

News

A Legislative Council official's suspension over the Dr. Ambedkar portrait dispute is stayed by the Karnataka High Court.



During a Constitution Day Preamble-reading event, the Deputy Secretary was suspended for allegedly failing to exhibit a photograph of Dr. BR Ambedkar.

The State Legislative Council Deputy Secretary KJ Jalajakshi's (petitioner) suspension has been halted by the Karnataka High Court.

For allegedly failing to show a photograph of Dr. BR Ambedkar at a Preamble-reading ceremony held at the Legislative Council Secretariat on Constitution Day, November 26, 2024, Jalajakshi was suspended in July.

Jalajakshi's argument that the action against her was done more than seven months after the

incident was noted by **Justice HT Narendra Prasad**.

"Given the foregoing, the contested order dated 04.07.2025 via Annexure-A is stayed until the next hearing date. The respondents retain the right to request a change or cancellation of the aforementioned temporary injunction," the court said.

The solitary judge did clarify, though, that the stay order will not prevent the appropriate authority from conducting a lawful departmental investigation into the petitioner.

The petitioner's attorney stated during the July 8 hearing that Jalajakshi had responded to the authorities' notice by stating that she had no responsibility or authority to conduct or supervise the event that took place on November 26, 2024.

Additionally, it was argued that the suspension order made no mention of Jalajakshi being given any responsibility for the function.