APHC010482582026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

THURSDAY, THE 8th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE HARINATH.N

WRIT PETITION NO: 26522 OF 2026

Between:

1. GOLLAPALLLI SUREKHA, D/o. Nageswara Rao, Aged 31 Years, Occ Student, R/o.Flat No.402, 5 Floor, Adhitya Paradise, Bakkannapalem, Sai Priya, Garden Roads, Madhuravada, Vishakhapatnam, Pin 530048.

...Petitioner

AND

1. THE STATE OF AP, Represented by its Principal Secretary Department of Higher Education, Secretary, Velagapudi, Amaravati, Guntur District, Pin 522239.

2. Andhra University, Peda Waltair, Vishakhapatnam, Represented by its Register, Visakhapatnam - 530003

3. The Convener APRCET 202425, Andhra Pradesh Research Common Entrance Test (2024-25), Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati on behalf of APSCHE, Tirupati, Tirupati District 517502

4. The Director of Admissions, Vizayanagara Place, Peda Waltair Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam, Pin 530017.

5. The Principal Andhra University College of Science and Technology, Peda Waltair, Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam, Pin 530017.

...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 toissue an order, direction, or writ, more particularly one in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus, declaring the action of the Respondents in not giving admission into a Ph.D. seat in the Department of Zoology despite securing rank No. 24 in the examination conducted by APRCET (2024-25) as illegal, arbitrary, and contrary to the guidelines issued by the UGC and National Education Policy, and consequently direct the Respondents to constitute a selection committee with subject experts and further direct them to admit the Petitioner into the Ph.D. course in the Department of Zoology,

IA 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 direct the Respondent University to give admission to the Petitioner in the Ph.D course in the department of zoology pending disposal of the above writ petition

IA 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 direct the Respondent University to constitute selection expert committee with subject experts pending disposal of the above writ petition

Counsel for the Petitioner: K BHEEMA RAO

Counsel for the Respondents: GP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION Counsel for the Respondents:GANGA KUMAR CHAKRAVARTULA

The Court made the following order:

Learned Counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner has appeared for the APRCET Examination for the academic year 2024-2025 and secured 24th rank. The petitioner was initially allotted a Ph.D. program in the Zoology Department. The Petitioner has completed B.Pharmacy in the year 2016 and M.Pharmacy in the year 2024.

2. The petitioner was also issued a provisional allotment letter attached to the second respondent University for pursuing Ph.D. program in Department of Zoology. When the petitioner approached the Director of Admissions of the 2nd respondent, the petitioner was informed that she does not meet the eligibility criteria for admission to the Ph.D. program in Zoology subject.

3. The second respondent has issued the criteria for admission to the Ph.D. course in Zoology Department, the student ought to have completed post-graduation in Aquaculture, Animal Biotechnology, Marine Living Resources, Marine Biology, or Zoology. In so far as Pharmacology is concerned, the same does not form part of the eligibility criteria to enable the petitioner to pursue the Ph.D. course.

4. In this regard, the petitioner submitted representations to the respondent authorities. It is submitted that the Head of the Department of Zoology, vide letter dated 30.07.2026, addressed a letter to the Director of

Admissions of the 2nd respondent University, categorically stating that Pharmacology is a part and parcel of Zoological research and that it need not be mentioned in the eligibility criteria separately, and that the petitioner is eligible for pursuing Ph.D. program in Zoology Department, thus requested to consider the admission of the petitioner for Ph.D. course in Zoology Department.

5) It is also submitted that on the same day, the Director of Admissions also addressed a letter to the Head of the Department, Zoology, seeking revised eligibility criteria for implementation on the request of the Head of the Department.

6) It is further submitted that the Departmental Review Committee, consisting of four professors of the 2nd respondent University, have discussed the eligibility of the petitioner for pursuing Ph.D. and it was resolved that Pharmacology is concerned with animals, and it was resolved to send the revised eligibility criteria for admission into research program in Zoology as per the letter addressed by the Director of Admissions of the second respondent.

7) The said minutes of meeting were signed on 31.07.2026.

8) Learned Standing Counsel appearing for respondent Nos. 2, 4, and 5 submits that the revised eligibility criteria for admission to the Zoology by including Pharmacy was submitted to the Dean, Academic Affairs for approval on

31.07.2026 by the Principal, Andhra University College of Science and Technology by the Head of the Department, Zoology.

9) Considering the submissions, the writ petition can be disposed of.

10) The Dean of Academic Affairs has recommended including Pharmacy under the revised eligibility criteria for admission into Ph.D. program in Zoology. The Head of the Department of Zoology has also categorically stated that Pharmacology is a part and parcel of Zoological research, and that Zoology plays a major role in Pharmacology while dealing with drugs to study on animals and study on animal models in clinical research. It is also specifically stated by the Head of the Department, Zoology, that Zoology is a basic life science, as such, all the applied sciences should be taken into consideration for research. It is also further stated that the Pharmacy students are attending classes in Animal Anatomy and Physiology classes in the Zoology Department.

11. Considering the letter of the Head of the Department dated 30.07.2026, the letter of the Director of Admissions dated 30.07.2026, and the recommendation of the D.R.C., dated 31.07.2026, the respondents shall have to consider the petitioner for admission into the Ph.D. Zoology.

12. The petitioner has appeared for the APRCET 2024-2025 batch examination. In order to save the academic career of the petitioner, the

respondents shall have to pass necessary orders duly allotting the petitioner a seat in the Ph.D. course in the Zoology Department.

13. With the above observations, the Writ Petition stands disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs.

Pending miscellaneous petitions, if any, shall stand closed.

JUSTICE HARINATH.N

08.10.2026
BAK/APSK

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE HARINATH.N

WRIT PETITION NO: 26522/2026

08.10.2026
BAK/APSK