

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

WRIT PETITION(S)(CIVIL) NO(S). 854/2024

MITHIN MONDAL & ORS.

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

RESPONDENT(S)

(FOR ADMISSION)

WITH

W.P. (C) NO.17/2025 (FOR ADMISSION)

Date : 10-01-2025 These petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH

For Petitioner(s) Mr. K. Parameshwar, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Rashmi Nandakumar, Adv.
Ms. Anindita Mitra, AOR
Mr. Vishal Sinha, Adv.
Ms. Kanti, Adv.
Mr. Shreenivash Patil, Adv.
Ms. Chitransha Singh Shikarwar, Adv.

Mr. Sanjeet Kumar Trivedi, AOR
Mr. Ishank Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Sandeep Dwivedi, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mr. Manish Paliwal, AOR
Mr. Pratyush Shrivastava, Adv.
Ms. Megha Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mr. V.V.V. Pattabhiram, Adv.
Ms. Rajeswari Shankar, Adv.
Mr. Vishnu Shankar, Adv.
Mr. Sudarshan Lamba, Adv.
Mr. Amrish Kumar, Adv.

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

1. We have heard Shri K. Parameshwar, learned senior counsel and
Smt. Rashmi Nandakumar, learned counsel appearing for the

petitioners and Shri Tushar Mehta, learned Solicitor General of India appearing for the respondent(s).

2. It is submitted on behalf of the petitioners that in the Press Release notified by Respondent No.2 on 05.11.2024, the eligibility for registering for JEE (Advanced) was the students who had appeared in Class 12 either in the year 2023, 2024 and 2025. However, abruptly by another Press Release dated 18.11.2024, the eligibility was restricted only to two academic years i.e. 2024 and 2025.

3. It is submitted that on account of the promise rendered in the Press Release dated 05.11.20214, the petitioners had dropped out from the colleges which were allotted to them so that they can pursue the test conducted by Respondent No.2 for Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

4. It is therefore submitted that now employing the 'principle of estoppel' the respondents are estopped from changing the promise rendered to the petitioners/students vide Press Release dated 05.11.2024, inasmuch as the petitioners/students have acted to their detriment.

5. Learned Solicitor General of India submits that the decision notified in the Press Release dated 18.11.2024 was taken in the larger interest of the students.

6. It is submitted that due to the enlarged period of consideration the students could not concentrate on their studies and only spent their time in preparing for JEE (Advanced).

7. Be that as it may, we are not considering the wisdom of Respondent No.2 in restricting the Zone of consideration either for two years or for three years. If the Respondent No.2 has restricted the zone of consideration only to two years, no fault could be found with the same.

8. However, it is clear that in the Press Release dated 05.11.2024, a clear promise was made to the students that the students who had appeared for class 12th examination in the academic year 2023, 2024 and 2025 would be eligible to appear for JEE (Advanced) examination. If the students acting on the said

representation have dropped from their courses with an understanding that they would be entitled to appear for JEE (Main) examination, the withdrawal of the promise on 18.11.2024 cannot be permitted to act to their detriment.

9. In the peculiar facts and circumstances and without observing anything about merits of the decision taken by Respondent No.2, we clarify that such of the students who have withdrawn from their courses and dropped out between 05.11.2024 to 18.11.2024 would be permitted to register for JEE (Advanced).

10. With the aforesaid observations and directions, these petitions stand disposed of.

11. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(NARENDRA PRASAD)
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

(ANJU KAPOOR)
COURT MASTER