



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 27TH DAY OF MARCH, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN SHANKAR MAGADUM

WRIT PETITION NO. 30610 OF 2025 (GM-KSR)

BETWEEN:

1. CHIKMAGALORE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
HEAD MASTERS AND COMPOSITE
PRE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION
AGED ABOUT 54 YEARS
S/O LATE GOVINDA NAIK
R/AT VIDYABHAVANA
BEEKANAHALLI ROAD (K M CROSS ROAD)
JYOTHINAGAR POST
CHIKMAGALURU -5777102
REP. BY ITS PRESIDENT
CHANDRA NAIK T G
REGISTERED UNDER THE SOCIETIES
REGISTRATION ACT 1956.
2. SURENDRA .N.S
SECRETARY
CHIKMAGALORE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
HEAD MASTERS AND COMPOSITE
PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION
AGED ABOUT 58 YEARS
S/O LATE SIDDAPPA GOWDA
R/AT VIDYABHAVANA
BEEKANAHALLI ROAD (K.M CROSS ROAD)
JYOTHINAGAR POST
CHIKMAGALURU-577102.

...PETITIONERS

(BY SRI. SACHIN .B.S, ADVOCATE)



AND:

1. UNDER SECRETARY TO
THE GOVERNMENT- 3
CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT
M.S.BUILDING, BANGALORE-560 001.
2. THE REGISTRAR OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES
KARNATAKA STATE
BANGALORE-560 001.
3. THE DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES
CHIKMAGALORE DISTRICT
OPP FIRE STATION, K.M.ROAD
CHIKMAGALORE-577 102.
4. DEPUTY DIRECTOR
(ADMINISTRATIVE-SCHOOL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT)
CHIKMAGALORE DISTRICT
CHIKMAGALORE -577 102.

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI. K.P. YOGANNA, AGA)

THIS WP IS FILED UNDER ARTICLE 226 OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, PRAYING TO QUASH THE IMPUGNED
ORDER DATED 15/09/2025 PASSED BY THE 1ST RESPONDENT
AS PER ANNEXURE-A AND ETC.

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY
HEARING, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN SHANKAR MAGADUM



ORAL ORDER

The captioned writ petition is filed calling in question the legality and correctness of the order dated 15.09.2025 passed by respondent No.1, whereby an Administrator has been appointed to the petitioner–Association for the purpose of conducting elections. The petitioners have also assailed the consequential order dated 14.07.2025 passed by respondent No.4, whereby the request of the petitioner–Association seeking grant of On Official Duty (OOD) facility to the Headmaster of the School to enable his participation in the Annual General Body Meeting proposed to be held on 28.07.2025 has been rejected.

2. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioners, at the outset, made an earnest attempt to assail the very appointment of the Administrator by contending that the same is arbitrary and not in consonance with the statutory scheme. However, during the course of submissions, the learned counsel fairly confined his prayer and sought



indulgence of this Court to permit the erstwhile managing committee to convene the Annual General Body Meeting and proceed with the conduct of elections.

3. This Court, upon a specific query as to the present status of administration, was apprised by the learned counsel for the petitioners that the Administrator so appointed has already assumed charge and is presently engaged in management of the affairs of the Association. In the light of this admitted position, it becomes necessary to examine the statutory framework governing such appointment.

4. The appointment of an Administrator is traceable to Section 27-A(1)(c) of the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960 (for short, 'the Act'), which empowers the competent authority to appoint an Administrator in contingencies contemplated therein, particularly where the functioning of the governing body is found to be either impracticable or contrary to the



interests of the Society. Once such appointment is made and the Administrator assumes charge, the statute engrafts a complete code as to the discharge of functions by the Administrator.

5. Sub-section (4) of Section 27-A of the Act casts a mandatory obligation on the Administrator to take all necessary steps to restore democratic governance of the Society. The said provision unequivocally mandates that, before the expiry of the term of appointment, the Administrator shall convene a General Body Meeting and ensure that elections are conducted for the constitution of a duly elected governing body. The legislative intent underlying Section 27-A is thus clear and unambiguous, namely, that the Administrator functions only as an interim statutory custodian, whose primary duty is to facilitate the transition from an appointed management to an elected body in accordance with the bye-laws of the Society.



6. In the teeth of such statutory scheme, the prayer sought by the petitioners to permit the erstwhile committee to convene the General Body Meeting and conduct elections cannot be countenanced. Once the Administrator has stepped in and taken over charge in exercise of powers under Section 27-A, the authority of the previous governing body stands eclipsed, and it is only the Administrator who is vested with the statutory competence to manage the affairs of the Society, including the conduct of elections. Any direction permitting the previous committee to undertake such exercise would run contrary to the express mandate of Section 27-A and would defeat the very purpose of appointment of an Administrator.

7. It is also brought to the notice of this Court that the Administrator has sought extension of his tenure, which appears to have been granted. In view of the same, it is incumbent upon the Administrator to strictly adhere to the statutory duties cast under Section 27-A(4) of the Act



and ensure that the process of convening the General Body Meeting and conducting elections is completed within the extended period of his appointment.

8. Accordingly, while declining to interfere with the impugned orders, this Court deems it appropriate to issue the following directions:

(i) The respondent No.4/Administrator shall, in exercise of powers under Section 27-A of the Act, take immediate steps to secure all relevant records of the Association, including the updated voters' list/membership register;

(ii) The Administrator shall issue appropriate notice convening the General Body Meeting strictly in accordance with the bye-laws of the Association;

(iii) The Administrator shall ensure that free and fair elections are conducted for constitution of the governing body;



(iv) The entire exercise shall be completed within the tenure of the Administrator, as extended, and without seeking any further prolongation except for unavoidable and justifiable reasons.

9. With the aforesaid observations and directions, the writ petition stands ***disposed of***.

SD/-
(SACHIN SHANKAR MAGADUM)
JUDGE

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List No.: 1 Sl No.: 45