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the respective parties and having perused the affidavit filed on behalf of the respondent-authorities, this Court is of the view that, having regard to the substantial progress already made by the respondent-authorities in	
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		processing the applications and disbursing the admissible amounts, some further time may be granted to complete the process. It is not in dispute that, pursuant to the directions issued by this Court on 09.07.2026, the respondent-authorities have undertaken the process of verification, sanction and disbursement of the admissible amounts to the eligible students. The respondent-authorities have stated that, out of 1,45,621 applications stated to have been received from the colleges, 52,419 applications have already been processed and an amount of approximately Rs.163.67 Crores has been disbursed. The respondent-authorities have also attributed the time taken in processing the remaining applications, inter alia, to the verification and sanction process, Aadhaar-based payments, integration of the e-PASS portal with the IFMIS portal and the consequential technical and procedural changes. At the same time, the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioners has raised a specific grievance that the figures furnished in the affidavit do not reflect the actual number of applications received and registrations made and that the number of applications and registrations is substantially higher. It has also	
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	been contended that certain technical issues continue to persist in the e-PASS portal. Considering the aforesaid facts and circumstances, this Court is of the considered view that, while reasonable time deserves to be granted to the respondent-authorities to complete the payment process in respect of the applications already received and reflected in the affidavit, the grievance of the petitioners with regard to the applications and registrations which are not reflected in the affidavit also requires to be duly addressed. In that view of the matter and having regard to the aforesaid observations, the respondent-authorities are granted time till 03.09.2026 to complete the verification and payment process in respect of the applications already received and reflected in the affidavit filed before this Court. Insofar as the applications and registrations which have been received and yet to be received by the respondent-authorities but are not reflected in the affidavit are concerned, the respondent-authorities are granted a further period of one (1) week thereafter i.e. on or before 11.09.2026 to complete the necessary verification and processing and to make payment of the admissible amounts to all eligible students. The	
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		respondent-authorities shall, in the meantime, file a better and comprehensive affidavit before the next date of hearing, setting out, in a clear and consolidated manner as to how many number of applications received, the number of applications registered, the number of applications processed and the amounts paid thereunder. The respondent-authorities shall also ensure that the e-PASS portal remains functional and accessible to the petitioners-institutions and eligible students for updating, registration, verification and processing of the applications, without interruption. The respondent-authorities shall make every endeavour to complete the aforesaid process within the time granted by this Court and shall not seek further extension of time. List the matters on 15.09.2026. JS,J Note: Issue CC Today. B/o. KHRM/REV	
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