

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD
(Special Original Jurisdiction)**

**TUESDAY, THE SEVENTH DAY OF JULY
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX**

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE JUVVADI SRIDEVI

WRIT PETITION NO: 20961 OF 2026

Between:

Bandari Ashwini, D/o Bandari Laxman, aged 18 years, Occupation Student,
R/o House No.6-55/1, Badampally, Jannaram Mandal, Mancherial District,
Telangana-504 205

...PETITIONER

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep. by its Principal Secretary to Government, Education Department, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, Saifabad, Hyderabad.
2. The Telangana Council of Higher Education, Rep. by its Secretary, Opp. Mahavir Hospital, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 028.
3. The Convenor, TG ECET-2026 Admissions, Sankethika Vidya Bhavan, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 028

...RESPONDENTS

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith, the High Court may be pleased to issue a Writ, Order or Direction, more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus, declaring that the action of the Respondents, more particularly the 3rd Respondent in erroneously/wrongly considering the Petitioner, under 'Scheduled Caste Group-1 OU Local Category', instead of 'Scheduled Caste Group-III (NETHAKANI-22 (SC) OU Local Category' to which the petitioner belongs, in the TG ECET Admissions 2026, during certificate verification and web counselling process, despite production of original caste certificate bearing No. CND022635783035, dated 16.06.2026, issued by the competent authority and the provisional allotment of

seat in First Phase in Civil Engineering erroneously under Scheduled Caste-I Category, instead of Scheduled Caste-III Category, ignoring the Petitioner's category as Scheduled Caste Category- III as mentioned and recorded in the TG ECET-2026 Registration Form, Hall Ticket and Rank Card as illegal, highhanded, arbitrary, unjust, devoid of lawful reasons against the doctrine of legitimate expectation and unconstitutional, being violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India, by holding that the petitioner belong to Scheduled Caste Group-III OU Local Category and consequently direct the 3rd Respondent, to consider the petitioner under Scheduled Caste Group-III OU Local category in allotment of seat in TG ECET Admissions-2026 web counselling strictly as per the options exercised by the petitioner and in accordance with the petitioner's rank in the merit list in TG ECET Admissions-2026.

I.A. NO: 1 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to direct the 3rd Respondent to reserve one seat in Scheduled Caste Group-III OU Local category in TG ECET Admissions-2026, in the college to which the petitioner ought to have been allotted in Phase-I counseling, strictly in accordance with the option exercised and the rank of the petitioner in the merit list, pending disposal of the Writ Petition.

I.A. NO: 2 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to direct the 3rd Respondent, to consider and dispose of the representation of the petitioner dated 29.06.2026, through a reasoned and speaking order, pending disposal of the above Writ Petition.

Counsel for the Petitioner: SRI GOURARAM RAJASHEKAR REDDY

Counsel for the Respondent Nos.1&3: GP FOR EDUCATION

Counsel for the Respondent No.2: SRI A.P SURESH RAM, SC FOR TCHE

The Court made the following: ORDER

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD**

THE HON'BLE SMT. JUSTICE JUVVADI SRIDEVI

WRIT PETITION No.20961 of 2026

DATED 7TH JULY, 2026

Between:

Bandari Ashwini

... Petitioner

AND

The State of Telangana,
Rep. by its Principal Secretary to Government,
Education Department,
Dr.B.R.Ambedkar, Telangana State Secretariat,
Saifabad, Hyderabad and two others. ... Respondents

: O R D E R :

This writ petition is filed seeking the following relief:

"to issue a Writ, Order or Direction, more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus, declaring that the action of the respondents, more particularly the 3rd respondent in erroneously/wrongly considering the petitioner, under 'Scheduled Caste Group-1 OU Local Category', instead of Scheduled Caste Group-III (NETHAKANI-22 (SC) OU Local Category to which the petitioner belongs, in the TG ECET Admissions 2026, during certificate verification and web counselling process, despite production of original caste certificate bearing No. CND022635783035, dated 16.06.2026, issued by the competent authority and the provisional allotment of seat in First Phase in Civil Engineering erroneously under Scheduled Caste-I Category, instead of Scheduled Caste-III Category, ignoring the Petitioners category as Scheduled Caste Category- III as mentioned and recorded in the TG ECET-2026 Registration Form, Hall Ticket and Rank Card as illegal, highhanded, arbitrary, unjust, devoid of lawful reasons against the doctrine of legitimate expectation and unconstitutional, being violative of Articles 14 and 21

of the Constitution of India, by holding that the petitioner belong to Scheduled Caste Group-III OU Local Category and consequently direct the 3rd respondent, to consider the petitioner under Scheduled Caste Group-III OU Local category in allotment of seat in TG ECET Admissions-2026 web counselling strictly as per the options exercised by the petitioner and in accordance with the petitioners rank in the merit list in TG ECET Admissions-2026 and pass..."

2. Heard Mr.Gouraram Rajasekhar Reddy, learned counsel for the petitioner and Sri A.P.Suresh Ram, learned Standing Counsel for Telangana Council of Higher Education, appearing for respondent No.2.

3. The case of the petitioner, in brief, is that she completed a Diploma in Civil Engineering from Government Polytechnic College for Women, Warangal, and applied for lateral entry admission into the second year B.E./B.Tech. course through TGECET-2026. Further case of the petitioner is that she belongs to Scheduled Caste Group-III (Nethakani-22) and secured Rank No.51 in the Civil Engineering branch and an overall rank of 803. Further case of the petitioner is that, at the time of certificate verification on 18.06.2026, though she produced a new caste certificate, dated 16.06.2026, wherein, she was shown as belonging to Scheduled Caste Group-III, the respondents erroneously treated her as belonging to Scheduled Caste Group-I, by relying on her earlier caste certificate.

Consequently, she was considered under the wrong reservation category during counselling and was allotted a seat in Civil Engineering at Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Engineering and Technology, Bachupally, Hyderabad, which was her sixth preference. Further case of the petitioner is that, on noticing the error, she approached the office of respondent No.3 on 25.06.2026 and 29.06.2026 and submitted a representation seeking correction of her caste category. However, the respondents refused to rectify the same on the ground that the allotment process had already been completed. Further case of the petitioner is that the erroneous action of the respondents in treating her as belonging to Scheduled Caste Group-I, carrying 1% reservation, instead of Scheduled Caste Group-III, carrying 5% reservation, deprived her of the benefit of reservation available under her correct sub-category, resulting in the allotment of a lower-preference college, while candidates lower in merit under Scheduled Caste Group-III were allotted better colleges than her. Hence, the present writ petition.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that respondent No.3 committed an error, in treating the petitioner as belonging to Scheduled Caste Group-I, instead of Scheduled Caste Group-III, thereby, depriving her of the benefit of reservation available under her correct sub-category. Learned counsel further submits that due to the said error, the petitioner was allotted her sixth preferred college i.e., Civil Engineering at Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Technology (Autonomous), Bachupally, Hyderabad and she has also paid the requisite fee for confirmation of the allotted seat. Learned counsel further submits that candidates lower in merit under the Scheduled Caste Group-III category secured better allotments than the petitioner and that the said error would adversely affect the petitioner's future career prospects. Therefore, learned counsel prays this Court to direct respondent No.3 to rectify the said error and consider the petitioner under the Scheduled Caste Group-III category for the purpose of allotment of a seat in the TGE CET Admission, 2026.

5. Learned Standing Counsel appearing for respondent No.2, on instructions, submits that an old caste certificate issued prior to 2025 was uploaded by the petitioner for web counselling, wherein,

her caste was shown as Scheduled Caste, but no sub-category was mentioned. Thereafter, at the time of certificate verification conducted on 18.06.2026, she has produced a new caste certificate, dated 16.06.2026, wherein, her caste was mentioned as Schedule Caste Group-III. As such, inadvertently, the respondents have considered the petitioner's Scheduled Caste sub-category as Group-I, instead of Group-III, during the allotment process. Learned Standing Counsel further submits that the allotment process has already been completed and the petitioner was allotted her sixth preferred college, i.e., Civil Engineering at Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Technology (Autonomous), Bachupally, Hyderabad and she has also paid the requisite fee for confirmation of the allotted seat.

6. Having considered the submissions made by the learned counsel appearing for both parties and upon perusal of the material on record, it is an admitted fact that the petitioner produced a new caste certificate, dated 16.06.2026 at the time of certificate verification conducted on 18.06.2026, wherein, she was shown as belonging to Scheduled Caste Group-III. It is also not in dispute that the candidature of the petitioner was inadvertently considered

under Scheduled Caste Group-I, instead of Group-III, during the allotment process. On account of such incorrect consideration of her sub-category, the petitioner was allotted a seat in her sixth preferred college. However, if her candidature is considered under the correct Scheduled Caste sub-category, she would be allotted a seat in a better college in accordance with her merit, reservation benefits and the options exercised by her during the web counselling process.

7. In view of the above discussion, this Writ Petition is disposed of, directing respondent No.3 to reconsider the candidature of the petitioner in accordance with the options exercised by her during the web counselling process and allot a seat as per her eligibility, taking into consideration her correct Scheduled Caste sub-category, strictly in accordance with law. No costs.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

//TRUE COPY//

Sd/-C.DEEPIKA
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR



SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Principal Secretary to Government, Education Department, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, Saifabad, Hyderabad, State of Telangana.
2. The Secretary, Telangana Council of Higher Education, Opp. Mahavir Hospital, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 028.
3. The Convenor, TG ECET-2026 Admissions, Sankethika Vidya Bhavan, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 028

4. One CC to SRI GOURARAM RAJASHEKAR REDDY, Advocate [OPUC]
5. One CC to SRI A.P. SURESH RAM, SC FOR TCHE [OPUC]
6. Two CCs to GP FOR EDUCATION, High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad . [OUT]
7. Two CD Copies

PMK

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'B' or 'G' shape with a vertical line extending downwards and a horizontal line at the bottom.

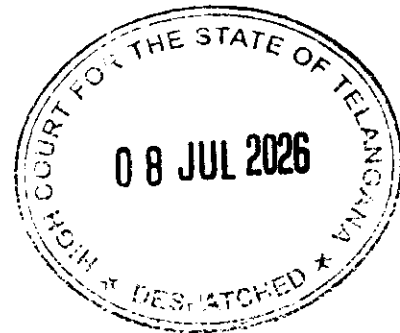
HIGH COURT

CC TODAY

DATED: 07/07/2026

ORDER

WP.No.20961 of 2026



**DISPOSING OF THE WRIT PETITION
WITHOUT COSTS**

(10)
08/07/26
K.B.