



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 06-04-2026

CORAM

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THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE MOHAMMED SHAFFIQ

WP No. 12246 of 2026

and WMP Nos.13371, 13373 and 13375 and 13376 of 2026

Dr. N. B. Rajeswari,
D/o. R. Bojan,
residing at 6/234,
Nunthala Village and Post,
The Nilgiris 643003.

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Chairman
Teachers Recruitment Board,
3rd and 4th Floors,
Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR Centenary
Building,
Perasiriyar Anbalagan Kalvi Valaagam,
College Road, Chennai 600 006
2. The Commissioner,
Directorate of Collegiate Education,
577, Anna Salai, Saidapet,
Chennai- 600 015.
3. The Principal Secretary,
Department of Higher Education
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600009
.
4. Dr. S. Sandilyan,
Plot No. 15, Abdul Kalam Street,
PS. Ponninagar, Srinivasapuram,
Mayiladuthurai,
Nagapattinam District 609001

..Respondent(s)



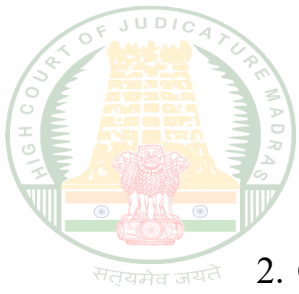
Prayer: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, pleased to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, calling for the records relating to the Ineligible List dated 12.03.2026 issued by the 1st Respondent pursuant to Notification No. 04/2025 dated 16.10.2025 for appointment to the post of Assistant Professor in the subject of Wildlife Biology and quash the same insofar as the Petitioner is concerned and consequently direct the Respondents to treat the Petitioner's Ph.D. obtained in Part-Time mode as a Ph.D. obtained through Regular Mode, in accordance with the clarification issued by the University Grants Commission vide Notification dated 17.03.2017, and consequently consider the Petitioner for appointment to the post of Assistant Professor in the subject of Wildlife Biology under the Backward Class (Women) category, within a time frame to be fixed by this Court.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.M.S.Krishnan, Senior Counsel for
for M/s.Deekshitha Dinesh

For Respondent(s): Mr.C.Kathiravan, Standing Counsel for R1
Mr.V.Jeevagiridharan,
Additional Government Pleader for R2&3

ORDER

The Writ Petition is filed for a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus challenging the ineligible list dated 12.03.2026, issued by the first respondent pursuant to Notification No.04 of 2025 dated 16.10.2025.

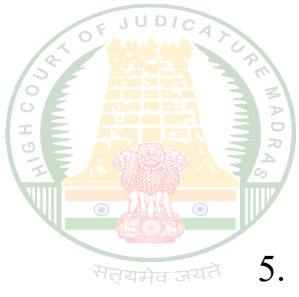


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2. Challenge is primarily on the premise that petitioner's application for Assistant Professor was rejected inasmuch as Government Notification/Order for recruitment prescribes a regular Ph.D., Degree to be an eligible qualification while petitioner has only obtained Ph. D., Degree Part-time.

3. The learned Senior Counsel would submit that the UGC vide Public Notice dated 10.03.2017, clarified that Ph.D. degrees pursued either full-time or part-time will be treated as degrees awarded through regular mode, provided these are in conformity with the existing statutes, bye-laws etc. of the degree awarding University. However, the Ph.D. acquired through distance mode is not permitted.

4. Thus, while there are three modes of obtaining a Ph.D., one is full time, part time and the other is distance mode. While the distance mode is not recognized as a regular mode the other two modes viz. full time and part time is treated to be a regular mode of obtaining the Ph.D. degree. Thus the rejection of the petitioner's candidature is contrary to Public Notice of UGC referred supra. It was also submitted that the recruitment notification will have to be understood consistent with the Public Notices issued by the UGC. These are issues that may require further deliberation.



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5. Learned Standing Counsel for respondents seeks time to take instructions.

6. The learned Senior Counsel would also point out that one post is reserved for a BC Woman, and one Sandilyan has been provisionally selected for the said post. To avoid uncertainty, this Court is inclined to direct the respondents to maintain *status quo* as on today till the next date of hearing.

7. Notice to the fourth respondent returnable by 21.04.2026. Private notice is also permitted.

8. Post on 21.04.2026.

jv

06-04-2026



To

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MOHAMMED SHAFFIQ, J.

jv

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