

Sr. No. 134

Supp. List-I

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
AT JAMMU

CM No. 1724/2026 in
WP(C) No. 2879/2025

Rattan Lal Sharma and others Petitioner/Appellant(s)

Through:- Mr. Ankur Sharma, Advocate with
Ms. Himani Khajuria, Advocate.

V/s

UT of J&K and othersRespondent(s)

Through:- Ms. Saliqa Sheikh, Assisting Counsel
to Mr. Sumeet Bhatia, G.A.

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE WASIM SADIQ NARGAL, JUDGE

ORDER

02.04.2026

1. Record reveals that this Court, vide order dated 15.10.2025, issued short notice in the instant petition to the respondents, directing them to file response within a period of two weeks positively. Passing of interim directions was deferred for the time being. However, keeping in view the interest of the students involved in the instant petition, it was made clear that in case the response was not filed, interim relief shall be considered on the next date of hearing.

2. Thereafter, the matter was listed on various occasions, wherein learned counsel appearing for the respondents sought further time to file response. This Court, vide order dated 06.02.2026, granted one week's further time to file response and also directed the respondents to place on record a consideration order in conformity with the directions issued by this Court vide order dated 15.10.2025.

3. The record further reveals that the matter was thereafter listed on 01.04.2026, on which date the petitioners preferred an application, which came to be registered as CM No. 1723/2026, seeking impleadment of Cluster Head, Government Higher Secondary School, Chack Khana as party respondent in the instant petition, on the ground that the issue relating to countersigning of the result for the session 2025–26 is not within the exclusive domain of the respondents already impleaded in the petition.

4. It was further submitted that in terms of Circular dated 06.03.2026, powers have been delegated to the Cluster Heads for countersigning of results of private schools and, further, Circular dated 14.03.2026 notified the documents required for countersigning of results of private schools by the Cluster Heads.

5. The said application was allowed and the Cluster Head, Government Higher Secondary School, Chack Khana, was arrayed as party respondent.

6. Mr. Suneel Malhotra, learned GA, caused appearance on behalf of the newly added respondent and sought one week's time to file response.

7. Today, Mr. Ankur Sharma, learned counsel for the petitioners has filed yet another application, which has been registered as CM No. 1724/2026, seeking a direction to the newly added respondent i.e., Cluster Head, Government Higher Secondary School, Chack Khana, to countersign the result for the session 2025–26 in terms of Circular dated 06.03.2026 read with Circulars dated 14.03.2026 and 16.03.2026.

8. Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that in light of the endorsement made by the Chief Education Officer, Kathua dated 16.03.2026, all the Principals/Heads of Private Schools of District Kathua

have been directed to comply with the circulars in question and the process of countersigning of results was to be undertaken within the stipulated period i.e. from 20.03.2026 to 05.04.2026.

9. It is further submitted that since 05.04.2026 is the last date for countersigning of the results, the petitioners have moved the instant application seeking direction to the concerned Cluster Head to countersign the results, failing which grave prejudice would be caused to the students studying in the school run by the petitioners.

10. In view of the submissions made and keeping in view the interest of the students, as also the endorsement made by the Chief Education Officer, Kathua dated 16.03.2026, this Court deems it appropriate to direct the concerned Cluster Head, Government Higher Secondary School, Chack Khana, to countersign the results of the petitioners' School for the session 2025–26 strictly in conformity with the Circular dated 06.03.2026 read with Circular dated 14.03.2026 followed by Circular dated 16.03.2026 issued by the Chief Education Officer, Kathua.

11. The aforesaid direction is issued keeping in view the interest of the students and also in light of the fact that the last date for countersigning of results is expiring on 05.04.2026 and, in case the results are not countersigned, grave prejudice shall be caused to the students undergoing education in the petitioners' School.

12. However, it is made clear that direction to the extent of countersigning of the results for the session 2025–26 has been passed purely in the interest of the students which however is provisional and subject to final outcome of the present petition.

13. It is further clarified that countersigning of the results shall not confer any equity in favour of the petitioners and shall have no bearing on the merits of the main petition.

14. CM No. 1724/2026 is, accordingly, **disposed of**.

15. List the main matter on 08.04.2026.

(Wasim Sadiq Nargal)
Judge

Jammu:

02.04.2026

Michal Sharma/PS