

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 1273/2023

N. SAI BALAJI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

O R D E R

1. The petitioner, who claims to suffer from specific learning disability (i.e., Dyslexia), has filed this petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India seeking multiple reliefs.

2. Insofar as reliefs (a) to (e) are concerned, they have been rendered *infructuous* in view of new guidelines notified by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment *vide* notification dated 12.03.2024.

3. The surviving grievance of the petitioner appears to be that under the new guidelines, the steps specified for determining specific learning disability is limited to children and are not

designed to deal with adults.

4. Taking notice of petitioner's grievance, on 06.09.2024, this Court had passed the following order:

"Learned counsel for the respondent no.2- National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (hereinafter called "the NIMHANS) appeared and has assured this Court that he shall get instructions from the Director of the NIMHANS, Bengaluru, Karnataka as to what advances and research the NIMHANS has done so far in order to test Dyslexia - Specific Learning Disability (for adults). The main argument for the learned senior counsel Mr. S. Muralidhar appearing for the petitioner would be that the battery test which is presently being conducted in this field is only meant to check disability in children, individuals who have not attained the age of majority; and

the same is not an appropriate test for adults and a different test is adopted for adults in other advanced countries.

Learned counsel for respondent no.2 - NIMHANS shall file a detail reply on this aspect within a period of six weeks.

List on 18.10.2024."

5. Pursuant to the above order, NIMHANS (second respondent) has filed an affidavit enclosing therewith a Concept Note on Development of National Norms for Reading, Writing and Arithmetic and Related Cognitive Processes useful for Assessment and Certification of Specific Learning Disability. In the Concept Note, it is admitted that the tests so far prescribed are limited to assessing specific learning disability amongst children. However, at the bottom of the Concept Note, it is stated that to test specific learning disability amongst adults, research is on and tests would be provided for / published in about 3 years from now.

6. From the own stand of the petitioner, we find

that he has been able to obtain a Ph.d degree. Thus, apparently, his professed disability has not hampered his progress in life.

7. In such circumstances, we deem it appropriate to close these proceedings by recording the stand of NIMHANS that they are working on assessment tools/ tests for determining specific learning disability amongst adults and would be able to publish the requisite tests within 3 years from now.

8. In case there is no development in that regard in the next 3 years, it shall be open for the petitioner to seek for revival of these proceedings.

9. Subject to above, the writ petition and all pending applications shall stand disposed of.

..... J
[MANOJ MISRA]

..... J
[MANMOHAN]

New Delhi;
April 15, 2026

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

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FOR ADMISSION

Date : 15-04-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANMOHAN

For Petitioner(s) :

Mr. Govind Manoharan, Adv.
Mr. A. Karthik, AOR

For Respondent(s) :

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mr. Arun Kanwa, Adv.
Ms. B.l.n. Shivani, Adv.
Mr. Adarsh Kumar Pandey, Adv.
Jagdish Chandra, Adv.
Mr. Raman Yadav, Adv.
Dr. N. Visakamurthy, AOR
Ms Poornima Singh, Adv.
Ms Shreya Jain, Adv.Mrs. Vaijyanthi Girish, AOR
Mr. Girish Ananthamurthy, Adv.

Mr. Amrish Kumar, AOR

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

1. The writ petition and all pending applications shall stand disposed of in terms of the signed order placed on the file.

(CHETAN ARORA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS(SAPNA BANSAL)
COURT MASTER (NSH)