IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

WEDNESDAY, THE TWENTY EIGHTH DAY OF OCTOBER TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE P.SAM KOSHY AND THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE SUDDALA CHALAPATHI RAO

WRIT APPEAL NO: 1182 OF 2026

Writ Appeal under clause 15 of the Letters Patent Preferred Against Order Dated 14/10/2026 in WP.No.26262 of 2026 on the file of the High Court.

Between:

1. M.Harinath, S/o M.Krishnaiah, Aged 51 years, Occ. Agricultural Officer O/o. The District Agricultural Officer, Ranga Reddy District
2. R.Ravinath, S/o R.Muthaiah, Aged about 52 years, Occ. Mandal Agricultural Officer, Yacharam Mandal, Ranga Reddy District
3. K.Koteswara Reddy, S/o Late Samba Siva Reddy, Aged 51 years, Occ. Agricultural Officer, Working on Deputation in 0/o Regional Vigilance Enforcement Officer, R.C.Puram, Sangareddy, Vigilance and Enforcement Department (CAD), Telangana, Hyderabad
4. G.Krupakar Reddy, S/o G.Jayaram Reddy, Aged 46 years, Occ. Mandal Agricultural Officer, Uppal R/o 17-126/36,Annapurna Nagar, Uppal, Hyderabad

...APPELLANTS/WRIT PETITIONERS

AND

1. State of Telangana, Rep. by its Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Co-operation Department, Secretariat, Hyderabad
2. The Commissioner and Director of Agriculture, Government of Telangana, Ground Floor, 'D' Block, Opp. Fathe Maidan, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad- 500 001
3. Ch.Gajalakshmi, D/o Ch.Ramachandra Rao, Aged 53 years, Working as Agricultural Officer, O/o. DDA (RSTL), Rajendra Nagar, Ranga Reddy District
4. B.Purushotham, S/o Yesuratnam, Age 41 years, Occ. Mandal Agricuture Officer, Kethepally, O/o. ADA (R) Nakrekal, Nalgonda District
5. G.Sandhya Rani, D/o G.Narsimha Rao, Age 50 years, Occ. Agriculture Officer, O/o. DDA (FTC), Sangareddy, Sangareddy District

...RESPONDENTS/RESPONDENTS

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 respondents not to proceed with the promotions to the post of Assistant Director of Agriculture Officers, pending disposal of the main writ petition.

Counsel for the Appellants: SRI M.SURENDER RAO, SENIOR COUNSEL FOR SRI M.SRIKANTH
Counsel for the Respondent Nos.1 & 2: Ms. M.SHALINI, GP FOR SERVICES-II
Counsel for the Respondent Nos.3 TO 5: SRI AKASH MALLIKARJUN

The Court made the following: JUDGMENT

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

THE HON'BLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE P.SAM KOSHY
AND
THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE SUDDALA CHALAPATHI RAO

WRIT APPEAL No.1182 OF 2026
(CNR No.HBHC010746372026)

Dated: 28.10.2026

Between:

M. Harinath and 3 others

... Appellants

AND

State of Telangana,
Rep. by its Principal Secretary,
Agriculture & Co-operation Department,
Secretariat, Hyderabad and 4 others

...Respondents

JUDGMENT: *(per the Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice P.Sam Koshy)*

Heard Sri M. Surender Rao, learned Senior Counsel representing Sri M. Srikanth, learned counsel for the appellants, Ms. M. Shalini, learned Government Pleader for Services-II, appearing for respondent Nos.1 and 2 and Sri Akash Mallikarjun, learned counsel appearing for respondent Nos.3 to 5.

2. The present is the Writ Appeal, which has been filed assailing the interim order dated 14.10.2026 passed by the learned Single Bench in

W.P.No.26262 of 2026, modifying the earlier interim order dated 03.09.2026 passed in the said Writ Petition.

3. The whole grievance of the parties involved in the present Writ Appeal and the Writ Petition is in respect of the promotions to be carried out by the respondent-State for the post of Assistant Director of Agriculture from the cadre of Agricultural Officers.

4. During the course of hearing, it was revealed that when the Writ Petition was filed, initially an interim order was passed on 03.09.2026 restraining the respondent-State from giving effect to any promotions pursuant to the Memo dated 24.01.2026. It is this order which stood modified by the order under challenge in the present Writ Appeal, where the following observations were made by the learned Single Bench while modifying the interim order dated 03.09.2026:

> "In view of the said submissions of the learned counsel for both sides and perusing the material on record, this Court is of the considered view that there is a chequered history of the case and it needs detailed hearing. Moreover, the respondents have informed this Court that they are not finalized the seniority list in view of pendency of W.P.No.39171 of 2022 before this Court.
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> In view of the above circumstances, the interim order granted earlier by this Court on 03.09.2026 is modified to the extent that the official respondents are at liberty to effect *ad hoc* promotion to the post of Assistant Director of Agriculture from the cadre of Agriculture Officers in view of pendency of final seniority list."

5. During the course of hearing advanced by the learned Government Pleader for the State as also learned counsel appearing for the unofficial respondents, what is reflected is that there was a provisional seniority list published along with an instruction calling upon the objections from the individuals in the provisional seniority list of Agricultural Officers. The said provisional list was published on 12.09.2022. It is the case of the appellants herein that they had also submitted their objections, which initially were not being considered, then they had approached the writ Court *vide* W.P.No.25218 of 2025, which was disposed of by the learned Single Bench on 26.08.2025 directing the respondents to consider and decide the objections submitted by the appellants and finalize the seniority. Though the said Writ Petition was disposed of on 26.08.2025, by this date more than 14 months have already lapsed and that the objections have been decided by the official respondents, the final seniority list till date has not been published by the respondent-State. Meanwhile, *vide* Memo dated 24.01.2026, the respondent-State intends to initiate *ad hoc* arrangement by effecting *ad hoc* promotions to the post of Assistant Director of Agriculture.

6. The learned Government Pleader for Services-II submits that Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) in this regard had also been held and the DPC proceedings have been finalized.

7. One fact which we fail to understand is that once the provisional seniority list was published in the year 2022, there does not seem to be any good reason available to the respondent-State in not considering the objections those were called upon to the provisional seniority list and thereafter, publishing the final seniority list and if required, proceed for granting promotion in accordance with the final seniority list.

8. Learned Government Pleader for Services-II submits that the only reason for not publishing the final seniority list was the so called few Writ Petitions, which are pending before this Court questioning the inter se seniority among the officers in the cadre of Agricultural Officers. However, on a query, it has been informed that as on date, there is no interim direction or a restraint to the State Government in publishing the final seniority list and also in carrying out the promotion process for the post of Assistant Director of Agriculture. The present Writ Appeal also revolves around the same issue and dispute.

9. In the aforesaid factual backdrop, we had asked the learned Government Pleader for Services-II in the pre-noon session to seek instructions as to whether the respondent-State is in a position to publish the final seniority list.

10. Learned Government Pleader for Services-II in the post-lunch session, as per the instructions, informed that the respondent-State is in a position now to publish the final seniority list.

11. Learned Senior Counsel representing the writ petitioners i.e., appellants herein also accepts the fact that if the respondent-State publishes the final seniority list, then the respondent-State should initiate the promotion process in accordance with the seniority so published in the final seniority list.

12. In the given factual background, we are of the considered opinion that the instant Writ Appeal at this juncture can be disposed of directing the respondent-State to forthwith publish the final seniority list and once the final seniority list is published, let the promotions to the post of Assistant Director of Agriculture be made in accordance with the Rules and Regulations governing the field, keeping in view the final seniority list that shall be published by the respondent-State. If the respondent-State undertakes the said exercise, need for *ad hoc* promotions and the *ad hoc* arrangement, which is proposed by the State Government, would not arise at all.

13. To the aforesaid extent, the order dated 14.10.2026 in W.P.No.26262 of 2026 stands vacated. So also, the interim order dated 03.09.2026 stands modified to the extent that let the promotion process for filling up the post of Assistant Director of Agriculture be initiated by the respondent-State only after the publication of the final seniority list and the promotion process be carried out in accordance with the Rules and Regulations governing the field. It is made clear that the seniority list that shall be published by the State Government shall bear a note at the bottom that the final seniority list would be subject to the outcome of the batch of Writ Petitions already pending before this Court.

14. With the above observations/directions, the Writ Appeal is disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs.

Miscellaneous applications, if any pending, shall stand closed.

SD/-MOHD ISMAIL
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To

1. The Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Co-operation Department, Secretariat, Hyderabad, State of Telangana.
2. The Commissioner and Director of Agriculture, Government of Telangana, Ground Floor, 'D' Block, Opp. Fathe Maidan, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad- 500 001
3. One CC to SRI M.SRIKANTH, Advocate [OPUC]
4. Two CCs to GP FOR SERVICES-II, High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad. [OUT]
5. One CC to SRI AKASH MALLIKARJUN, Advocate [OPUC]
6. Two CD Copies

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HIGH COURT

DATED: 28/10/2026

JUDGMENT

WA.No.1182 of 2026



DISPOSING OF THE WRIT APPEAL

WITHOUT COSTS.

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02/11/26
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