

W.P.Nos.16213, 12370 and 12612 of 2020

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE
and
SENTHILKUMAR RAMAMOORTHY, J.

(Order of the Court was made by The Hon'ble Chief Justice)

Pursuant to the previous direction of April 7, 2021, a report has been filed by the State in the form of an affidavit affirmed by the Deputy Secretary to the Government in the Higher Education Department.

2. In short, such affidavit unconditionally agrees to abide by the University Grants Commission guidelines pertaining to final semester examinations and arrear examinations. What the affidavit says is that all students have to go through an examination process, if not already done, and a semester examination or any arrear examination has to be undertaken to clear such stage.

3. To the extent that a large number of students have undertaken the on-line examinations and have passed the same, appropriate certificates may be issued to them as expeditiously as

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possible. However, for students who sought to take advantage of the Government notification of August 26, 2020 and who presumed that they would clear any stage without an examination, remedial measures have been put in place by the Government such that all candidates have to clear an on-line examination and be assessed in course thereof. The dates for the relevant examinations will be announced by the relevant Universities and Institutions or the State after consulting the University Grants Commission and obtaining such Commission's permission in that regard. Since the dates may be fixed after taking the present situation into consideration, the University Grants Commission should endeavour to permit the dates suggested by the State or the relevant Universities and Institutions to conduct the examinations accordingly.

4. To repeat, no candidate would have cleared any semester examination or any arrear examination in terms of the impugned notification of August 26, 2020 without taking an on-line examination and assessment. It is only after completing such on-line process and assessment and clearing the same, will any candidate be considered to have passed the relevant stage.

5. The State should make every endeavour to immediately issue final certificates to those who have already cleared the examinations after participating in the on-line process. To those who seek a provisional certificate, for the purpose of relying thereon elsewhere, the State should promptly issue provisional certificates that ought to specify that the final clearance by the relevant student would be subject to the on-line examination and assessment to be taken by such student.

6. The State and the relevant Universities and Institutions should complete the entire process as expeditiously as possible and, preferably, within eight weeks from date and report when the matter appears next six weeks after summer vacation, 2021.

List on 12.07.2021.

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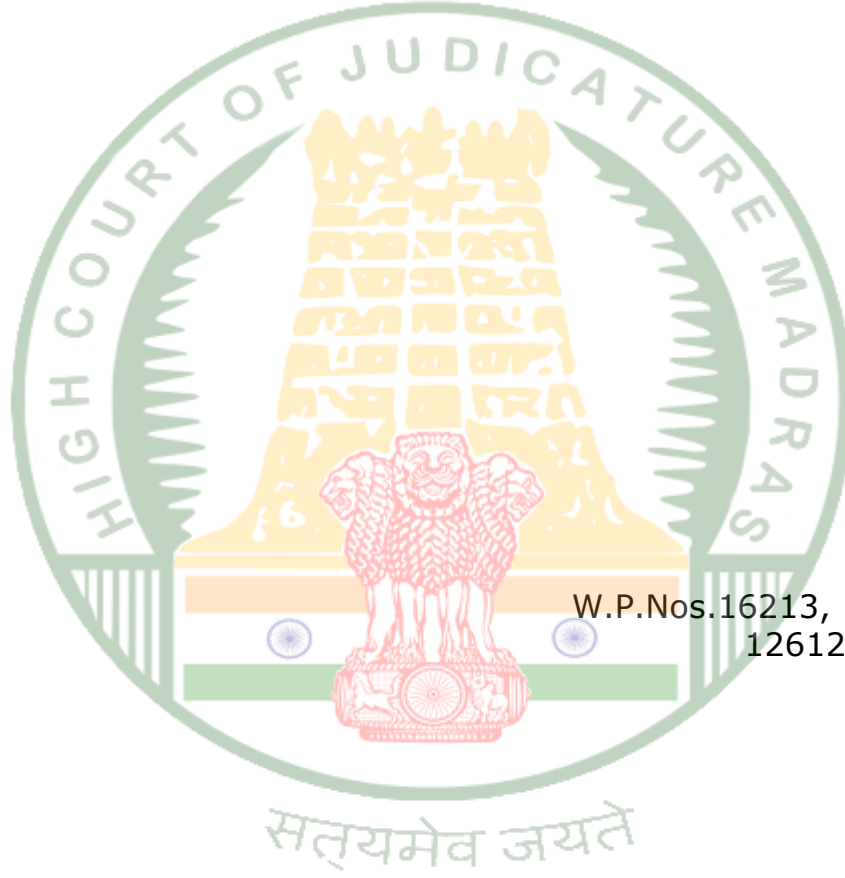
(S.B., CJ.) (S.K.R., J.)
15.04.2021

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