



2026:KER:2180

WP(C) NO. 517 OF 2026

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BECHU KURIAN THOMAS

TUESDAY, THE 13TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026 / 23RD POUSHA, 1947

WP(C) NO. 517 OF 2026

PETITIONER/S:

BY ADVS.
SRI.K.RAJESH KANNAN
SHRI.PRAVEEN N. PILLAI

RESPONDENT/S:

- 1 DIRECTOR OF GENERAL EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF GENERAL EDUCATION,
JAGATHY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695014
- 2 KALOLSAVAM COMMITTEE CONVENOR/ ADDITIONAL
DIRECTOR OF GENERAL EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR OF GENERAL
EDUCATION, JAGATHY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN -
695014
- 3 DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER, STATUE,
PALAYAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001



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4 CHAIRMAN, APPEAL COMMITTEE/ DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATION THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
O/O THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PADMAVILASOM ROAD, FORT
(P.O.), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695029

THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR
ADMISSION ON 13.01.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY
DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:

**BECHU KURIAN THOMAS, J.****WP(C) NO.517 OF 2026**

Dated this the 13th day of January, 2026

JUDGMENT

Petitioner was a participant in the event 'Kuchuppudi' (Girls) – HSS General in the Thiruvananthapuram District School Kalolsavam 2025-26. She was placed in the fifth position. Pointing out that while she was performing on stage, there was a power failure, which affected her performance. Aggrieved by the evaluation conducted, she preferred an appeal. By Ext. P4 order dated 12.12.2025, the appeal was rejected pointing out that though there was a power failure for 32 seconds, the same had not affected her performance. This writ petition has been preferred against the said order.

2. I have heard the learned counsel for the petitioner as well as the learned Government Pleader.

3. The main contention urged on behalf of the petitioner is that Kuchuppudi performance on the day of the event was par excellence and she ought to have been awarded first place with A grade. Petitioner contended that the Judges



erroneously placed her in a wrong position due to a faulty evaluation, which is required to be set aside and she be placed in the first place. The learned counsel pointed out that the power failure for 32 seconds would have affected the morale, confidence and even the performance of the student, which was the reason why she was pushed down to the fifth position. According to the learned counsel, there was no fair evaluation on the event since she was not granted a second chance to perform after the power came back.

4. The appellate authority considered her contentions and rejected the challenge. The appellate authority came to such a conclusion after verifying the score sheets, Stage Manager's report, videograph and also the evaluation sheet. The Appellate Authority also noted that the performance on the day of the event of the petitioner was not up to the mark as that of the first place holder.

5. The learned Government Pleader, on specific written instructions submitted that, though the sound system was properly working during the entire competition except when the petitioner performed and technical issue arose not due to



any willful negligence but due to certain unforeseen events.

6. It is evident that while the petitioner was performing, there was a power failure. The music did not play and the lights went off. Though the petitioner continued to dance without the music or the lights, she was admittedly not given a second chance to perform. This Court takes note of the fact that despite the petitioner continuing to dance, even when the power failure occurred, there could possibly have been a loss of confidence affecting the performance rendering her in an unequal position viz-a-viz the other participants.

7. Taking note of the admitted fact that there was a power failure while the petitioner was performing, and she was not given a second chance, I am of the view that the petitioner ought to be permitted to participate in the State School Kalolsavam. Even though the petitioner is in the fifth position since there is a possibility that her performance could have been affected by a defect not attributable to the petitioner, she ought to be granted permission.

8. Accordingly, Ext.P4 order is quashed and the petitioner is permitted to participate in 'Kuchuppudi' (Girls) –



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HSS General category in the State School Kalolsavam scheduled to commence from 14.01.2026. The petitioner shall produce a copy of this order before the 1st respondent for due compliance.

The writ petition is allowed.

Sd/-

BECHU KURIAN THOMAS
JUDGE

DSV/13.01.2026

APPENDIX OF WP(C) NO. 517 OF 2026

PETITIONER'S EXHIBITS

- Exhibit P1 THE PEN DRIVE WHICH CONTAINS THE KUCHIPUDY DANCE PERFORMANCE OF THE PETITIONER WHICH SHOWS THAT THERE WAS NO SOUND FOR 36 SECONDS DURING THE PERFORMANCE (SEALED COVER)
- Exhibit P2 TRUE COPY OF THE APPEAL SUBMITTED BY THE PETITIONER BEFORE THE 4TH RESPONDENT
- Exhibit P3 TRUE COPY OF THE RECEIPT DATED 4.12.2025 EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF RS.5000/- AS APPEAL FEE
- Exhibit P4 TRUE COPY OF THE ORDER NO. C (4)/5045/2025 DATED 12.12.2025
- Exhibit P5 TRUE COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE DATED 7.1.2023 ISSUED BY THE 1ST RESPONDENT TO THE PETITIONER FOR OBTAINING 'A' GRADE IN THE STATE LEVEL COMPETITION IN GENERAL SANGANRUTHAM (GIRLS) IN HS GENERAL CATEGORY
- Exhibit P6 TRUE COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE DATED 8.1.2024 ISSUED TO THE PETITIONER BY THE 1ST RESPONDENT FOR SECURING 'A' GRADE IN THE STATE LEVEL COMPETITION FOR 'BHARATHANATYAM (GIRLS) HS GENERAL CATEGORY
- Exhibit P7 TRUE COPY OF THE ORDER NO.C(4)/8387/2024 DATED 16.12.2024 OF THE 4TH RESPONDENT
- Exhibit P8 A COPY OF THE SAID ORDER NO.C(4)/5045/2025 DATED 12.12.2025
- Exhibit P9 A COPY OF THE ORDER NO.C(4)/5045/2025 DATED 12.12.2025
- Exhibit P10 A COPY OF THE ORDER NO.C(4)/5045/2025 DATED 12.12.2025
- Exhibit P11 A COPY OF THE APPEAL BEFORE THE 4TH RESPONDENT UNDER THE RTI ACT 2005, SEEKING FOR THE CERTIFIED COPY OF THE DETAILED SCORE SHEET OF THE KUCHIPUDY EVENT, HSS CATEGORY, AS PER APPLICATION DATED 27/12/2025



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Exhibit P12

A COPY OF THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WITH RTI
REGISTRATION NUMBER RTI/38885/2025
DATED 27/12/2025