

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

**WRIT PETITION Nos.4835, 4855, 4871, 4900, 4905, 4910, 4912,
4915, 4935, 5021, 5023, 5580, 10674, 7095, 10047, 10330, 10332,
10335, 10336, 10345, 10334, 10375, 10444, 10448, 10455, 10472,
10476, 10479, 10484, 10489, 10494, 10504, 10530, 10574, 10584,
10606, 10623, 10628, 10638, 10621, 10860, 10905, 10933, 10935,
10937, 10960, 11029, 11046, 11065, 11261, 11269, 11477, 11609,
11617, 12686, 13802, 14439, 14506, 14512, 10624, 10659, 10662,
10664, 10739, 10630, 11690, 14476, 11505, 11513, 10561, 12672,
15458, 15954, 16110, 16514, 16517, 17340, 17341, 17342, 17357,
17388, 17418, 12513, 12517, 12518, 12682, 12694, 12767, 12844,
13148, 12799 of 2026, 19912, 12945, 19934, 19937, 20346, 20371,
20372, 21589, 21595, 22343 of 2025 and 35204 of 2024, 23615 of
2019**

PROCEEDING SHEET

Sl. No.	DATE	ORDER	OFFICE NOTE
	09.07.2026	<u>JS,J</u> Heard Sri S.Sri Ram, Sri L. Ravichander, 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. 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 G.O.Ms.No.9, dated 06.06.2026, was issued prescribing consolidated guidelines for the effective implementation of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode for disbursement of scholarship and tuition fee amounts. It is submitted that the G.O. envisages a structured digital process through the e-PASS portal, requiring eligible students to register, upload requisite particulars, undergo Aadhaar and biometric authentication, followed by verification by the institutions, Nodal Officers, and District Welfare Officers before sanction of tuition fee. It is contended that Paragraph 10 of the G.O. prescribes only the implementation mechanism and timelines, and that Paragraph 10.2, when read harmoniously with the entire scheme, does not violate the earlier orders of this Court but, on the contrary, has been framed in compliance with the order dated 02.04.2026. It is further submitted that, to ensure timely disbursement of scholarship amounts and prompt payment of tuition fees to educational institutions, the State has already released ₹250 crores and deposited the same in a separate account exclusively for implementation of the scheme for the Academic Year 2026-27.	
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		Learned Senior Counsel further submitted that, although this Court, by interim order dated 25.06.2026 in W.P.No.4835 of 2026 and batch, directed the respondents not to give effect to Paragraph Nos.5.2(e), 10.2, 10.4 and 12.1(a) of G.O.Ms.No.9, the continuance of the said interim order permitting educational institutions to collect tuition fee directly from eligible SC/ST/BC/EBC/Minority and Differently-Abled students defeats the very object of the DBT scheme, which is intended to ensure that students belonging to economically weaker sections are able to pursue higher education on par with other students. It is, therefore, contended that the interim orders causes serious prejudice to such students and frustrates the constitutional objective of promoting educational opportunities, and consequently, a request is made to modify the interim orders insofar as it relates to G.O.Ms.No.9. On the other hand, Sri S.Sri Ram, Sri L. Ravichander, 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 submitted that the writ petition deserves to be allowed as the State has failed to specifically traverse the pleadings in the writ petition. It was contended that G.O. Ms. Nos. 7, 8 and 9 were	
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		issued in a coordinated manner to circumvent this Court's orders dated 02.04.2026, 30.04.2026 and 04.05.2026, and that G.O. Ms. No. 9 merely reiterates the earlier fee payment protocol under the guise of a new policy. The petitioners submitted that the averments in the counter affidavit and vacate stay petition do not rebut these contentions. They further argued that the transfer of Rs.250 crore to departmental bank accounts does not justify the State's repeated attempts to override this Court's orders, particularly when no estimate has been provided of the total funds required for payment of fees to over one lakh students or the extent to which the Rs.250 crore meets that liability. It was also pointed out that the State has not indicated any timeline for clearing accumulated fee arrears exceeding ₹10,000 crore payable to the colleges. Accordingly, it was prayed that the interim orders of this Court should not be modified. In reply, Sri P. Sri Raghuram, learned Senior Counsel, submitted that the Government has already deposited Rs.250 crore towards implementation of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) policy. It was submitted that the amount has been exclusively earmarked for disbursement of scholarships to eligible students and consequential payment of tuition fees to	
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		educational institutions, reflecting the State's bona fide commitment to timely implementation of the scheme. It was further submitted that G.O.Ms.No.09 dated 06.06.2026 prescribes a structured implementation mechanism with definite timelines and, in terms of Paragraph 10.5 of the Consolidated Implementation Guidelines, scholarship amounts in respect of applications received under each application window shall be released on or before the prescribed dates. It was contended that the mechanism ensures timely receipt of scholarship amounts by eligible students, enabling payment of tuition fees to educational institutions without undue delay, while safeguarding the interests of both students and institutions. It was further submitted that the DBT policy promotes transparency, accountability and timely disbursement of scholarships to students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Economically Backward Classes, Minorities and other eligible categories. Further, the learned Senior Counsel, on the instructions of the learned Special Government Pleader, submitted that the respondents-authorities will be increasing the amounts from Rs.250 crore to the required extent for meeting the payments for the scheme	
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		of the Government and that the respondent-authorities would make payments as specified under the schedule of 10.5 of the G.O.Ms.09. He submitted that on the petitioners-institutions updating the particulars of all fresh admissions as well as the details of the existing students/renewal applicants studying in the second, third and fourth years of Engineering course and in respect of all the courses covered under G.O.Ms.No.9 in e-PASS portal on or before 15.07.2026, the respondents on verification of the data, will deposit the fee amounts pertaining to the existing students/renewal applicants in respect of all courses, into their respective bank accounts on or before 29.07.2026, so as to enable the students to remit the said amounts to their respective institutions and with regard to the fresh admissions in respect of all the courses covered under G.O.Ms.No.9, the respondents-authorities will deposit the fee amounts into the bank accounts of the eligible students on or before 15.08.2026, thereby enabling the students to pay the said amounts to their respective institutions. At this stage, the learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioners submitted that the petitioners are agreeable to a partial modification of the orders passed by this Court,	
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		subject to the condition that, in the event of the Government failing to pay the fee amounts within the stipulated time, the petitioners-institutions shall be at liberty to collect the fees directly from the students concerned. Considering the submissions made by Sri P.Sri Raghuram, learned Senior Counsel, appearing for the Scheduled Castes Development Department, on the instructions of Sri S.Rahul Reddy, learned Special Government Pleader, representing the Office of the learned Additional Advocate General, that the Government shall deposit the fee amounts directly into the bank accounts of the eligible students in terms of G.O.Ms.No.9, in view of the consensus arrived at between the learned Senior Counsel appearing on both sides, as the academic year is on its verge of commencement and keeping in view the interests of both the students and the petitioners-institutions, this Court deems it appropriate, as an interim measure and in partial modification of the earlier interim orders passed by this Court, to permit implementation of G.O.Ms.No.9, subject to the outcome of these Writ Petitions with the following directions: (i) The petitioners-institutions shall update the particulars of all fresh admissions as well as	
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		the details of existing students/renewal applicants studying in the second, third and fourth years of Engineering course and in respect of all courses covered under G.O.Ms.No.9 in the relevant e-PASS portal on or before 15.07.2026. (ii) Upon such updation and verification of the data, the respondent-authorities shall deposit the fee amounts in respect of all courses covered under G.O.Ms.No.9 pertaining to the existing students/renewal applicants into their respective bank accounts on or before 29.07.2026, thereby enabling the students to remit the said amounts to their respective institutions on or before 31.07.2026. (iii) Insofar as the fresh admissions are concerned, in respect of all courses covered under G.O.Ms.No.9, the respondent-authorities shall deposit the fee amounts into the bank accounts of the eligible students on or before 15.08.2026, thereby enabling the students to pay the same to their respective institutions. (iv) The respondent-authorities shall ensure that the e-PASS portal remains active and fully functional at all times for the purpose of facilitating updation, verification, processing and disbursement of the fee amounts, without	
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		causing any hindrance or interruption to the petitioners-institutions or the students. (v) It is made clear that, in the event of the respondents-authorities failing to deposit the fee amounts within the time stipulated hereinabove, the petitioners-institutions shall be at liberty to collect the requisite fee amounts directly from the students concerned. List all the matters on 25.08.2026. KHRM/REV <u>JS,J</u>	
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