

ITEM NO.1

COURT NO.7

SECTION XI-B

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

Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (C) Nos. 20680-20681/2025

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 14-07-2025 in WA No. 1160/2025 14-07-2025 in WA No. 1165/2025 passed by the High Court of Kerala at Ernakulam]

THE CHANCELLOR, APJ ABDUL KALAM
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF KERALA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 298849/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 306918/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 217570/2025 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, IA No. 178486/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No. 245961/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 249066/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT IA No. 233197/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 217572/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 200236/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION, IA No. 193194/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION

WITH

SLP(C) No. 24330/2025 (XI-B)

Date : 18-12-2025 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K.V. VISWANATHAN

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. P.N Ravindran, Sr. Adv.
Mr. George Poonthottam, Sr. Adv.
Mr. P. S. Sudheer, AOR
Mr. Navaneeth Krishnan, Adv.

Ms. Kavya Varma, Adv.
Mr. Rishi Maheshwari, Adv.
Ms. Anne Mathew, Adv.
Mr. Bharat Sood, Adv.
Mr. Jai Govind M J, Adv.
Mr. Jashan Vir Singh, Adv.

Mr. R. Venkataramani, Attorney General for India
Mr. P. Sreekumar, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Venkita Subramoniam T.r, AOR
Mr. Hari Vishnu, Adv.
Mr. V.r. Raman, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Jaideep Gupta, Sr. Adv.
Mr. C. K. Sasi, AOR
Mr. V. Manu, Adv.
Ms. Meena K Poullose, Adv.
Mr. Riddhi Bose, Adv.
Ms. Racheeta Chawla, Adv.
Ms. Rishi Agarwal, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Banerjee, Adv.

Mr. Abhilash M.r., Adv.
Mr. Sayooj Mohandas, Adv.
Ms. Manjari Singh, Adv.
Ms. Ann Melvin, Adv.
M/s M R Law Associates, AOR

Ms. Jaikriti S. Jadeja, AOR
Mr. Hardik Choudhary, Adv.
Ms. Juhi Bhargava, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. Our last order dated 11.12.2025 reads thus:-

"1. We heard Mr. N. Venkataramani, the learned Attorney General for India appearing for the Chancellor and Mr. Jaideep Gupta, the learned Senior counsel appearing for

the State of Kerala.

2. Despite best of our efforts, the deadlock continues till this date.

3. The Vice-Chancellor and the Chief Minister have not been able to reach to any consensus as regards appointment of particular person as Vice Chancellor in the two Universities. The entire exercise has been very well undertaken by the Committee constituted by us headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia. It was expected that the Vice Chancellor and the Chief Minister would reach to some consensus and finalize the names.

4. However, nothing has been done so far except some exchange of letters between the two.

5. Today, when we started hearing the matter, the learned Attorney General for India handed-over a sealed envelope containing the reply of the Vice-Chancellor to the Chief Minister. We declined to look into the same.

6. We are of the view that in such situation, we should once again request the Committee headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia to look into the letter of the Chief Minister and the reply of the Vice-Chancellor and give us one composite Report.

7. We request the Committee to give us the names in order of preference for each of the Universities in a sealed cover.

8. We request the Committee to undertake this exercise and forward its report by Wednesday, 17th December, 2025 so that we can take up the matter on Thursday, 18th December, 2025 as first item on top of the Board. To be treated as Part-Heard.

9. The Registry shall inform about this order at the earliest to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia."

2. After our last order, referred to above, there have been some positive developments. This case illustrates how a timely and decisive intervention by this court can go a long way in protecting the rights of the citizens. Two prominent Universities in Kerala dealing with cutting-edge subjects were rudderless for a long time.

They had no permanent Vice-Chancellors heading them.

3. The only reason was that a consensus was eluding the government and the Chancellor. When the doors of this Court were knocked, we were deeply concerned about the plight of the students, their parents, the teaching and non-teaching staff, including in affiliated bodies. In short, our concern was for all the stakeholders. They were unfortunately caught in the cross fire.

4. Following the model adopted by this Court, in a similar case which arose from the State of West Bengal, we appointed Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, former Judge of this Court, to be the Chairperson of Search-cum-Selection Committee and entrusted with him the task of recommending a panel of at least three names for the post of Vice-Chancellor in the two Universities.

5. Today, we are happy to record that both the Chancellor and the government have in one voice reported to us that the appointments to the post of Vice-Chancellor in the two Universities have been made from the list of empanelled candidates.

6. We place on record our gratitude for the good office that Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia has brought to bear on this matter.

7. Our endeavour was to ensure that the institutions have a permanent head which alone would ensure that the interests of all the stakeholders are safeguarded.

8. We place on record our appreciation for the authorities before

us who are parties in the matter, who, in the true spirit of the Constitution, especially Article 144, have acted in aid of the orders of this Court.

9. By promulgating the orders of appointment, curtains have been gracefully brought down in this matter by the authorities concerned.

10. We also appreciate and place on record our gratitude to the learned Attorney General Mr. R. Venkataramani and also Mr. Jaideep Gupta, the learned senior counsel and to the entire team assisting them for bringing around a very happy ending to this Saga.

11. The other questions of law arising in this litigation are kept open.

12. We shall hear this matter at an appropriate stage.

13. List after two months, as a Part Heard.

(CHANDRESH)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(POOJA SHARMA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)