GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCAITON, (PRIVATE SCHOOL BRANCH)
OLD SECRETARIAT: DELHI-110054

No. F.DE.15(172)/PSB/2016/6429-6439 Dated: 20. 11. 2026

CIRCULAR

Subject:- Admission Schedule for Entry Level Classes for Open seats (other than EWS/DG/CWSN Category Seats) in Private Unaided Recognized Schools of Delhi for the session 2027-28.

In order to conduct the admission process smoothly at the Entry Level Classes in Private Unaided Recognized Schools of Delhi, the following admission schedule along with instructions is issued for conducting admissions for the Open Seats (other than EWS/DG /CWSN Category seats) for the academic session 2027-28.

2. **ADMISSION SCHEDULE:-**

S. NO.	Particulars	Time Schedule
1	Commencement of Uploading the criteria and their points (mentioned at point 11) alongwith the Format-1 (mentioned at point No. 5) in the module of the Department at the links provided.	23.11.2026 (Monday)
2	Commencement of admission process and availability of forms	01.12.2026 (Tuesday)
3	Last date of submission of application forms in schools	28.12.2026 (Monday)
4	Uploading details of children/applicants who applied to the school for admission under Open Seats along with the marks/points awarded to each child/applicant	04.01.2027 (Monday)
5	Resolution of queries/objection of parents, if any (by written/email/verbal interaction) regarding allotment of points to their wards	05.01.2027 (Tuesday)- 11.01.2027 (Monday)
6	Display and uploading of final marks/points (as per points system) awarded to each of the child after resolution of queries	12.01.2027 (Tuesday)

	of parents who applied for admission under open seats	
7	The date for displaying the first list of selected children (including Waiting List, if any) along with marks/points awarded under school's points system.	20.01.2027 (Wednesday)
8	Resolution of queries of parents, if any (by written/email/verbal interaction) regarding allotment of marks/points awarded to their wards in the first list.	21.01.2027 (Thursday) – 28.01.2027 (Thursday)
9	The date for displaying the second list, (if any) of selected children (including Waiting list) along with marks/points awarded under school's points system.	05.02.2027 (Friday)
10	Resolution of queries of parents, if any (by written/email/verbal interaction) regarding allotment of marks/points awarded to their wards in the second list.	06.02.2027 (Saturday) – 12.02.2027 (Friday)
11	Subsequent list of admission, if any.	22.02.2027 (Monday)
12	Closure of admission process	12.03.2027 (Friday)

3. No deviation from the above schedule shall be permitted. Each school shall display the aforesaid admission schedule on its notice board and website. Further each school shall ensure that application forms for admission are made available to all applicants till the last date of submission of admission's application form i.e. **28.12.2026 (Monday)**. Only Rs. 25/- (Non-refundable) can be charged from the parents as admission registration fee. The purchase of prospectus of the school by the parents shall be **optional.**

4. All private unaided recognized Schools admitting children in Nursery (Bal Vatika-1/Pre-school-1), LKG (Bal Vatika-2/Pre-school-2), UKG (Bal Vatika-3/Pre-school-3) and Class-1 level shall reserve 25% seats for EWS/DG category students & Child with Disability as defined in RPWD Act, 2016 (under Section 12(1)(c) of Right to Education Act, 2009) at entry Level Classes, wherever fresh admission are made as directed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide order dated 24/05/2012

in WP (C) No. 8434/2011 and circulated vide this Directorate's Circular No. 2393-2004 dated 04/06/2012.

5. Further, all school shall comply with the notification dated 28/02/2012 which directs that the number of seats at the entry level(s) shall not be less than the highest number of seats in the Entry level classes during the last three years i.e. 2024-25, 2025-26 & 2026-27 unless exempted/specified by the Competent Authority. The details of all entry level classes (i.e. Nursery (Bal Vatika-1/Pre-school-1), LKG (Bal Vatika-2/Pre-school-2), UKG (Bal Vatika-3/Pre-school-3) and Class-1) along with the seats available for admission must be declared by all schools on the module to this directorate's website www.edudel.nic.in **(**through their login ID and password**- School Plant->School Information-> Format-1 (2027-28))** as well as on their notice board/website and hard copy in **Format-1** duly signed by head of the school concerned shall be furnished to the DDE (District) concerned by **26.11.2026 (Thursday)** positively. DDE (District) will compare the seats declared online vis-à-vis the hard copy submitted under the signature of Head of the school by **30.11.2026 (Monday).** All DDEs shall verify the completeness and accuracy of number of seats in their district, in online module and send to HQ (Private School Branch). **(Format-1 is enclosed).**

6. The Hon'ble High Court vide judgment dated 28/11/2014 in WPC-177/2014 and WPC-202/2014 observed that Private Unaided Recognized School shall devise the procedure to admit students but subject to the condition that the procedure is fair, reasonable and transparent.

7. In view of the observation of the Hon'ble High Court as referred above, all the Private Unaided Recognized Schools shall develop and adopt criteria for admission which shall be fair, reasonable, well defined, equitable, non-discriminatory, unambiguous and transparent.

8. Directorate of Education vide order dated 06/01/2016 has abolished 62 criteria adopted by the private schools during the admission process for the academic session 2016-17 which were found to be unfair, unreasonable and non-transparent. The Hon'ble High Court in its judgment dated 04/02/2016 in WPC 448/2016 and WPC 452/2016 stayed the impugned order dated 06/01/2016 with respect to eleven criteria as mentioned in the order dated 06/01/2016 at SI. No. 1,3,5,10,16,31,32,45,47,48 & 61. **(The copy of order dated 06/01/2016 is enclosed as Annexure-1).**

9. In view of the aforesaid judgment, no school shall adopt such criteria as abolished by the department vide order No. DE/15/Act-1/4607/13/2015/5686-5696 dated 06/01/2016 and upheld by Hon'ble High Court in WPC No. 448/2016 vide judgment dated 04/02/2016 as referred above. **(The Hon'ble Court's order dated 04/02/2016 and list of such criteria not to be adopted is enclosed as Annexure-2 & 3 respectively).**

10. However, the private unaided schools can adopt those criteria which have the sanction of Hon'ble Supreme Court or High Court in favour of the school concerned. Further, the minority schools (Religious/Linguistic) will continue to adopt criteria for the admission of applicants belonging to their minority concerned as guaranteed under the Constitution.

11. All the Private Unaided Recognized Schools shall upload their criteria adopted (including points for each criterion) for admission under Open Seats at Entry Level Classes (Other than EWS/DG/CWSN category seats) for the academic session 2027-28 of this Directorate's website **www.edudel.nic.in** at the link through their login ID and password**- School Plant->School Information->Admission Criteria (2027-28**). The said information must be uploaded by **26.11.2026 (Thursday)**. DDE (District) will ensure that admission process is kept in abeyance for those private unaided recognized schools that fail to upload criterion by **30.11.2026 (Monday)**.

12. All the schools must ensure that the criterion wise break up of points of all applicant children are displayed on their website also.

13. All the Private Unaided Recognized Schools shall ensure that their admission criterion is in compliance with the provisions of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 in respect of admissions of Children with Disabilities.

14. The criteria and their points uploaded by the schools on the portal of this Directorate shall be available for public viewing by the parents in the scroll of the official website. i.e. **www.edudel.nic.in** under head Admission Criteria (2027-28) in the **What's New Section.** Thus, schools shall ensure that the information uploaded on this Directorate's website is accurate and corresponds in totality with the information on their own website.

15. As the school shall be uploading the details of children/applicants who applied to the school for admission under Open Seats along with the marks/points awarded to

each child/applicant on **04.01.2027 (Monday)** (Col. No. 4), 07 days' time from **05.01.2027 (Tuesday) to 11.01.2027 (Monday)** (Col. No. 5) is being kept for the schools to answer queries of parents regarding the marks/points awarded to their ward on school's criterion. Schools shall have a well-documented mechanism of responding to parent's queries either through email or through letters and to maintain the details in a register.

16. All the Private Unaided Recognized Schools shall display and upload the final marks/points (as per points system) awarded to each of the child after resolution of queries of the parents who applied for admission under Open Seats, on the module available on the departmental website at the link through login Id and password- **School Plant-> School Information -> details of applicants under open seats 2027-28** by **12.01.2027 (Tuesday)** (Col. No. 6).

17. The draw of lots (if any, either computerized or through slips), shall be conducted in a transparent manner in presence of parents. All the parents of eligible students in draw of lots will be informed at least **five (05) days** before the date of draw through website, notice-board & e-mail by the school. Further, the school shall also inform the DE Nominee regarding schedule of the draw of lots. To ensure transparency, fairness, and confidence among parents that the admission lottery process is not manipulated, **the school shall conduct random number of dry runs of draw of lots in the presence of DE Nominee and parents before conducting the final draw**. The draw of lots will be conducted under videography and its footage to be maintained/retained by the school. The slips will be shown to the parents before putting in the box, being used for draw of lots. DE Nominee shall oversee the entire process and submit a detailed report with all the documentation and recording of the draw to the DDE (zone) office. **Further, DE Nominee shall also ensure that the result of the Draw of lots (if any), is duly signed by the Head of school and submitted to the concerned DDE (Zone), within 24 Hours of the completion of the Draw.**

Manner of draw is detailed as below:

In case the number of applicants/students obtaining the identical highest marks/points exceeds the number of available seats, selection of the remaining students along with preparation of waiting list shall be finalized through draw of lots that would provide equal opportunity to all eligible applicants/students having identical marks/points.

E.g.

Suppose a school has received 1,000 applications for admission against 100 available seats. After evaluating the applications on the basis of marks/points obtained, the following position emerges:

- 40 students have scored more than 60 marks/points.
- 800 students have scored exactly 60 marks/points.
- The remaining applicants have scored below 60 marks/points.

Since 40 students have scored more than 60 marks/points, they will be selected on the basis of merit, subject to the applicable admission rules.

The school is left with 60 vacant seats, while 800 students have obtained 60 marks/points. As all these 800 students have equal marks/points, it would be appropriate to conduct a fair and transparent draw of lots to select the remaining 60 students.

18. All the Private unaided Recognized Schools shall also upload the details of children selected and in-waiting under Open Seats along with marks/points awarded to them by the schools under their point system on the module developed by the department at the link mentioned above. (**School Plant->School Information-> details of selected applicants under open seats 2027-28**) (Col. No. 7)

19. The various standing instructions/guidelines/orders in regard to various aspects of admission process issued by this Directorate from time to time and reiterated vide circular No. F.DE/15/Act-1/2013/6464 dated 11/01/2013 are being reproduced herewith for strict compliance.

(i) <u>Regarding prohibition of demand of Capitation fee/Donation at the time of admission.</u>

"Capitation fee means any kind of donation or contribution or payment other than the fee notified by the school" As per the order of Hon'ble High Court in LPA 196/2004 in the matter of Rakesh Goyal V/s Montfort School and Section 13(1) of RTE Act, 2009, no school or person shall, while admitting a child collect any Capitation fee/Donation from the parents. Any school or person who contravenes this provision and receives capitation fee, shall be punishable with fine which may extend to ten times the capitation fee charged.

(ii) <u>Regarding prospectus and charging processing fee</u>

Buying of prospectus of school along with application form is not mandatory for parents and schools can neither force parents to buy prospectus nor can charge any

processing fee**. Only Rs. 25/- (non-refundable)** can be charged as admission registration fee from parents.

(iii) <u>Regarding separate admission process for main school and Junior/Montessori/Pre- School.</u>

The Directorate of Education vide order No. 15702-15781 dated 23/03/1999 clarified/ordered that all Junior-schools/Pre-schools/Montessori schools being run by registered Societies/trusts in Delhi as branches of recognized unaided school in or outside the School Premises shall be deemed as one institution for all purposes, therefore, schools have to follow single admission process for their pre-school and main school considering them as one institution.

(iv) <u>Regarding Age Limit.</u>

(a) In accordance with Circular No. DE.23(749)/Sch.Br./2025/976 dated 24.10.2025 **(Annexure-4)** regarding implementation of the Uniform Age of Admission of 6+ years in Class I and restructuring of the Foundational Stage, the nomenclature for the Foundation Classes along with the minimum age criteria for admission to Nursery to Class-I, shall be implemented in alignment with the restructured foundational stage, as envisaged in the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) is as under:

Table -1(Nomenclature and Age Criteria for Academic Session 2027-28)

Class	**Minimum & Maximum Age for Admission (As on 31st March of the year in which the admission is sought)**
Nursery (Balvatika 1 / Pre School 1)	3+ years up to 4 years (New Admissions only)
Lower KG (Balvatika 2 / Pre School 2)	4+ years up to 5 years {For students Promoted from Nursery(Balvatika 1/ Pre School 1) 2026 plus New Admissions}
Upper KG (Balvatika 3 / Pre School 3)	5+ years up to 6 years (New Admissions only)
Class I	5+ years up to 6 years (For students Promoted from KG 2026-27)

(b) Admission to Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-school 1) will be for the child with 3+ years age as on 31 March, 2027.

(c) A new class Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) will be introduced from this Academic Session onwards. Students of Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-school 1) in Academic Session 2026-27 will be promoted to Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) in Academic Session 2027-28.

(d) New admissions in Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) can also be given if the child has attained the age of 4+ years as on 31st March, 2027.

(e) The students admitted in Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) will be promoted to next classes as per restructured Foundational Stage and therefore move to Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) in session 2028-29.

(f) A new class- Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) will be introduced from this Academic Session onwards. Only new admissions to Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) will be for the child with 5+ years age as on 31 March, 2027.

(g) Students of KG (4+ years) in 2026-27 will be promoted to Class 1 (5+ years) in 2027-28 as per old structure of Foundational Stage.

(h) Students of Class 1 (5+ years) will be promoted to Class 2 (6+ years) in 2027-28.

(i) Regular students who have passed the previous class from any recognised school and hold a valid School Leaving Certificate (SLC) and mark sheet shall be exempted from the applicability of age-appropriateness criteria for admission to the next higher class.

(j) The age relaxation for admission of upto one month may be granted at the level of head of school in the minimum & upper age limit for these classes. The parents may approach the Head of School/Principal for seeking age relaxation through a manual application.

(k) For admission in Academic session 2027-28, a child must have attained the prescribed minimum age as on 31st March, 2027.

(v) <u>Regarding Quantum of minimum seats at entry level.</u>

Directorate of Education vide notification dated 28/02/2012 directed that the number of seats at entry level/s shall not be less than the highest number of seats in the entry class during the previous three years unless exempted/specified by the Competent Authority.

(vi) <u>Regarding documents valid as proof of address.</u>

The following documents shall be considered as proof of residence of parents/child:

(a) Ration Card/Smart Card issued in the name of parents (Mother/Father having name of child).
(b) Domicile certificate of child or of his/her parents.
(c) Voter I-Card (EPIC) of any of the parents.
(d) Electricity bill/MTNL telephone bill/Water bill/Passport in the name of any of the parents or child.
(e) Aadhar Card/UID card issued in the name of any of the parents.

20. A Monitoring Cell shall be constituted in each district under the Chairmanship of the concerned Deputy Director of Education (District), who shall ensure that each Private Unaided Recognized Schools must upload the criteria and their points on the online module available on this Directorate website www.edudel.nic.in as per the time line as prescribed in para-1 and further ensure that the school shall not adopt those criteria which were abolished by the department and upheld by the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi in **WP(C)-448/2016.**

21. The Monitoring Cell shall also ensure that all the school must upload the details of children who applied for admission under open seats and points allotted to each of them under their point system and details of all the children admitted in the school on DoE website.

22. It will also redress the grievance of the parents, if any, against the school regarding adopting the unjustified criteria, received in the District manually or through online which may be filed by the applicants at the link available in the scroll on this Directorate's website i.e. www.edudel.nic.in under heading Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System.

23. After closure of the admission process, Deputy Directors of Education (Distt.) shall compile the school-wise details of vacant seats under General Category in the Format-2 and forward the same to this branch latest by **15.03.2027 (Monday)** for publicizing the school-wise vacant seats details in the public domain in order to facilitate the schools to get vacant seats filled. **(Format-2 is enclosed).**

24. No Private Unaided Recognized Schools shall process the admission of EWS/DG/CWSN free ship category students manually. The department shall

conduct computerized draw of lots for admission of EWS/DG/CWSN Category Students in r/o all the Private Unaided Recognized Schools & Freeship category students in r/o all the Private Unaided Recognized Schools running on Government allotted land and regulated by Directorate of Education.

20/11/2026

(ANKITA ANAND, IAS)
DIRECTOR (EDUCATION)

To:-

Management of all Private Unaided Recognized Schools of Delhi.

No. F.DE.15(172)/PSB/2016/6429-6439 Dated: 20. 11. 2026

Copy for information & necessary action please:-

01. Secretary to Hon'ble MoE, GNCT of Delhi.
02. OSD to Chief Secretary, GNCT of Delhi.
03. PS to Pr. Secretary (Education), Dept. of Education, GNCT of Delhi
04. PPS to Director (Education), Dte. Of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
05. Director (Education), Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Civic Centre, Delhi.
06. Director (Education), New Delhi Municipal Council, Delhi.
07. Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Cantonment Board, Delhi
08. All Addl. Director/Spl. Directors/RDEs/DDEs/ADEs, Dte. Of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
09. All Branch In-charges, Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
10. OS (IT) with the request to upload it on the Departmental website.
11. Guard File.

20/11/2026

(ANKITA ANAND, IAS)
DIRECTOR (EDUCATION)

Format-1

Furnished by the School to DDE Concerned

Name of the School	
Address of the School	
School ID	
Zone	
District	
Whether the school has Minority Status	Yes/No

Details of Entry Level Class(es) wherever Fresh/New Admission are made												
	Nursery/Bal Vatika-1/Pre-School-1 (New Admission)			Lower KG /Bal Vatika-2/ Pre-School-2 (New Admission)			Upper KG /Bal Vatika-3/ Pre-School-3 (New Admission)			Class-I (New-Admission)		
Session	Total no. of seats	No. of seats for General category out of total seats	No. of seats for EWS/DG (25% of total seats for non-minority school)	Total no. of seats	No. of seats for general category out of total seats	No. of seats for EWS/DG(25 % of total seats for non-minority school)	Total no. of seats	No. of seats for general category out of total seats	No. of seats for EWS/DG(25 % of total seats for non-minority school)	Total no. of seats	No. of seats for general categor y out of total seats	No. of seats for EWS/DG (25% of total seats for non-minority school)
2024-25												
2025-26												
2026-27												
2027-28 (Not less than the highest of above three)												

Format-II

To be compiled by the DDE (Zone Wise)

District			Nursery/Bal Vatika-1/Pre-School-1 (New Admission)			Lower KG /Bal Vatika-2/ Pre-School-2 (New Admission)			Upper KG /Bal Vatika-3/ Pre-School-3 (New Admission)			Class-I (New Admission)		
S. No	School ID	Name of the School	Total No. of Seats	No. of seats for General Category out of total seats	No. of seats for EWS/DG (25% of total seats for non-minority schools)	Total No. of Seats	No. of seats for General Category out of total seats	No. of seats for EWS/DG (25% of total seats for non-minority schools)	Total No. of Seats	No. of seats for General Category out of total seats	No. of seats for EWS/DG (25% of total seats for non-minority schools)	Total No. of Seats	No. of seats for General Category out of total seats	No. of seats for EWS/DG (25% of total seats for non-minority schools)

Annexure-1

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi
Directorate of Education (Act-I) Branch
Old Secretariat, Delhi-54

No. F.DE.15/Act-I/4607/13/2015/ 5686 – 5696 Dated: 06-01-2016

ORDER

Directorate of Education vide its circular dated 8/12/2015 directed all the Private Unaided Recognized Schools to develop and adopt criteria for admissions for the 75% Open Seats to Entry Level Classes for session 2016-17 which shall be clear, well defined, equitable, non-discriminatory, unambiguous and transparent. All these criteria and their points were to be uploaded on the departmental website.

The adopted criteria uploaded by the schools was scrutinized and found that some of the schools have adopted criteria like Status of child, Non smoker parent, Special ground if candidate is having proficiency in music and sports/Social, Noble cause/Non-smoker parent/Oral Test/Date of Birth Certificate of Child from MCD/Affidavit/Vegetarianism/Joint Family/ Non-alcoholic/Age/ Certificate of last school attended/Language/economic condition/Business/Service/ Attitude and Values/ID Proofs and Address of the documents of the parents/Special Quality/ declaration regarding picking or drop of the students at school facility etc. which are contrary to the principles mentioned above.

Further, it has been observed that some private unaided recognized schools are reserving seats under Management Quota as well as in different categories like under Sibling, Alumni, Girl Child etc.

The issues of adopting unfair criteria by the Private Unaided Recognized Schools was raised in WPC 8533/2010 and other connected matters and Hon'ble High Court vide its judgment dated 19/02/2013 directed that Hon'ble Lt. Governor Delhi may amend the existing admission order 2007 exercising the power conferred upon him under section 3 read with rule 43 of DSEAR, 1973 to check any possible malpractices in 75% admission to the entry level classes.

Hon'ble High Court in its judgment dated 19/02/2013 held that Private Unaided Schools cannot be allowed to run as Teaching Shop. The operative part of the judgment is as under:-

06/1/2016

"It is common knowledge that though there is obligation on the State to provide free and compulsory education to children and the corresponding responsibility of the institution to afford the same, educational institution cannot be allowed to run as 'Teaching Shops' as the same would be detrimental to equal opportunity to children. This reality must not be ignored by the State while considering the observations made in this judgment. Hence, we only observe that to avail the benefit of the Right to Education Act to a child seeking for nursery school as well, necessary amendment should be considered by the State. We hope and trust that the Government may take the above observations in the right spirit and act accordingly".

Pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, this Directorate issued Orders dated 18/12/2013 & 27/12/2013 prescribing uniform criteria and their point for admission to the Entry Level Classes for Open Seats in Private Unaided Recognized Schools.

The said orders when challenged were set aside by the Hon'ble High Court vide order dated 28/11/2014 in WPC 177/2014 & 202/2014 with the observation that Private Unaided Schools have a fundamental right to devise the procedure to admit students but subject to the condition that the procedure is fair, reasonable and transparent.

Contrary to the directions of the Hon'ble High Court's Order dated 28/11/2014 in WPC 177/2014 & 202/2014, many Private Unaided Recognized Schools have come out with admission criteria which are unfair, unreasonable and non-transparent.

In view of the above, all the Private Unaided Schools concerned are directed to remove the admission criteria as mentioned below and replace them with the criteria which shall be fair, reasonable and transparent.

Sl. No.	Criteria	Remarks of being unfair, unreasonable and non-transparent
01	Special ground (parents with proficiency in music, sports, national awardee etc.)	This criterion is not just as it is discriminatory to the other children seeking admission.
02	Transferable jobs / state transfers / IST	This criterion is required for admission in upper classes to give better chances and continuation of studies of a child. It is not just to give weightage for admission at the entry level classes. Apart from it, an individual residing in particular locality for many years has a better right to get his ward admitted in the school in his locality rather than the individual who has shifted on

06/1/2016

		transfer to that locality.
03	First born	This criterion shall lead to discrimination for the parents desirous to seek admission of his ward that is not first born.
04	Parents education	India is a developing country and literacy rate is not 100%. Giving weightage to parents' education criteria is unjust to the children whose parents do not have good educational background. It leads to the inequality also.
05	School transport	One can't be forced to use school transport and it depends on the need of parents. Compulsion to use school transport shall also put an extra financial burden on the parents.
06	Parent working in sister-concern school,	The ward of Staff/Employees of any school concerned can have a right for admission to that school but extending the same benefits to the sister concern of that particular school will curtail the right of General Parents' wards.
07	Both parents are working,	There is no merit to give weightage on this criterion. Equal opportunities of admission should be given to non-working/single parent working/both parents working.
08	First cousin of the child (parental / maternal),	This will create a homogenous group in a class/school which is not conducive to the overall development of child.
09	School specific criteria	This criterion has a very wide interpretation. The school should have specified it in a just, reasonable and transparent manner.
10	Status of child	This is illogical criterion as one can't assign the status to the small children.
11	Special ground if candidate is having proficiency in music and sports,	It is inappropriate to assign points for proficiency in music and sport to a child at the age of 3 to 6 years.
12	Any other specific category	This is vague criterion. The school should have specified it in a just, reasonable and transparent manner.
13	Social/Noble cause.	There is no standard parameter to determine it and is likely to be misused.
14	Mother's qualification 12th Passed	There is no merit to give weightage on this criterion. Equal opportunities of admission should be given to children irrespective of their mother's qualification.
15	Non-smoker parent	Child cannot be punished for the any particular habit of the parents, so this is unjust.
16	Empirical achievements	Parents' achievements cannot be the criteria

26/1/2016

	of the parents	for admission as all the children have equal rights.
17	First time admission seekers,	There is no merit. Everyone is first time admission seeker to the entry level class.
18	First-come-first-get,	The admission schedule has been fixed by the Department prescribing the dates for submitting application, displaying the list of selected children. If no particular criteria is fixed for such admission, the school may collect applications up to the last date , if number of application are more than the seats, it may go for draw of lots and make admission as per announced schedule.
19	Oral Test	Screening/Interview at the entry level is not reasonable.
20	Interview	Interview at the entry level is not reasonable.
21	Professional field// expertise	Parents' professional field cannot be the criteria for admission as all the children have equal rights.
22	Management Quota	Schools do not adopt standard procedure to admit students under this criterion. There are widespread allegations that this quota is misused by the schools by collecting capitation fee from the parents.
23	Date of Birth Certificate of Child from MCD/Affidavit	This cannot be the criteria for points. It is documentary proof for age.
24	Govt. employee	Parents' professional field cannot be the criteria for admission as all the children have equal rights.
25	Vegetarianism	Child cannot be punished or rewarded for any particular habit of the parents, so this is unjust.
26	Special cases	This criterion has a very wide interpretation. The school should have specified the criteria which may be just, reasonable and transparent.
27	Joint Family	This criterion is not practically determinable and as such, there is no basis of connecting it to the admission process.
28	Non-alcoholic	Child cannot be punished for any particular habit of the parents, so this is unjust.
29	Age	Age criterion has already been specified for Entry Level Classes by the department therefore points cannot be assigned to this.
30	Certificate of last school attended/Marks of previous class,	In the entry class admission, there is no certificate of last school attended and marks of previous class so it is illogical to give points to this criterion.
31	Proven track record of	Parents proven track cannot be the criteria

06/1/2016

	parents (international/ national/state awardee)/ Rural Development/ Promotion of traditional art and craft/Sport etc.	for admission as all the children have equal rights.
32	Gender	This is discriminatory.
33	Attitudes and values	It is undefined and likely to be misused.
34	ID Proofs and Address of the documents of the parents	Department has already specified the list of documents as proofs. It cannot be a criteria for giving points.
35	Language (speak only 2 points, write only 2 points, read only 2 points)	This is illogical to give points to this criterion. Small children should be on equal footing in every respect as the entry level class is the starting level of learning.
36	Promotion/Recognition as specified in the school website and notice board	It is not clear.
37	Economic condition/ BPL Family/ Background – Poor Family	The parents seeking admission in a particular school are aware of the fee structure of the school and willing to pay the same. Fee structure of the school is same for everyone in the school. So the economic condition should not matter.
38	Business/Service	It is not just and discriminatory. Parents' status does not matter at least in the education field.
39	Special quality	It is undefined and likely to be misused.
40	Declaration regarding picking or drop	It is illogical. It is the choice of the parents to opt for school transport or not as per their convenience.
41	Scholar students	It is illogical. No scholastic aptitude can be tested at the entry level classes.
42	Regularity in payment of school dues	It is illogical. Parents just seeking admission of their ward in the entry level class cannot be judged on this criterion.
43	Terms and condition of school	It is not clear.
44	2 Photograph of child	It is not relevant criteria for assigning points.

16/1/2012

45	Original Research/Recognition received in the area	It is illogical, undefined.
46	Child whose parents/ grandparent is a significant non-financial/ volunteer to the school.	It is undefined and discriminatory.
47	Contribution, physical or professional work (both pro-bono) through a registered NGO.	It is vague and undefined and likely to be misused.
48	Father/Mother participates at state level in the field on sports, music and writing.	Parents' proficiency/expertise in any field cannot be the criteria for admission as all the children have equal rights.
49	Interview/GK	Interview at the entry level is not reasonable.
50	Management discretion	This criterion is not fair and likely to be misused.
51	Management reference	This criterion is not fair and likely to be misused.
52	No admission criteria	In case of no admission criteria, the school has to follow the admission schedule of the department. If the number of applications are more than the seats available, then draw of lots may be conducted and admissions to be done as per schedule.
53	Oral Test /Communication Skill/Interaction	Oral Test /Communication Skill/Interaction at the entry level is not reasonable.
54	Parents reasons for approaching the school in terms of objective of the school	It is undefined and discriminatory.
55	Permanent resident of Delhi by birth	It is illegal and violation of fundamental right of the citizen.
56	School parameters/school specific parameters	It is undefined.
57	Similar cultural ethos	It is undefined.
58	SLC countersigned by EO	It is illogical as no SLC is required for admission in Entry Level Class.
59	Special permission for not completing elementary education.	It is not clear.
60	Sports /Sports activity	It is discriminatory.
61	Adopted Child/ twins	It is unfair.
62	Delhi University Staff	It is illogical

4/1/21

The list mentioned above is indicative and not exhaustive. The Private Unaided Recognized Schools are directed to remove all the criteria which are unfair, unreasonable and non-transparent.

Further, it is also observed that some of the schools have reserved a large number of seats under various quotas. Only 25% of the seats are reserved in Private Unaided Recognized Schools for EWS/DG admissions and rest of the 75% seats should be open seats where points based fair, reasonable and transparent criteria can be adopted for the admissions. In 75% of the open seats, there should not be any quota. However, if required, the children of the staff and the children of the members of the Management Committee can be given admission by making it a criterion and assigning points.

It is, accordingly, ordered that all Private Unaided Recognized Schools shall revise the admission criteria on the above lines in view of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court in its judgement dated 28/11/2014.

This order is issued with the approval of the Cabinet.

Ashima Jain 06/01/2016

(Dr. Ashima Jain), IAS
Additional Director of Education (ACT-I)

Management/HOS of Private Unaided Recognized Schools of Delhi

No. F.DE.15/Act-I/4607/13/2015/ 5686-5696 Dated:- 06-01-2016

Copy for information to :–

1. Pr. Secretary to Chief Minister, Delhi
2. PS to Minister of Education, GNCT of Delhi
3. PS to Pr. Secretary, Education
4. PS to Director (Education)
5. All Spl DE/RD/ADE of Directorate of Education.
6. All Districts DDEs
7. All the Directors of Education (MCD)/NDMC/Delhi Cant. Board.
8. All Education Officers
9. OS (IT) with direction to upload the order on the website of the department on the link 'Public Circulars and Orders.'
10. Guard file.

P.Lata 06/01/2016

(P.Lata Tara)
DDE (Act-I)

Annexure-2

$~

* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

\+ W.P.(C) 448/2016 & CM APPLs. 3109-3112/2016

ACTION COMMITTEE UNAIDED
RECOGNIZED PRIVATE SCHOOLS ..... Petitioner
Through Mr. Dushyant Dave, Senior Advocate with Mr. Kamal Gupta, Advocate

versus

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION ..... Respondent
Through Mr. Gurukrishna Kumar, Senior Advocate with Mr. Rahul Mehra, Sr. Standing Counsel, Mr. Gautam Narayan, ASC, Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, ASC, Ms. Tishampati Sen, Mr. Sanyog Bhadur and Mr. Shekhar Budakoti, Advocates for GNCTD/DoE.
Mr. Amit Bhargava, Applicant in CM Appl. 3109/2016.
Mr. Khagesh B. Jha, Advocate for Intervener.

With

\+ W.P.(C) 452/2016 & CM APPLs. 3147-3148/2016

FORUM FOR PROMOTION OF QUALITY
EDUCATION FOR ALL ..... Petitioner
Through Mr. Sunil Gupta, Senior Advocate with Mr. Vedanta Varma and Mr. Vibhor Kush, Advocates

versus

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI & ANR ..... Respondents
Through Mr. Gurukrishna Kumar, Senior Advocate with Mr. Rahul Mehra,

Sr. Standing Counsel, Mr. Gautam Narayan, ASC, Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, ASC, Ms. Tishampati Sen, Mr. Sanyog Bhadur and Mr. Shekhar Budakoti, Advocates for GNCTD/DoE.
Mr. Khagesh B. Jha, Advocate for Intervener.

Reserved on : 02nd February, 2016
% Date of Decision : 04th February, 2016

CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANMOHAN

J U D G M E N T

MANMOHAN, J:

CM Appl.1778/2016 in W.P.(C) 448/2016
CM Appl. 1831/2016 in W.P.(C) 452/2016

PRIMARY CHALLENGE

1. Present writ petitions have been filed challenging the order dated 06th January, 2016 issued by the Government of NCT of Delhi (for short 'GNCTD') whereby the respondents have directed the private unaided schools of Delhi to open the entire 75 per cent seats, i.e., *"in 75% of the open seats, there would not be any quota."*

ARGUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS

2. Mr. Sunil Gupta and Mr. Dushyant Dave, learned senior counsel for the petitioners submitted that the impugned order adversely affects the fundamental right of freedom and autonomy of the petitioners-Committee/Forum of private unaided schools upheld by the Supreme Court in ***T.M.A. Pai Foundation and Others vs. State of Karnataka and Others,***

(2002) 8 SCC 481 as also by this Court in ***Forum for Promotion of Quality Education for All vs. Lt. Governor of Delhi & Others, 216 (2015) DLT 80*** in two ways inasmuch as it interferes with eleven most healthy, noble and socially and nationally relevant, fair and reasonable criteria and it deprives the petitioners of the long-standing management quota of twenty percent seats. The eleven criteria defended by the petitioners were item Nos. 1, 3, 5, 10, 16, 31, 32, 45, 47, 48 and 61 of the impugned order.

3. Learned senior counsel for petitioners stated that the previous 2007 Order was issued expressly under Section 3 of the Delhi School Education Act, 1973 [for short "Act, 1973"] read with Rule 43 of the Delhi School Education Rules, 1973 [for short "Rules, 1973"] and it enabled the petitioners to adopt criteria in line with their own philosophy and also provided a management quota of twenty per cent and since the impugned order has not been issued under any specific provision, it does not supersede or amend the 2007 Order and, in fact, it conflicts with the 2007 Order inasmuch as it interferes with various such criteria adopted by the private unaided schools and deprives them of the management quota. They stated that the impugned order also runs contrary to the affidavits filed by the GCNTD in the earlier litigation in defence of the 2007 Order. According to them, in so doing, it betrays non-application of mind and repeats the 2013 folly which had been quashed by this Court in ***Forum for Promotion of Quality Education For All*** (supra).

4. Learned senior counsel for petitioners submitted that the impugned order is without jurisdiction inasmuch as it cannot be used to contradict or overrule a specific provision like Section 16(3) of the Act, 1973 or Rule 145 of the Rules, 1973 where under the Head of School alone regulates

admission in private unaided schools.

5. Learned senior counsel for petitioners further submitted that as regards the ground that schools do not adopt standard procedure, this Court has held that the Government cannot impose a strait-jacket formula of admission upon the schools under the guise of reasonable restriction.

6. As regards the ground that there are 'widespread allegations' of misuse of quota/capitation fee, learned senior counsel for petitioners pointed out that this Court has held that the restriction is not reasonable under Article 19(6) of the Constitution because in the present instance, there is no material to show that private unaided schools were indulging in any malpractice or were misusing their right to admit students in pursuance to the 2007 notification. They stated that greater autonomy leads to more schools and is in public interest.

ARGUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS

7. On the other hand, Mr. Gurukrishna Kumar, learned senior counsel for the respondents submitted that the present writ petition is not maintainable as the petitioner-Committee is an association and it cannot espouse any fundamental right. According to him, only the individual schools can approach the Court.

8. Mr. Gurukrishna Kumar submitted that the impugned order is legal and valid. According to him, the answering respondent was duly empowered under Section 2(e)(ii) of Act, 1973 and Rule 43 of Rules, 1973 to issue the same. He submitted that the Act, 1973 must be interpreted and understood in the light of the subsequent developments, namely, the enactment of the Constitutional 69th Amendment Act, the GNCT Act, 1991

and the framing of the Transaction and Allocation of Business Rules.

9. Mr. Gurukrishna Kumar stated that in a Cabinet system of Government, the Governor/Lieutenant Governor is the Constitutional head and the administration of the State is performed by the Council of Ministers. According to him, since it is not possible for the Council to deal with each and every issue, the Head of the Government is authorised to make rules for the convenient transaction of business and for the allocation amongst the Ministers and also to allocate functions to particular officials. In the case of GNCTD, this has been done by framing the Transaction of Business Rules and the Allocation of Business Rules. In accordance therewith, the task of administration has been distributed amongst various Departments mentioned in the Schedule to the Allocation of Business Rules and the civil servants, who are experts, take decisions on behalf of the Government. In support of his submission, he relied upon the judgment of the Supreme Court in ***A. Sanjeevi Naidu, Etc. v. State of Madras and Another, (1970) 1 SCC 443.***

10. Without prejudice to the above, Mr. Gurukrishna Kumar submitted that the fact that the said orders had not been issued in name of the Lieutenant Governor was not fatal and did not invalidate the same. He relied upon the judgment of the Supreme Court in ***R. Chitralekha & Anr. vs. State of Mysore and others (1964) 6 SCR 368.***

11. Mr. Gurukrishna Kumar further submitted that the objective behind issuing the impugned order was not to deprive private unaided educational schools of autonomy. He stated that the objective was only to ensure that admissions to entry level classes were made in a fair, reasonable, rational, transparent and non-exploitive manner. He submitted that the answering respondent was statutorily bound to ensure that schools are managed and run

in the best interests of education of children and for the better organization and development of school education [Sections 3(1), 4(6), 16(3), 28(2)(a), (b), (q) of Act, 1973 and Rules 50(iv), (v), (vi), 145 and 181 of Rules, 1973]. He pointed out that amongst the 2,500 criteria uploaded by the schools, only 62 had been identified and directed to be eschewed by the answering respondent.

12. Mr. Gurukrishna Kumar submitted that the practice of granting admissions under the garb of "management quotas" which are wholly non-transparent and opaque cannot be countenanced. According to him, the attempt of respondent was to ensure that schools do not become '*teaching shops*'.

13. Mr. Gurukrishna Kumar urged that the interference by Court in academic and educational matters should be minimal. He submitted that courts interfere only in the rarest of cases and only when the said order/decision is in derogation of the relevant statute or is patently arbitrary or illegal.

14. Mr. Gurukrishna Kumar lastly submitted that the judgment in ***Forum for Promotion of Quality Education For All*** (supra) recognizes the right of the respondent to regulate but did not deal with the management quota. According to him, the impugned order was issued in pursuance and in accordance with the judgment of this Court in ***Forum for Promotion of Quality Education For All*** (supra).

SAY OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

15. The Deputy Chief Minister, who appeared in person, submitted that the private unaided schools were like contractors who had been given a contract to construct some portion of a road. He stated that just like a contractor, the private unaided schools could not construct a road on their own terms and conditions. He also stated that private unaided schools in the Capital were running an admission racket. He stated that he had received a number of complaints last year with regard to demand for donation in lieu of seats allocated under the management quota. He also wanted to hand over certain documents in a sealed cover to this Court.

16. This Court asked the Deputy Chief Minister to take action on the complaints received by him in accordance with law. This Court clarified that by its previous judgment, only autonomy had been given to private unaided schools and not a licence to misuse the same or sell the seats. It was pointed out that as all Courts in India hold hearings in the open, the documents would be accepted in a sealed cover only if privilege was claimed in accordance with law.

ARGUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE INTERVENORS

17. Mr. Khagesh B. Jha, learned counsel for intervener/applicant stated that most of the private schools are situated on the DDA land and under contractual obligation to admit students from the neighbourhood. He stated that the allotment letter mentions that at least 75% children shall be from the locality where school is situated. He stated that in the present petitions, petitioners not only seek stay of the policy decision but also the direction issued by the Supreme Court under Article 142 of the Constitution in

Modern School Vs. Union of India & Ors., (2004) 5 SCC 583.

18. Mr. Jha referred to the letter addressed by the President of the petitioners which mentions that the seats are given to the politicians, bureaucrats and social worker which itself reflects corruption.

19. An intervention application was also filed by Mahavir Senior Model School stating that being a minority institution, the impugned order would not apply to it. Learned counsel for the said school relied upon Article 30 of the Constitution. However, learned senior counsel for the respondents stated that as the averments with regard to minority institutions did not find mention in the writ petitions, they were taken by surprise. However, learned senior counsel for the respondents clarified that the impugned order dated 06th January, 2016 while requiring that the status of the parents will not be a justifiable criteria, would not bar a Minority Educational Institution from taking note of the religion/religious affiliation of the concerned ward/child. It was further clarified by learned counsel for respondents that the impugned order dated 06th January, 2016 will otherwise apply to Minority Educational Institutions.

20. This Court finds merit in the contention of learned senior counsel for the respondents that the averments with regard to minority institutions do not find mention in the writ petitions. Consequently, the argument with regard to applicability of the impugned order to minority institutions is left open.

REJOINDER ARGUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS

21. In rejoinder, learned senior counsel for the petitioners stated that the reliance of the respondents on the judgment and order of this Court in

Forum for Promotion of Quality Education For All (supra) was a case of *"devil reading the scriptures"*.

22. Learned senior counsel for the petitioners stated that the analogy of private-public participation in construction of roads in the context of private unaided schools in education was wholly inappropriate and spoke of a legally untrained and purely political mindset. They stated that in the former case, Government gives contractual rights to a concessionaire or contract to build a road and he has no fundamental right. In the latter case, every institution has an inborn human right and a constitutionally recognised and guaranteed fundamental right to establish and run a school by his own means which is not granted by any Government or politician.

23. Learned senior counsel for the petitioners stated that none of the schools forming part of the petitioner-association have been following any criteria of admission which may remotely be attracted or categorized as unfair, inequitable and unreasonable. They stated that schools are following fair, reasonable and just criteria for admission in terms of what was prescribed by the Ganguli Committee and permitted by the order dated 24th November, 2007 issued by the then Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

24. Learned senior counsel for the petitioners contended that the respondents are deliberately misleading the public on the basis of a few unsubstantiated and unverified complaints by stating that discretionary management quota is the biggest education scandal. They stated that the excuse that action is not taken by the authorities because the child will be victimised by the School is a bogey inasmuch as the State has the power and authority to save the child from victimisation by the school. In any event, according to them, all unaided schools cannot be punished by way of

deprivation of their individual fundamental right due to some alleged defaulters.

COURT'S REASONING

25. Having heard learned counsel for the parties, this Court is of the view that the issues raised by the petitioners as well as the respondents require a detailed hearing. The original files would have to be perused. The impleadment applications would also have to be decided after notice. Consequently, the writ petitions cannot be disposed of at the preliminary stage. In fact, this Court on 02nd February, 2016, while reserving the orders, clarified that it would dispose of only the interim applications at this stage.

PRELIMINARY OBJECTION OF THE RESPONDENTS IS UNTENABLE

26. This Court is prima facie not impressed with the respondents submission that the present writ petitions by a Committee and/or a Forum are not maintainable. In fact, there have been numerous cases in which the petitions filed by the Committee/Forum/Association have been entertained and decisions have been rendered by this Court as well as the Apex Court. In any event, the power under Article 226 of the Constitution of India is very wide and there is no limitation expressed or otherwise on the exercise thereof. Consequently, this Court is prima facie of the opinion that no technicalities can come in the way of granting relief under Article 226 of the Constitution.

IMPUGNED ORDER

27. Before proceeding with the matter any further, this Court would like to reproduce the impugned order 06th January, 2016 in its entirety:-

*"**Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi***
Directorate of Education (Act-I) Branch
Old Secretariat, Delhi-54

No. F.DE.15/Act-l/4607/l3/2015/5686-5696 Dated: 06-01-2016

ORDER

Directorate of Education vide its circular dated 8/12/2015 directed all the Private Unaided Recognized Schools to develop and adopt criteria for admissions for the 75% Open Seats to Entry Level Classes for session 2016-17 which shall be clear, well defined, equitable, non-discriminatory, unambiguous and transparent. All these criteria and their points were to be uploaded on the departmental website.

The adopted criteria uploaded by the schools was scrutinized and found that some of the schools have adopted criteria like Status of child, Non smoker parent, Special ground if candidate is having proficiency in music and sports/Social, Noble cause/Non-smoker parent/Oral Test/Date of Birth Certificate of Child from MCD/Affidavit/Vegetarianism/Joint Family/ Non-alcoholic/ Age/ Certificate of last school attended/ Language/economic condition/Business/Service/ Attitude and Values/ID Proofs and Address of the documents of the parents/Special Quality/ declaration regarding picking or drop of the students at school facility etc. which are contrary to the principles mentioned above.

Further, it has been observed that some private unaided recognized schools are reserving seats under Management Quota as well as in different categories like under Sibling, Alumni, Girl Child etc.

The issues of adopting unfair criteria by the Private Unaided Recognized Schools was raised in WPC 8533/2010 and other connected matters and Hon'b1e High Court vide its judgment dated 19/02/2013 directed that Hon'ble Lt. Governor Delhi may amend the existing admission order 2007 exercising the power conferred upon him under section 3 read with rule 43 of DSEAR,

1973 to check any possible malpractices in 75% admission to the entry level classes.

Hon'ble High Court in its judgment dated 19/02/2013 held that Private Unaided Schools cannot be allowed to run as Teaching Shop. The operative part of the judgment is as under:-

"It is common knowledge that though there is obligation on the State to provide free and compulsory education to children and the corresponding responsibility of the institution to afford the same, educational institution cannot be allowed to run as 'Teaching Shops' as the same would be detrimental to equal opportunity to children. This 'reality must not be ignored by the State while considering the observations made in this judgment. Hence, we only observe that to avail the benefit of the Right to Education Act to a child seeking for nursery school as well, necessary amendment should be considered by the State. We hope and trust that the Government may take the above observations in the right spirit and act accordingly".

Pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, this Directorate issued Orders dated 18/12/2013 & 27/12/2013 prescribing uniform criteria and their point for admission to the Entry Level Classes for Open Seats in Private Unaided Recognized Schools.

The said orders when challenged were set aside by the Honble High Court vide order dated 28/11/2014 in WPC 177/2014 & 202/2014 with the observation that Private Unaided Schools have a fundamental right to devise the procedure to admit students but subject to the condition that the procedure is fair, reasonable and transparent.

Contrary to the directions of the Hon'ble High Court's Order dated 28/11/2014 in WPC 177/2014 & 202/2014, many Private Unaided Recognized Schools have come out with admission criteria which are unfair, unreasonable and non-transparent.

In view of the above, all the Private Unaided Schools concerned are directed to remove the admission criteria as mentioned below and replace them with the criteria which shall be fair, reasonable and transparent.

Sl. No.	*Criteria*	*Remarks of being unfair, unreasonable and non-transparent.*
01	*Special ground (parents with proficiency in music, sports, national awardee etc.)*	*This criterion is not just as it is discriminatory to the other children seeking admission.*
02	*Transferable jobs / state transfers / IST*	*This criterion is required for admission in upper classes to give better chances and continuation of studies of a child. It is not just to give weightage for admission at the entry level classes. Apart from it, an individual residing in particular locality for many years has a better right to get his ward admitted in the school in his locality rather than the individual who has shifted on transfer to that locality.*
03	*First Born*	*This criterion shall lead to discrimination for the parents desirous to seek admission of his ward that is not first born.*
04	*Parents education*	*India is a developing country and literacy rate is not 100%. Giving weightage to parents' education criteria is unjust to the children whose parents do not have good educational background. It leads to the inequality also.*
05	*School transport*	*One can't be forced to use school transport and it depends on the need of parents. Compulsion to use school transport shall also put an extra financial burden on the parents.*
06	*Parent working*	*The ward of Staff/Employees of any*

	in sister-concern school,	*school concerned can have a right for admission to that school but extending the same benefits to the sister concern of that particular school will curtail the right of General Parents' wards.*
07	*Both parents are working.*	*There is no merit to give weightage on this criterion. Equal opportunities of admission should be given to non-working/ single parent working/both parents working.*
08	*First cousin of the child (parental / maternal),*	*This will create a homogenous group in a class/school which is not conducive to the overall development of child.*
09	*School specific criteria*	*This criterion has a very wide interpretation. The school should have specified it in a just, reasonable and transparent manner.*
10	*Status of child*	*This is illogical criterion as one can't assign the status to the small children.*
11	*Special ground if candidate is having proficiency in music and sports,*	*It is inappropriate to assign points for proficiency in music and sport to a child at the age of 3 to 6 years.*
12	*Any other specific category*	*This is vague criterion. The school should have specified it in a just, reasonable and transparent manner.*
13	*Social/Noble cause.*	*There is no standard parameter to determine it and is likely to be misused.*
14	*Mother's qualification 12th Passed*	*There is no merit to give weightage on this criterion. Equal opportunities of admission should be given to children irrespective of their mother's qualification.*
15	*Non-smoker parent*	*Child cannot be punished for the any particular habit of the parents, so this is unjust.*

16	*Empirical achievements of the parent*	*Parents' achievements cannot be the criteria for admission as all the children have equal rights.*
17	*First time admission seekers,*	*There is no merit. Everyone is first time admission seekers to the entry level class.*
18	*First-come-first-get,*	*The admission schedule has been fixed by the Department prescribing the dates for submitting application, displaying the list of selected children. If no particular criteria is fixed for such admission, the school may collect applications up to the last date, if number of application are more than the seats, it may go for draw of lots and make admission as per announced schedule.*
19	*Oral Test*	*Screening/Interview at the entry level is not reasonable.*
20	*Interview*	*Interview at the entry level is not reasonable.*
21	*Professional field // expertise*	*Parents' professional field cannot be the criteria for admission as all the children have equal rights.*
22	*Management Quota*	*Schools do not adopt standard procedure to admit students under this criterion. There are widespread allegations that this quota is misused by the schools by collecting capitation fee from the parents.*
23	*Date of Birth Certificate of Child from MCD/Affidavit*	*This cannot be the criteria for points. It is documentary proof for age.*
24	*Govt. employee*	*Parents' professional field cannot be the criteria for admission as all the children have equal rights.*
25	*Vegetarianism*	*Child cannot be punished or rewarded for any particular habit of the parents, so this is unjust.*

26	*Special cases*	*This criterion has a very wide interpretation. The school should have specified the criteria which may be just, reasonable and transparent.*
27	*Joint Family*	*This criterion is not practically determinable and as such, there is no basis of connecting it to the admission process.*
28	*Non-alcoholic*	*Child cannot be punished for any particular habit of the parents, so this is unjust.*
29	*Age*	*Age criterion has already been specified for Entry Level Classes by the department therefore points cannot be assigned to this.*
30	*Certificate of last school attended/Marks of previous class,*	*In the entry class admission, there is no certificate of last school attended and marks of previous class so it is illogical to give points to this criterion.*
31	*Proven track record of parents (international/ national/state awardee)/ Rural Development/ Promotion of traditional art and craft/Sport etc.*	*Parents proven track cannot be the criteria for admission as all the children have equal rights.*
32	*Gender*	*This is discriminatory.*
33	*Attitudes and values*	*It is undefined and likely to be misused.*
34	*ID Proofs and Address of the documents of*	*Department has already specified the list of documents as proofs. It cannot be a criteria for giving points.*

	the parents	
35	*Language (speak only 2 points, write only 2 points, read only 2 points)*	*This is illogical to give points to this criterion. Small children should be on equal footing in every respect as the entry level class is the starting level of learning.*
36	*Promotion/Recognition as specified in the school website and notice board*	*It is not clear.*
37	*Economic condition/ BPL Family/ Background - Poor Family.*	*The parents seeking admission in a particular school are aware of the fee structure of the school and willing to pay the same. Fee structure of the school is same for everyone in the school. So the economic condition should not matter.*
38	*Business / Service*	*It is not just and discriminatory. Parents' status does not matter at least in the education field.*
39	*Special equality*	*It is undefined and likely to be misused.*
40	*Declaration regarding picking or drop*	*It is illogical. It is the choice of the parents to opt for school transport or not as per their convenience.*
41	*Scholar students*	*It is illogical. No scholastic aptitude can be tested at the entry level classes.*
42	*Regularity in payment of school dues*	*It is illogical. Parents just seeking admission of their ward in the entry level class cannot be judged on this criterion.*
43	*Terms and condition of school*	*It is not clear.*
44	*2 Photograph of child*	*It is not relevant criteria for assigning points.*

45	*Original Research/ Recognition received in the area*	*It is illogical, undefined.*
46	*Child whose parents/grandparent is a significant non-financial/ volunteer to the school.*	*It is undefined and discriminatory.*
47	*Contribution, physical or professional work (both pro-bono) through a registered NGO.*	*It is vague and undefined and likely to be misused.*
48.	*Father / Mother participates at state level in the field on sports, music and writing.*	*Parents' proficiency/expertise in any field cannot be the criteria for admission as all the children have equal rights.*
49	*Interview/GK*	*Interview at the entry level is not reasonable.*
50	*Management discretion*	*This criterion is not fair and likely to be misused.*
51	*Management reference*	*This criterion is not fair and likely to be misused.*
52	*No admission criteria*	*In case of no admission criteria, the school has to follow the admission schedule of the. department. If the number of applications are more than the seats available, then draw of lots may be conducted and admissions to be done as per schedule.*

53	*Oral Test / Communication Skill/ Interaction*	*Oral Test/Communication Skill/Interaction at the entry level is not reasonable.*
54	*Parents reasons for approaching the school in terms of objective of the school*	*It is undefined and discriminatory.*
55	*Permanent resident of Delhi by birth*	*It is illegal and violation of fundamental right of the citizen.*
56.	*School parameters/ school specific parameters*	*It is undefined.*
57	*Similar cultural ethos*	*It is undefined.*
58	*SLC countersigned by EO*	*It is illogical as no SLC is required for admission in Entry Level Class.*
59	*Special permission for not completing elementary education.*	*It is not clear.*
60.	*Sports /Sports activity*	*It is discriminatory.*
61.	*Adopted Child / twins*	*It is unfair.*
62.	*Delhi University staff*	*It is illogical*

The list mentioned above is indicative and not exhaustive. The Private Unaided Recognized Schools are directed to remove all the criteria which are unfair, unreasonable and non-transparent.

Further, it is also observed that some of the schools have reserved a large number of seats under various quotas. Only 25% of the seats are reserved in Private Unaided Recognized Schools for EWS/DG admissions and rest of the 75% seats should be open seats where points based fair, reasonable and transparent criteria can be adopted for the admissions. In 75% of the open seats, there should not be any quota. However, if required, the children of the staff and the children of the members of the Management Committee can be given admission by making it a criterion and assigning points.

It is, accordingly, ordered that all Private Unaided Recognized Schools shall revise the admission criteria on the above lines in view of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court in its judgement dated 28/11/2014.

This order is issued with the approval of the Cabinet."

(emphasis supplied)

PRIMA FACIE, THE IMPUGNED ORDER HAS BEEN ISSUED WITHOUT ANY AUTHORITY AND IS IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE ORDER OF 2007 ISSUED BY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

28. From the aforesaid impugned order, it is apparent that it does not indicate the Act and/or provision and Act under which it has been issued.

29. It is pertinent to mention that the order dated 24th November, 2007 under Section 3(1) of the Act, 1973 and Rule 43 of the Rules, 1973, permitted management quota upto twenty per cent. Clause 14(vi) of the Order dated 24th November, 2007 is reproduced hereinbelow:-

"14. The school shall develop and adopt criteria for admission which shall be clear, well defined, equitable, non-discriminatory and unambiguous. The school shall adopt those parameters which are in the best interests of children and are in line with its own philosophy, and these shall include the following:-

xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

(vi) Management Quota - School may have a management quota which shall not exceed twenty percent of the total seats available for admission in the class."

30. Consequently, this Court is prima facie of the view that the impugned order cannot supersede, amend or modify the order dated 24th November, 2007 which was specifically made under Section 3(1) of the Act, 1973 read with Rule 43 of the Rules, 1973 and has been occupying the field. Sections 2(a) and 3(1) of the Act, 1973 as well as Rule 43 of the Rules, 1973 are reproduced hereinbelow:-

(A) Section 2(a) of Act, 1973

(a) *"Administrator" means the Administrator of the Union Territory of Delhi appointed by the President under article 230 of the Constitution;*

(B) Section 3 of Act, 1973

"3. ***Power of Administrator to Regulate Education in Schools—****(1) The Administrator may regulate education in all the schools in Delhi in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder....."*

(C) Rule 43 of Rules, 1973

*"43.****Power to issue Instructions****—The Administrator may, if he is of opinion that in the interest of school education in Delhi it is necessary so to do, issue such instructions in relation to any matter, not covered by these rules, as he may deem fit."*

31. This Court is also prima facie of the view that the 69th Amendment Act, the GNCT Act, 1991 and the Transaction and Allocation of Business Rules and the judgments of the Supreme Court in ***A. Sanjeevi Naidu*** (supra)

and ***R. Chitralekha*** (supra), offer no assistance to the respondents. The present case does not pertain to any general executive action, but pertains to a specific Statute wherein the power has been given to the Administrator/Lieutenant Governor to issue Regulation in a particular manner. It is well settled that if a Statute requires a thing to be done in a particular manner, it should be done in that manner or not all. (See ***Shiv Kumar Chadha v. Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Others, (1993) 3 SCC 161, Taylor v. Taylor (1875) 1 Ch D 426*** and ***Nazir Ahmad v. King-Emperor, AIR 1936 PC 253 (2).***

32. In fact, the Division Bench of this Court with regard to Act, 1973 and Rules, 1973, in ***Social Jurist, A Civil Rights Group vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Anr., 198(2013) DLT 384*** has held as under:-

> *"35.....The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Section 3(1) of Delhi School Education Act and Rule 43 of Delhi School Education Rules, 1973 is competent to give such further directions or to make such modifications to the existing order as the Government may deem appropriate, to prevent any possible misuse or malpractice in making admission to pre-primary and pre-school classes by these private unaided schools....."*
>
> (emphasis supplied)

33. Consequently, this Court is prima facie of the view that the impugned order has been issued without any authority. This Court is also of the prima facie view that being in direct conflict with the Order of 2007, it is the impugned order which will have to give way.

34. Even if the respondents' submission is accepted, then also this Court is of the prima facie view that Article 239AA(3)(c) of the Constitution of India would be attracted to the present case. The relevant portion of Article

239AA of the Constitution of India reads as under:-

> ***"239AA. Special provisions with respect to Delhi.—(1)*** *As from the date of commencement of the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991, the Union territory of Delhi shall be called the National Capital Territory of Delhi (hereafter in this Part referred to as the National Capital Territory) and the administrator thereof appointed under Article 239 shall be designated as the Lieutenant Governor.*
>
> *xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx*
>
> *(3) (a) Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Legislative Assembly shall have power to make laws for the whole or any part of the National Capital Territory with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State of List or in the Concurrent List in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union territories except matters with respect to Entries 1,2, and 18 of the State List and Entries 64, 65 and 66 of that List in so far as they relate to the said Entries 1,2 and 18.*
>
> *xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx*
>
> *(c) If any provision of a law made by the Legislative Assembly with respect to any matter is repugnant to any provision of a law made by Parliament with respect to that matter, whether passed before or after the law made by the Legislative Assembly, or of an earlier law, other than a law made by the Legislative Assembly, then, in either case, the law made by Parliament, or, as the case may be, such earlier law, shall prevail and the law made by the Legislative Assembly shall, to the extent of the repugnancy, be void:....."*
>
> (emphasis supplied)

BOTH PARTIES SWEAR BY THE SAME JUDGMENT, VIZ., FORUM FOR PROMOTION OF QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL (SUPRA) IN WHICH IT HAS BEEN HELD THAT PRIVATE UNAIDED SCHOOL MANAGEMENTS HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT UNDER ARTICLES 19(1)(g) TO ESTABLISH, RUN AND ADMINISTER THEIR SCHOOLS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO ADMIT STUDENTS

35. From the impugned order, it is apparent that this is one of the few cases where both the petitioners and the respondents 'swear by the same judgment'. While the respondents state that the impugned order has been issued in accordance with the observations made by this Court in ***Forum for Promotion of Quality Education For All*** (supra), the petitioners challenge it primarily on the basis of the said judgment.

36. It is pertinent to mention that this Court in ***Forum for Promotion of Quality Education for All*** (supra) after relying upon the observations in ***T.M.A. Pai Foundation*** (supra) has held that the private unaided school managements have a fundamental right under Articles 19(1)(g) to establish, run and administer their schools, including the right to admit students. The relevant portion of ***T.M.A. Pai Foundation*** (supra) quoted in the said judgment, is reproduced hereinbelow:-

> *"20. Article 19(1)(g) employs four expressions, viz., profession, occupation, trade and business. Their fields may overlap, but each of them does have a content of its own. Education is per se regarded as an activity that is charitable in nature [See The State of Bombay v. R.M.D. Chamarbaugwala,. Education has so far not been regarded as a trade or business where profit is the motive. Even if there is any doubt about whether education is a profession or not, it does appear that education will fall within the meaning of the expression "occupation".....*
>
> *xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx*

25.The establishment and running of an educational institution where a large number of persons are employed as teachers or administrative staff, and an activity is carried on that results in the imparting of knowledge to the students, must necessarily be regarded as an occupation, even if there is no element of profit generation. It is difficult to comprehend that education, per se, will not fall under any of the four expressions in Article 19(1)(g).

xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

38. The scheme in Unni Krishnan's case has the effect of nationalizing education in respect of important features, viz., the right of a private unaided institution to give admission and to fix the fee. By framing this scheme, which has led to the State Governments legislating in conformity with the scheme the private institutions are undistinguishable from the government institutions; curtailing all the essential features of the right of administration of a private unaided educational institution can neither be called fair or reasonable.....

xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

40. Any system of student selection would be unreasonable if it deprives the private unaided institution of the right of rational selection, which it devised for itself, subject to the minimum qualification that may be prescribed and to some system of computing the equivalence between different kinds of qualifications, like a common entrance test. Such a system of selection can involve both written and oral tests for selection, based on principle of fairness.

41. Surrendering the total process of selection to the state is unreasonable, as was sought to be done in the Unni Krishnan scheme.....

xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

Private unaided non-minority educational institutions

48. Private education is one of the most dynamic and fastest

growing segments of post-secondary education at the turn of the twenty-first century.....

xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

50. The right to establish and administer broadly comprises the following rights:-
(a) to admit students:
(b) to set up a reasonable fee structure:
(c) to constitute a governing body;
(d) to appoint staff (teaching and non-teaching); and
(e) to take action if there is dereliction of duty on the part of any employees."

xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

55. .....But the essence of a private educational institution is the autonomy that the institution must have in its management and administration. There, necessarily, has to be a difference in the administration of private unaided institutions and the government-aided institutions. Whereas in the latter case, the Government will have greater say in the administration, including admissions and fixing of fees, in the case of private unaided institutions, maximum autonomy in the day-to-day administration has to be with the private unaided institutions. Bureaucratic or governmental interference in the administration of such an institution will undermine its independence. While an educational institution is not a business, in order to examine the degree of independence that can be given to a recognized educational institution, like any private entity that does not seek aid or assistance from the Government, and that exists by virtue of the funds generated by it, including its loans or borrowings, it is important to note that the essential ingredients of the management of the private institution include the recruiting students and staff, and the quantum of fee that is to be charged.

xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

60. Education is taught at different levels, from primary to professional. It is, therefore, obvious that government regulations for all levels or types of educational institutions cannot be identical; so also, the extent of control or regulation could be greater vis-à-vis aided institutions.

61. In the case of unaided private schools, maximum autonomy has to be with the management with regard to administration, including the right of appointment, disciplinary powers, admission of students and the fees to be charged. At the school level, it is not possible to grant admissions on the basis of merit. It is no secret that the examination results at all levels of unaided private schools, notwithstanding the stringent regulations of the governmental authorities, are far superior to the results of the government-maintained schools. There is no compulsion on students to attend private schools. The rush for admission is occasioned by the standards maintained in such schools, and recognition of the fact that State-run schools do not provide the same standards of education. The State says that it has no funds to establish institutions at the same level of excellence as private schools. But by curtailing the income of such private schools, it disables those schools from affording the best facilities because of a lack of funds. If this lowering of standards from excellence to a level of mediocrity is to be avoided, the State has to provide the difference which, therefore, brings us back in a vicious circle to the original problem viz. the lack of State funds. The solution would appear to lie in the States not using their scanty resources to prop up institutions that are able to otherwise maintain themselves out of the fees charged, but in improving the facilities and infrastructure of State-run schools and in subsidizing the fees payable by the students there. It is in the interest of the general public that more good quality schools are established; autonomy and non-regulation of the school administration in

the right of appointment, admission of the students and the fee to be charged will ensure that more such institutions are established.....

xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

65. .....The private educational institutions have a personality of their own, and in order to maintain their atmosphere and traditions, it is but necessary that they must have the right to choose and select the students who can be admitted to their courses of studies. It is for this reason that in St. Stephen's College case this Court upheld the scheme whereby a cut-off percentage was fixed for admission, after which the students were interviewed and thereafter selected. While an educational institution cannot grant admission on its whims and fancies, and must follow some identifiable or reasonable methodology of admitting the students, any scheme, rule or regulation that does not give the institution the right to reject candidates who might otherwise be qualified according to, say, their performance in an entrance test, would be an unreasonable restriction under Article 19(6), though appropriate guidelines/modalities can be prescribed for holding the entrance test in a fair manner. Even when students are required to be selected on the basis of merit, the ultimate decision to grant admission to the students who have otherwise qualified for the grant of admission must be left with the educational institution concerned. However, when the institution rejects such students, such rejection must not be whimsical or for extraneous reasons."

(emphasis supplied)

37. Consequently, promoters of a school who make investment at their own personal risk are entitled to full autonomy in administration including the right to admit students.

AUTONOMY HAS ALSO BEEN RECOGNISED AND CONFERRED UPON SCHOOLS BY SECTION 16(3) OF ACT, 1973 AND RULE 145 OF RULES, 1973

38. This Court in ***Forum for Promotion of Quality Education for All*** (supra) pointed out that the concept of autonomy has also been recognized and conferred upon schools by the Act, 1973 and the Rules, 1973 . Rule 145 of Rules, 1973 states that the head of every recognised unaided school shall regulate admissions in its school. Consequently, it was held that the private unaided schools have maximum autonomy in day-to-day administration including the right to admit students.

RESTRICTION UNDER ARTICLE 19(6) CAN ONLY BE BY WAY OF A LAW AND NOT BY WAY OF AN OFFICE ORDER WITHOUT ANY AUTHORITY OF LAW

39. This Court further held in ***Forum for Promotion of Quality Education for All*** (supra) that no citizen can be deprived of his fundamental right guaranteed under Article 19(1) of the Constitution in pursuance to an executive action without any authority of law. If any executive action operates to the prejudice of any person, it must be supported by legislative authority, i.e., a specific statutory provision or rule of law must authorise such an action. Executive instruction in the form of an administrative order unsupported by any statutory provision is not a justifiable restriction on fundamental rights.

40. However, the impugned order is once again an administrative order and not a law made by the Legislature. In fact, the impugned order has been

issued without the mandatory advice of the Advisory Board under Section 22 of the Act, 1973 and is contrary to Rule 145 of Rules, 1973.

IMPUGNED ORDER NOT BASED ON THE LEASE DEED

41. The submission on behalf of learned counsel for the intervener Mr. Khagesh B. Jha that the petitioners-schools have no discretion in admission because of a covenant in the lease deed cannot be examined at this stage as this is not one of the reasons stated in the impugned order and the petitioners have had no occasion to deal with the same. Consequently, this plea can only be considered at the stage of final hearing after the petitioners' have had notice of the present application.

PETITIONERS' CONFINE THEIR CHALLENGE TO ELEVEN CRITERIA WHICH IN THE PRIMA FACIE OPINION OF THIS COURT ARE NOT BASED ON WHIMS AND FANCIES.

42. To be fair, the learned senior counsel for the petitioners stated that they are confining their challenge at this stage to only eleven out of the sixty-two criteria, besides the management quota, which according to them was not a criterion. The statement made by learned senior counsel for petitioners that they are confining their challenge at this stage to only eleven out of sixty-two criteria excluding the management quota is accepted by this Court and the petitioners are held bound by the same.

43. This Court is prima facie of the view that there is nothing in the eleven criteria which would show that they are unreasonable or based on whims and fancies and/or they can lead to mal-administration. Taking into account the parentage of the child may be relevant in certain circumstances, for instance, if the father of the child was a recipient of a gallantry award or

a sports award or had given valuable advice and service to the school like a Doctor, then giving preference to such a ward in admission would not constitute mal-administration. In all probability, such parents would contribute to the growth and evolution of the school as well as its students. It is pertinent to mention that even the EWS Category is based on parentage of the child itself.

44. The criteria which promote admission of a girl child and/or adopted children are not only in consonance with Constitutional norms, but also the need of the hour.

MANAGEMENT QUOTA

45. This Court finds that initially all private unaided schools being established by private means used to fill up hundred per cent of their seats on their own. A balancing act was done by the Ganguly Committee and the Government whereby discretion of private unaided schools was minimised, but not altogether abolished. It is pertinent to mention that management quota had been recommended by Expert Ganguly Committee formed by a Division Bench and accepted and approved by the GNCTD in its Order of 2007. The same has been implemented from 24th November, 2007 to 18th December, 2013. Even the Office Order dated 18th December, 2013 issued by the Lieutenant Governor seeking to delete management quota was quashed by judgment dated 28th November, 2014.

46. After the conclusion of hearing, this Court had summoned the file of LPA 781/2014 filed by Directorate of Education against judgment dated 28th November, 2014 in ***Forum for Promotion of Quality Education for All***

(supra) and found that it contains a number of grounds assailing the quashing of deletion of management quota. The Division Bench refused to grant stay of the quashing of the deletion of the management quota by way of a reasoned order dated 10th December, 2014. Consequently, at this prima facie stage, the deletion of management quota by way of an office order is impermissible in law.

47. This Court is also of the view that the management quota has been recognised by the Supreme Court to be permissible and legal in ***P.A. Inamdar & Ors.*** (supra) and ***Christian Medical College,Vellore & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Ors. (2014) 2 SCC 305***. The petitioners have also pointed out that in Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, guidelines permit management quota in institutes of higher technical/professional education, where admissions are solely based on merit. In the opinion of this Court, what applies to higher educational institutions applies with greater vigour to schools. [See: Paras 60 & 61 in ***T.M.A. Pai Foundation*** (supra)]

ALLEGATIONS OF MALPRACTICE SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED AND TAKEN TO THEIR LOGICAL CONCLUSION

48. However, any alleged malpractice in utilization of the management quota like sale of seats being actionable should be investigated and taken to its logical conclusion in accordance with law, but it cannot be a ground to abolish the quota itself. After all, vesting of discretion is not bad, but to misuse it, is illegal.

49. Consequently, till final disposal of the writ petitions, the impugned order dated 06th January, 2016 is stayed with respect to the eleven criteria (mentioned in para 2 hereinabove) and the management quota.

50. Accordingly, the applications stand disposed of.

MANMOHAN, J

FEBRUARY 04, 2016
rn/NG

Annexure-3

List of Criterion not to be adopted by the Private Unaided Recognized Schools under their point system.

S. No.	Criteria
1	Transferable Jobs/state transfers/IST
2	Parents education
3	Parent working in sister-concern school
4	Both parents are working
5	First cousin of the child (parental/maternal)
6	School specific criteria
7	Special ground if candidate is having proficiency in music and sports.
8	Any other specific Category
9	Social/Noble cause
10	Mother's qualification 12th Passed
11	Non-smoker parent
12	First time admission seekers,
13	First come first-get.
14	Oral Test
15	Interview
16	Professional field/expertise
17	Date of Birth Certificate of Child from MCD/Affidavit
18	Govt employee
19	Vegetarianism
20	Special cases
21	Joint Family
22	Non-alcoholic
23	Age
24	Certificate of last school attended/Marks of previous class,
25	Attitudes and values

26	ID Proofs and Address of the documents of the parents
27	Language (speak only 2 points, read only 2 points)
28	Promotion/Recognition as specified in the school website and notice board
29	Economic condition/BPL Family/Background-Poor Family
30	Business/Service
31	Special quality
32	Declaration regarding picking or drop
33	Scholar students
34	Regularity in payment of school dues
35	Terms and condition of school
36	2 photograph of child
37	Child whose parents/grandparent is a significant non financial/volunteer to/in-school
38	Interview/GK
39	Management discretion
40	Management reference
41	No Admission criteria
42	Oral Test/Communication Skill/Interaction
43	Parents reasons for approaching the school in terms of objective of the school
44	Permanent resident of Delhi by birth
45	School parameters/school specific parameters
46	Similar cultural ethos
47	SLC countersigned by EO
48	Special permission for not completing elementary education
49	Sports/Sports activity
50	Delhi University Staff

Annexure-4

स्वच्छ भारत
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY DELHI
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION: SCHOOL BRANCH
OLD SECRETARIAT: DELHI-110054

No. DE.23(749)/Sch.Br./2025/ 976 **Dated:** 24/10/25

CIRCULAR

Sub: Implementation of Uniform Age of Admission of 6+ years in Class- 1 and Restructuring of the Foundational Stage (Effective from Academic Session 2026–27 onwards in phases)- Reg.

1. All the Heads of Government, Government-Aided and Recognized Unaided Private Schools under the Directorate of Education (DoE), GNCTD were earlier informed regarding the restructuring of the Foundational Stage and the Implementation of the Uniform Age of Admission of 6+ in Class 1 vide Circular No.DE.23(749)/Sch.Br./2025/556 dated 20.06.2025.

2. As per existing structure, there are two Classes namely Nursery & KG in Foundational Stage and then Class 1 with minimum age for admission as 3+, 4+ & 5+ years respectively.

3. The nomenclature for the Foundational Classes, along with the minimum age criteria for admission to Nursery to Class I, shall be implemented in alignment with the restructured Foundational Stage, as envisaged in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is as under in Table 1-

Table 1

Class	**Minimum & Maximum Age for Admission (As on 31st March of the year)**
Nursery (Balvatika 1 / Pre School 1)	3+ years up to 4 years
Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2)	4+ years up to 5 years
Upper KG (Balvatika3 / Pre School 3)	5+ years up to 6 years
Class 1	6+ years up to 7 years

4. The age criteria as detailed in Table 1 will be implemented in phases starting from Academic Session 2026-27. This age criteria will not be applicable for the existing students of classes Nursery to Class 1 for the Academic Session 2025-26.

5. The age relaxation will be granted at the level of Head of School in the minimum as well as maximum age for one month for Nursery to Class 1.

6. Further, the regular students who have passed previous class from any Recognised School and having a valid SLC & Mark Sheet will be exempted from applicability of age appropriate criteria for admission in next higher class.

7. For admissions in the Academic Session 2026–27, a child must have attained the prescribed minimum age as on 31st March, 2026. That is, a child entering Nursery at the age of 3+ years in Session 2026-27, will be in Class 1 at 6+ years.

8. The instructions/ guidelines for the admissions and progression of students as per new age criteria for Pre School Classes and Class 1 have been depicted in Table 2 as under:-

Table 2

Class	**Academic Session 2025-26**	**Academic Session 2026-27**	**Academic Session 2027-28**	**Academic Session 2028-29**
Nursery (Balvatika/ Pre School 1)	Nursery Age 3+ years *These students will be promoted to KG in 2026-27	Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-School 1) (3+ years up to 4 years) **(New admissions)** *These students will be promoted to Lower KG (Balvatika 2 / Pre-School 2) in 2027-28	Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-School 1) (3+ years up to 4 years) **(New admissions)** *These students will be promoted to Lower KG (Balvatika 2 / Pre-School 2) in 2028-29	Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-School 1) (3+ years up to 4 years) **(New admissions)** *These students will be promoted to Lower KG (Balvatika 2 / Pre-School 2) in 2029-30
Lower KG (Balvatika/ Pre School 2)	KG Age 4+ years *These students will be promoted to Class 1 in 2026 – 27	KG (4+ years up to 5 years) **(Promoted from Nursery 2025-26 + New admissions)** **Note: New Admissions for child with age 4+ years up to 5 years in Session 2026-27 will be allowed.** *These students will be promoted to Class 1 in 2027-28	Lower KG (Balvatika 2 / Pre-School 2) (4+ years up to 5 years) **(Promoted from Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-School 1) 2026-27 + New admissions)** **Note: New Admissions for child with age 4+ years up to 5 years in Session 2027-28 will be allowed.** *These students will be promoted to Upper KG	Lower KG (Balvatika 2 / Pre-school 2) (4+ years up to 5 years) **(Promoted from Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-School 1) 2027-28 + New admissions)** **Note: New Admissions for child with age 4+ years up to 5 years in Session 2028-29 will be allowed.** *These students will be promoted to Upper KG

			(Balvatika3 / Pre-School 3) in 2028-29	(Balvatika3 / Pre-School 3) in 2029-30
Upper KG (Balvatika/ Pre School 3)	(Class doesn't exist for this Academic Year)	(Class doesn't exist for this Academic Year)	Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre-School 3) (5+ years up to 6 years) **(New admissions only) Note: New Admissions for child with age 5+ years up to 6 years in Session 2027-28 will be allowed.** *These students will be promoted to Class 1 in 2028-29	Upper KG (Balvatika3 / Pre-school 3) (5+ years up to 6 years) **(Promoted from Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre-School 2) 2027-28 + New admissions) Note: New Admissions for child with age 5+ years up to 6 years in Session 2028-29 will be allowed.** *These students will be promoted to Class 1 in 2029-30
Class I	Class I Age 5+ years up to 6 years *These students will be promoted to Class 2 in 2026 – 27	Class I (5+ years up to 6 years) **(Promoted from KG 2025-26 + New admissions) Note: New Admissions for child with age 5+ years up to 6 years in Session 2026-27 will be allowed.** *These students will be promoted to Class 2 in 2027-28	Class I (5+ years up to 6 years) **(Promoted from KG 2026-27)** *These students will be promoted to Class 2 in 2028-29	Class I (6+ years up to 7 years) **(Promoted from Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre-School 3) 2027-28 + New admissions) Note: New Admissions for child with age 6+ years up to 7 years in Session 2028-29 will be allowed.** *These students will be promoted to Class 2 in 2029-30

9. The details as shown in the above table are hereby explained below for further clarity in this regard.

(1) For the Academic Session 2026-27:

(i) Admission to Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-school 1) will be for the child with **3+ years age as on 31st March, 2026**. The child will be promoted to next classes as per restructured Foundational Stage and therefore move to Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre-school 2) in session 2027-28.

(ii) The classes Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) and Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) do not exist in Academic Session 2026-27.

(iii) Students of Nursery in Academic Session 2025-26 will be promoted to KG in Academic Session 2026-27.

(iv) The age criteria for the new admissions in KG will be 4+ years as on 31st March, 2026.

(v) Students of KG in Academic Session 2025-26 will be promoted to Class 1 in Academic Session 2026-27.

(vi) Students of Class 1 in Academic Session 2025-26 will be promoted to Class 2 in Academic Session 2026-27.

(2) For the Academic Session 2027-28:

(i) Admission to Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-school 1) will be for the child **with 3+ years age as on 31st March, 2027**.

(ii) A new class- Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) will be introduced from this Academic Session onwards. Students of Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-school 1) in Academic Session 2026-27 will be promoted to Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) in Academic Session 2027-28.

(iii) New admissions in Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) can also be given if the child has attained the age of **4+ years as on 31st March, 2027**.

(iv) The students admitted in Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) will be promoted to next classes as per restructured Foundational Stage and therefore move to Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) in session 2028-29.

(v) A new class- Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) will be introduced from this Academic Session onwards. Only new admissions to Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) will be for the child with **5+ years age as on 31st March, 2027**.

(vi) Students of KG (4+ years) in 2026-27 will be promoted to Class 1 (5+ years) in 2027–28 as per old structure of Foundational Stage.

(vii) Students of Class 1 (5+ years) will be promoted to Class 2 (6+ years) in 2027-28.

(3) For the Academic Session 2028-29:

(i) Admission to Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-school 1) will be for the child with 3+ years age as on 31st March, 2028.

(ii) A child will be admitted to Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) after passing from Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre School 1) in 2027-28.

(iii) New admissions in Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) can also be given if the child has attained the age of 4+ years as on 31st March, 2028.

(iv) A child will be admitted to Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) after passing from Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) in 2027-28.

(v) New admissions in Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) can also be given if the child has attained the age of 5+ years on 31st March, 2028.

(vi) A child will be admitted to Class 1 after passing from Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) in 2027-28.

(vii) New admissions in Class I can also be considered if the child has attained the age of 6+ years as on 31st March, 2028.

10. All Heads of Schools are hereby directed to inform parents clearly about this change and to follow the above age rules strictly.

Veditha 24/10

(Veditha Reddy, IAS)
Director of Education

Heads of all Govt., Govt. Aided and Unaided Recognized Private Schools under the Directorate of Education (DoE), GNCTD through DEL-E.

No.DE.23(749)/Sch.Branch/2025/976 Dated: 24/10/25

Copy to:-

1. Secretary to Hon'ble CM.
2. Secretary to Hon'ble MoE.
3. PA to Secretary (Education).
4. PPS to Director (Education).
5. CEO of Delhi Cantonment Board for information and further necessary action in the matter accordingly.
6. Director (Education) of NDMC for information and further necessary action in the matter accordingly.
7. Director (Education) of MCD for information and further necessary action in the matter accordingly.
8. PS to Addl. DE (School).
9. All RDEs, DDEs (District/Zone) to ensure compliance.
10. DDE (ASB & PSB) to issue similar directions.
11. System Analyst (MIS) for uploading on MIS.
12. Guard file.

Veditha 24/10

(Veditha Reddy, IAS)
Director of Education