



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 23RD DAY OF MARCH, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN SHANKAR MAGADUM

WRIT PETITION NO. 31665 OF 2025 (GM-RES)

BETWEEN:

M/S. ACADEMY NEWSPAPERS PVT LTD.,
A COMPANY INCORPORATED UNDER
THE COMPANIES ACT, 1956
HAVING OFFICE AT:
15-C, INDUSTRIAL 'A' LAYOUT
BANNIMANTAP, MYSURU - 570 015,

REP. BY ITS AUTHORISED SIGNATORY
M. GOVINDE GOWDA
AGED ABOUT 58 YEARS
S/O MOODALAGIRI GOWDA,
NO.647, 3RD CROSS
VIJAYA NAGAR POST,
MANCHEGOWDANA KOPPALU,
MYSURU - 570 017.

...PETITIONER

Digitally signed
by
SHARADAVANI
B
Location: High
Court of
Karnataka

(BY SRI. AKSHAY RAMACHANDRA HUDDAR, ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. STATE OF KARNATAKA
REP. BY THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT JOF INFORMATION
AND PUBLIC RELATIONS



VIKASA SOUDHA,
BENGALURU - 560 001.

2. THE COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
NO. 17, "VARTHASOUDHA" INFANTRY ROAD
BENGALURU - 560 001.
3. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
AND PUBLIC RELATIONS,
VARTHABHAVAN, DHANVANTHARI ROAD
MYSURU - 570 001.

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI. NAVYA SHEKHAR, AGA)

THIS WP IS FILED UNDER ARTICLE 226 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA PRAYING TO A. ISSUE A WRIT OF MANDAMUS OR ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE WRIT, ORDER, OR DIRECTION DIRECTING THE RESPONDENT NO.2 TO CONSIDER AND ALLOT GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS TO THE PETITIONERS NEWSPAPERS, NAMELY STAR OF MYSORE AND MYSORE MITRA, IN A FAIR, NON-DISCRIMINATORY, AND TRANSPARENT MANNER IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW 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 petition is filed seeking the following reliefs:

"a. Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order, or direction directing the Respondent No.2 to consider and allot Government advertisements to the Petitioner's newspapers, namely "Star of Mysore" and "Mysore Mitra", in fair, non-discriminatory, and transparent manner in accordance with law;

b. Grant such other reliefs as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit, proper, and necessary in the facts and circumstances of the case."

2. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Additional Government Advocate appearing for the respondents–State. This Court has carefully perused the pleadings, documents, and material placed on record.

3. The petitioner has placed on record a detailed representation dated 13.09.2024, produced as Annexure–C, wherein the petitioner has specifically addressed its grievance with regard to the alleged denial of government advertisements by the Department of Information and



Public Relations (DIPR). The representation discloses that the petitioner has asserted its eligibility by placing reliance on its circulation, registration with the Registrar of Newspapers for India, and its classification as a State-level newspaper by the competent authority. The petitioner has further contended in the said representation that similarly situated newspapers have been extended the benefit of government advertisements, whereas the petitioner has been singled out for differential treatment, thereby alleging arbitrariness.

4. Per contra, the learned Additional Government Advocate, on instructions, submits that the release of government advertisements is governed strictly by the policy framework formulated by the State Government, and that the same is implemented uniformly by the competent authority. It is further submitted that the petitioner's representation, as at Annexure-C, shall be duly considered by the concerned authority in accordance with the applicable policy guidelines. She would, however,



seek reasonable time for such consideration and for passing appropriate orders thereon.

5. Having regard to the nature of the grievance ventilated by the petitioner and in light of the submission made by the learned Additional Government Advocate that the petitioner's representation would be considered in accordance with law and the governing policy, this Court is of the view that no further adjudication on merits is warranted at this stage. Interest of justice would be subserved if a direction is issued to the competent authority to consider the petitioner's representation within a time-bound framework.

ORDER

- i. The writ petition is hereby ***allowed in part;***
- ii. The second respondent is directed to consider and dispose of the petitioner's representation dated 13.09.2024, produced at Annexure-C, strictly in accordance with the applicable



advertisement policy/guidelines of the State Government, and in an objective and non-discriminatory manner;

iii. While undertaking such consideration, the competent authority shall also examine the petitioner's contention regarding alleged differential treatment *vis-à-vis* similarly placed newspapers, and shall pass a reasoned and speaking order;

iv. The aforesaid exercise shall be completed within a period of four (4) weeks from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order.

Sd/-
(SACHIN SHANKAR MAGADUM)
JUDGE