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W.A.No.1546 of 2026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 29.06.2026

CORAM :

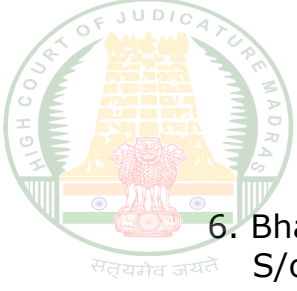
THE HONOURABLE MR. SUSHRUT ARVIND DHARMADHIKARI,  
CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.ARUL MURUGAN

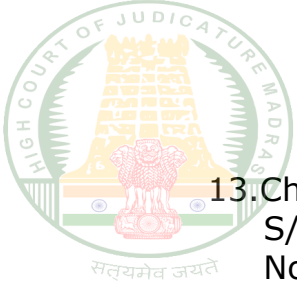
W.A.No.1546 of 2026  
and C.M.P.No.14450 of 2026

1. R.Naresh  
S/o.Ravi  
No.28/15 Pammal Nallathambi Street  
Thandai Periyar Nagar, Taramani  
Chennai-600 113.
2. Sugumaran  
S/o.Selvapandian  
No.38, New street Poonthottam, Vakkur  
Cuddalore-608 201.
3. Prasanna.L  
S/o.Lakshmanan  
No.01, Periyapalam, Kulithalai  
Karur - 639 104.
4. Vinoth.M.C  
S/o.Chandrasekaran  
No.1/165, Bajanai Koil Street  
Narayanapuram, R.K.Pet Post  
Thiruvallur-631 303.
5. Jayasurya.J, S/o.Jayakandan  
No.357,Marappanayakkanpatti  
Polayampalli, Harur, Morappur  
Dharmapuri-635 305.



W.A.No.1546 of 2026

6. Bharath.M  
S/o.Murugan  
No.55, Appasamy Naidu Street  
Kaveripattinam Krishnagiri-635 112.
7. Ranjithkumar.P  
No.243/3, Anaikatti Ganapathy Street  
Maruthi Garden, Pichnur, Gudiyatham,  
Vellore-632 602.
8. Lakshmanan K  
S/o.Drishnasamy  
No.1/282A, Musili Street, Eragudi Post  
Thuraiyur, Trichirappalli-621 001.
9. Elumalai.M  
S/o.Muthusamy  
No.122, Paraimettu Street, Nallur  
Madhuranthagam Post,  
Chengalpattu-603 302.
- 10.Prasanth.K  
S/o.Kumar  
No.131, Mookkanurpatty Sandhapatty Post  
Harur Taluk, Dharmapuri District-635 305.
- 11.Jeevitharan.A  
S/o.Arivazhagan  
No.190(2), Kulakarai Street  
Melacheri Village and Post  
Villupuram District - 604 202.
- 12.Vimalraj.R  
S/o.Rajakumar  
No.1/25, East Street, Vadavoor Post,  
Nirthanamangalam,  
Nagapattinam-611 118.



WEB COPY

W.A.No.1546 of 2026

13.Chinnaraja.R  
S/o.Sanjeevi.N  
No.2/106, ST Colony Aroor Village  
Ponneri-601 204.

14.Vimal kumar.P  
S/o.Prabakaran.D  
No.2/124, Kollaimedu, Singardeiyur  
Karasamangalam Post, Katpadi Taluk  
Vellore-632 202.

15.S.Santhoshkumar  
S/o.Sasikumar  
No.1/200, Big Street, Thirumani  
Katpadi Taluk, Vellore-632 202.

16.Harishkumar.S  
S/o.Sankar  
Ramadhasnagar, Sathiyamangalam  
Vellore Taluk, Poigai Village-632 114.

17.Vignesharan.V  
S/o.Venkatesan  
No.17C/B Vilanthangal Road  
Kallakurichi-606 202.

Appellant(s)

Vs

1. The Principal Secretary to Government  
Health and Family welfare (L1) Department  
Fort St.George, Chennai-600 009.
2. The Director  
Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services  
DMS Complex, Teynampet, Chennai-600006.
3. The Medical Service Recruitment Board  
Rep by its Chairman, Government of Tamilnadu  
No.359, Anna Salai, DMS Complex, Teynampet  
Chennai-600 006.

Respondent(s)



W.A.No.1546 of 2026

**PRAYER:** Appeal filed under Clause 15 of the Letters Patent to direct speedy disposal of W.M.P.No.13661 of 2026 in W.P. No.12491 of 2026 pending on the file of the learned Single Judge.

For Appellant(s): Mr. M.Gnanasekar

For Respondent(s): Mr. K.Kumaran  
Government Pleader

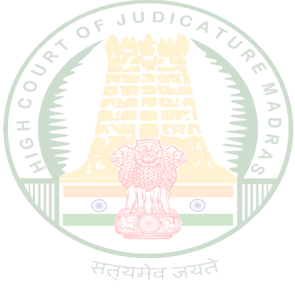
**JUDGMENT**

(Delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Justice)

This writ appeal has been preferred under Clause 15 of the Letters Patent against the procedural listing directions issued in W.P. No.12491 of 2026, currently pending consideration before the learned Single Judge.

2. At the threshold, this court raised a query about the maintainability of the writ appeal against a direction issued to list the writ petition along with other connected writ petition.

3. The learned counsel appearing for the appellants vehemently contended that:



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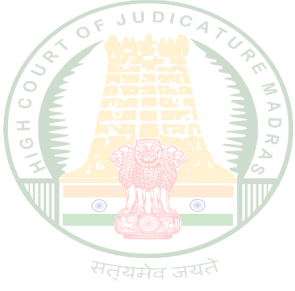
W.A.No.1546 of 2026

(i) The learned Single Judge committed a material irregularity by failing to consider the matter on its independent merits as contemplated under Rule 19 of the Madras High Court Rules, choosing instead to relegate it to a mere adjournment.

(ii) Parallel challenges concerning the selfsame examination had already been evaluated by a learned Single Judge in W.P.(MD) No. 2052 of 2026, wherein, by order dated 24.2.2026, he had directed a CBCID investigation.

(iii) A Division Bench of this Court vide an order dated 09.03.2026 in W.P.Nos.436 and 438 of 2026 had expressly permitted the respondent authorities to fill up the vacancies, subject only to leaving 47 posts vacant.

(iv) By keeping the present petition in limbo and tagging it with an entirely distinct prayer, the learned Single Judge has effectively paralyzed the appointment process, causing severe prejudice and financial hardship to selected candidates.



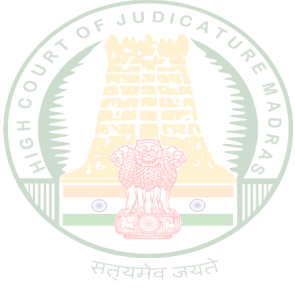
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4. Before venturing into the substantive merits of the grounds urged by the appellants, this Court is confronted with a fundamental threshold barrier concerning the maintainability of this appeal.

5. The statutory anchor for this intra-court appeal is Clause 15 of the Letters Patent of this Court. It is a foundational principle of appellate jurisprudence that an appeal under Clause 15 is viable only when preferred against a "judgment" rendered by a learned Single Judge. Clause 15 explicitly provides:

*"We do further ordain that an appeal shall lie to the said High Court of Judicature at Madras from the judgment (not being a judgment passed in the exercise of appellate jurisdiction...) of one Judge of the said High Court..."*

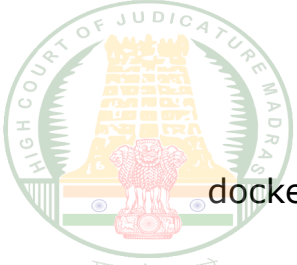
6. The core issue is whether a routine case-management entry, a e-court status update, or an order purely tracking the administrative business of the court, such as "Post along with W.P.No.9839/2026", can be judicially stretched to satisfy the legal definition of a "judgment."



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7. The phrase "judgment" cannot be distorted to encompass every interlocutory or case-management directive passed for the orderly conduct of a proceeding. To qualify as an appealable judgment, the order must possess the characteristics of finality; it must conclusively determine, or at the very least vitally affect, the substantial rights and obligations of the parties regarding the main controversy or an independent ancillary issue.

8. A routine procedural order directing a case to be listed alongside an allied matter is a salutary step taken to prevent conflicting judicial pronouncements. It determines no rights, resolves no controversy, and does not terminate the litigation. It is simply an administrative-judicial step in aid of justice, residing squarely within the absolute discretion of the learned Judge. It underscores that the learned Single Judge has not yet decided about the admissibility of the case under Rule 19 of the Rules, but has simply rescheduled the hearing of the matter. A mere entry in the e-court case status cannot be made the subject-matter of an appeal under Clause 15 of the Letters Patent. If such ministerial and



W.A.No.1546 of 2026

docket-management exercises are elevated to the status of appealable judgments, it would open the floodgates of vexatious appellate litigation, severely disrupting the institutional hierarchy and the functional independence of the writ courts.

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9. Accordingly, we hold that the e-court case status or an order of adjournment does not possess the traits of a "judgment" within the meaning of Clause 15 of the Letters Patent. The writ appeal is, therefore, entirely not maintainable. As the appeal founders on the bedrock of maintainability, this Court refrains from adjudicating upon the merits of the selection process.

10. However, taking into consideration the plea that the appellants' careers are hanging in the balance, we deem it fit to ensure that they are not left without an avenue for redressal. Therefore, while dismissing the writ appeal as not maintainable, we grant liberty to the appellants to move the learned Single Judge dealing with W.P.No.12491 of 2026 for an expeditious disposal of the main writ petition on its own merits.



W.A.No.1546 of 2026

There shall be no order as to costs. Consequently, connected

interim application stands closed.

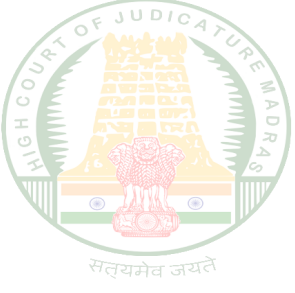
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(SUSHRUT ARVIND DHARMADHIKARI,CJ) (G.ARUL MURUGAN,J)  
29.06.2026

Index : Yes  
Neutral Citation : Yes  
sasi

To:

1. The Principal Secretary to Government  
Health and Family welfare (L1) Department  
Fort St.George, Chennai-600 009.
2. The Director  
Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services  
DMS Complex, Teynampet, Chennai-600006.
3. The Chairman, Medical Service Recruitment Board  
Government of Tamilnadu  
No.359, Anna Salai, DMS Complex, Teynampet  
Chennai-600 006.



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W.A.No.1546 of 2026

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE  
AND  
G.ARUL MURUGAN,J.

(sasi)

W.A.No.1546 of 2026

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