

News

The Kerala High Court mandates that colleges create policies to control campus politics.



The Court has demanded regulatory measures to uphold discipline, avoid political disputes, and preserve a welcoming environment for academics.

In a recent ruling in *Ajoy LS v. The State of Kerala & ors* and related cases, the Kerala High Court ordered the State's institutions to establish specific guidelines and procedures to control students' political activity on campus.

Universities and affiliated colleges have an obligation to maintain discipline on campus and avoid political disputes at educational institutions, according to a Division

Bench made up of Chief Justice Somen Sen and Justice Syam Kumar VM. We instruct the syndicates of all universities involved in the public interest lawsuit to develop a system to control student political activity on campus and to guarantee campus discipline," the court said.

Calicut University, Kerala University, and Mahatma Gandhi University are among the universities involved in the lawsuit.

The Court was considering petitions that expressed concerns regarding violent incidents on college campuses throughout the State.

Ajoy LS, one of the petitioners, asked the state and educational authorities to take decisive action to prevent school violence incidents from happening again.

The plea specifically brought up the 2018 event at Maharaja's College in Ernakulam, when a student was killed as a result of political altercations on campus.

The Court recalled in its most recent ruling that it had previously emphasized the necessity for colleges to develop long-term regulatory procedures to resolve student political disputes and guarantee that no unfortunate incident takes place on campus.

The Court observed that in order to uphold and promote appropriate behavior in classrooms and teaching departments on campus, Mahatma Gandhi University has already created the Mahatma Gandhi University Students Code of Conduct Rules, 2005.

It then instructed all other colleges to use these 2005 rules as a template for creating suitable policies along these lines.

The Bench further stated that on or before the following hearing date, the universities must submit their draft rules to the Court.

Additionally, it mandated that the Additional Advocate General (AAG), who represents State authorities, be given access to the proposed regulations. The AAG is expected to study the rules and recommend any necessary modifications to guarantee that educational institutions are free from political influence.

On March 4, the matter will be heard again.

Sajeev Kumar K. Gopal, an advocate, represented Ajoy LS.

State officials were represented by government pleader TS Shyam Prasanth and additional advocate general Asok M. Cherian.

Kerala University was represented by attorney Thomas Abraham.

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