

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . 6113-6117 OF 2024)

A.R. SATTHISHH EGAPPAN ETC.

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

THE UNION OF INDIA & ORS. ETC.

RESPONDENT(S)

W I T H

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . 9789 OF 2022)

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . 9319 OF 2022)

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025)  
(DIARY NO(S) . 2801 OF 2024)

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . 26983-26984 OF 2024)

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . 30841 OF 2024)

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . 7531 OF 2024)

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025)  
(DIARY NO(S) . 2812 OF 2024)

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . 3195-3196 OF 2024)

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . 4171-4183 OF 2024)

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . 3369 OF 2024)

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . 5071-5076 OF 2024)

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S) . . . . . OF 2025  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CIVIL) NO(S) . 7394-7399 OF 2024)

AND

O R D E R

1. Delay condoned.
2. Leave granted.
3. Heard learned Additional Solicitor General of India on behalf of the Union Territory of Puducherry, Mr. Gaurav Sharma, learned senior counsel on behalf of the National Medical Commission and other senior counsel/counsel on behalf of the students.
4. The controversy in the instant case pertains to admission to postgraduate medical courses in the six private medical colleges located in the Union Territory of Puducherry for the year 2017-2018. It is a matter of record that the Centralised Admission Committee (CENTAC), during the course of admissions, found that the private medical colleges had granted admissions, ignoring the inter-se merit of the students. Resultantly, those who were entitled to be admitted as per their merit were deprived, whereas those who would not have been able to secure seats were admitted, though all of them were qualified in the entrance test. The aforesaid action led to the initiation of the judicial proceedings, culminating into the present appeals.
5. As per the material on record, the students who were beneficiaries of the irregularities and got admission in the academic session 2017-2018 have now completed their respective degrees. It would, thus, neither serve the public interest nor compensate anyone else if their degrees are not recognised.

Consequently, we declare that all the students shall be entitled to their respective degree(s), if they have otherwise qualified for the same. All these students, however, shall be issued the same only after they serve three months of pro-bono rural medical service without charging any honorarium or wages from the Union Territory of Puducherry. The certification of serving in the rural area shall be issued by the District Medical Officer/Civil Surgeon or any such authority, as may be notified by the Union Territory of Puducherry, within one week. It is only on the production of the original certificate that the degree(s) shall be issued.

6. There can be no doubt that the private medical colleges are responsible for creating this situation, which led to the deprivation, for at least one year, of admission to the meritorious students. All these students are, therefore, entitled to be suitably compensated.

7. The amount deposited by these private medical colleges, which is lying in a nationalised bank through the Registry of this Court, shall be disbursed along with the interest accrued thereupon to the students who have been held entitled to such compensation by the High Court in terms of the impugned judgment. The Registry of this Court is directed to transfer the entire amount, along with interest accrued thereupon, in favour of the Registrar General of the Madras High Court. The Chief Justice of the High Court is requested to appoint one judicial officer from amongst the Registrar General/Registrars of the High Court, who shall verify the individual claims and disburse the amount accordingly. The entire exercise shall be completed within four weeks.

8. So far as the amount deposited by the CENTAC with the Registry of this Court is concerned, it is directed that the said amount be refunded to the Union Territory of Puducherry with the interest accrued thereupon.

9. The appeals are accordingly disposed of.

10. It goes without saying that the above-stated order has been passed in exercise of our powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to do complete justice between the parties, and it shall not be treated as a precedent for any other case.

.....CJI.  
(SURYA KANT)

.....J.  
(JOYMALYA BAGCHI)

NEW DELHI;  
DECEMBER 01, 2025.

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No(s). 6113-6117/2024

[Arising out of impugned judgment and order dated 09-11-2023 in WA No. 1130/2021 09-11-2023 in WA No. 1133/2021 09-11-2023 in WA No. 1135/2021 09-11-2023 in WA No. 1134/2021 09-11-2023 in WA No. 1137/2021 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Madras]

A.R. SATTHISHH EGAPPAN ETC.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE UNION OF INDIA & ORS. ETC.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 258128/2024 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and IA No. 62298/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

WITH

SLP(C) No. 9789/2022 (XII)

(IA No. 78476/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

SLP(C) No. 9319/2022 (XII)

(IA No. 74947/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 31434/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

Diary No(s). 2801/2024 (XII)

(IA No. 68923/2024 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN REFILEING / CURING THE DEFECTS and IA No. 68921/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

SLP(C) No. 26983-26984/2024 (XII)

(IA No. 165543/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

SLP(C) No. 30841/2024 (XII)

(IA No. 79057/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

SLP(C) No. 7531/2024 (XII)

(IA No. 63397/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

Diary No(s). 2812/2024 (XII)

(IA No. 71440/2024 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN REFILEING / CURING THE DEFECTS and IA No. 71437/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

SLP(C) No. 3195-3196/2024 (XII)  
(IA No. 30670/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

SLP(C) No. 4171-4183/2024 (XII)  
(IA No. 40463/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

SLP(C) No. 3369/2024 (XII)  
(IA No. 33508/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

SLP(C) No. 5071-5076/2024 (XII)  
(IA No. 50352/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

SLP(C) No. 7394-7399/2024 (XII)  
(IA No. 68098/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 68099/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

SLP(C) No. 26981/2024 (XII)  
(IA No. 165468/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

Date : 01-12-2025 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. M Sathyanaryanan, Sr. Adv.  
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Ms. Anika Bansal, Adv.  
Mr. Akshay Gupta, Adv.

Ms. Rukhmini Bobde, Adv.  
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Mr. Amlaan Kumar, Adv.  
Mr. Vinayak Aren, Adv.  
Mr. Naveen Bharadwaj, Adv.  
Mr. Amit Srivastava, Adv.  
Mr. Pavitra Dixit, Adv.

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Mr. A. Baskar, Adv.  
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Ms. Madhulika, Adv.  
Mr. Anand Kumar Rai, Adv.  
Mr. Radeesh Kumar Mt, Adv.

Mr. Amulya Dev Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Sudhanshu S. Choudhary, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Mayank Sapre, Adv.

Ms. Gautami Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Dheeraj Kumar, Adv.

Mr. L. Swaminathan, Adv.

Mr. Kumar Shivam, AOR

Mr. Devashish Bharuka, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Ravi Bharuka, AOR

Mr. Shashank Chamoli, Adv.

Mr. Gaurav Sharma, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Prateek Bhatia, AOR

Mr. Dhawal Mohan, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Dhiraj Abraham Philip, AOR

Mr. V.B.R. Menon, Adv.

Mr. Febin Mathew Varghese, Adv.

Mr. Sriram P., AOR

Mr. Prateek Bhatia , AOR

Mr. Krishnamohan K., AOR

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Ms. Dania Nayyar, Adv.

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.

Mr. Aravindh S., AOR

Ms. Ekta Muyal, Adv.

Ms. Jyotika Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Aman Gautam, Adv.

Mr. Devashish Bharuka, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Ravi Bharuka, AOR

Mr. Shashank Chamoli, Adv.

Mr. Devashish Bharuka, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Vaibhav Choudhary, AOR

Mr. Tushar Jain, Adv.

Ms. Anu B, Adv.

Mr. Lalmalsawma, Adv.

Mr. Mayank Singh Rawat, Adv.

M/S. M. V. Kini & Associates, AOR

Ms. Neetika Sharma, Adv.

Ms. Saloni Jagga, Adv.

Mr. Tavinder Sidhu, Adv.

Mr. Sumit Gupta, Adv.

Mrs. Revathy Raghavan, AOR

Mr. Anshuman Sharma, Adv.  
Mr. Sriharsh Nahush Bundela, AOR  
Mr. Naveen Kumar Yadav, Adv.  
Mr. Sidhant Thakur, Adv.

Mr. K. K. Mani, AOR  
Ms. T.archana, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. Delay condoned.
2. Leave granted.
3. The appeals are disposed of in terms of the signed order.
4. Pending application(s), if any, including application for intervention/impleadment stand closed.

(NITIN TALREJA)  
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

(Signed order is placed on the file)