

[3208]

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI

MONDAY, THE SIXTH DAY OF APRIL

TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

:PRESENT:

HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE D RAMESH

WRIT PETITION NO: 8766 OF 2026



Between:

Ampa Ganga Bhavani, W/o. Tanuku Pallapu Kiran Aged 32 years, R/o.
13-7-7, Tekivari street, Tanuku Mandal, West Godavari - 534211.

Petitioner

AND

1. The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Rep. by its Secretary, R and B Buildings, MG Road, Vijayawada, NTR District.
2. The State of Andhra Pradesh,, Rep. by its Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Andhra Pradesh.
3. The Director of Town and Country Planning, Ground Floor, MGM Capital, behind Dr. NTR Vaidyaseva Trust, Chinnakakani, Andhra Pradesh 522508.
4. AP State Council of Higher Education,, Neeladri Towers, 6th Battalion Road, Atmakur, Andhra Pradesh - 522503.

Respondent

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India is filed 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 the action of the respondents, more particularly the 1st Respondent in eliminating the petitioner in the selection process by treating the petitioner as ineligible on the ground that she holds a PG Diploma in Urban Planning and Development from IGNOU without basis, analysis or exercise for finding out the equivalency and eligibility of the said diploma from

IGNOU and ignoring UGC letters dt. 25.03.2021 and 14.10.2013 thereby denying the right of the petitioner for selection to the said post despite her high merit/rank which is clear from the fact that she was called for certificate verification in 1 : 2 ratio as bad illegal, arbitrary, unconstitutional by calling for records pertaining to notification and consequently direct the respondents to consider the petitioner as eligible to hold the said post based on the diploma she obtained from IGNOU and further direct the respondents to select and appoint the petitioner in the said post by granting all consequential benefits.

IA NO: 2 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC is filed 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 to consider the claim of the petitioner of the post of Assistant Director in AP Town & Country Planning Service by treating her Diploma in Urban Planning & Development as valid in the teeth of UGC letters dt. 25.03.2021 and 14.10.2013 addressed to IGNOU, pending disposal of the present Writ Petition and to pass, Pending disposal of WP 8766 of 2026, on the file of the High Court.

IA NO: 1 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC is filed praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to direct the 1st Respondent not to effect appointments to the candidates declared in the final list dt.23.03.2026 for the post of Assistant Director of in AP Town & Country Planning Service advertised in pursuance to the Notification No. 3/2024 dt. 09.02.2024, Pending disposal of WP 8766 of 2026, on the file of the High Court.

IA NO: 3 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC is filed praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to direct the respondent to keep one post of Assistant Director in AP Town & Country Planning Service vacant, Pending disposal of WP 8766 of 2026, on the file of the High Court.

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The petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Petition and the affidavit filed in support thereof and upon hearing the arguments of J SUDHEER Advocate for the Petitioner(s), Sri G. Sravan Kumar for Respondent No.1, Sri ,Standing Counsel for Municipal Administration for Respondent Nos. 2 & 4, Sri K.Radha, Standing Counsel for Education for Respondent No.4, and the Court made the following.

ORDER

“As the issue involved in the present writ petition is covered by the orders passed by this Court in W.P.No.6029 of 2026, wherein this Court has considered the submissions and granted the following orders:

“The writ petition is filed declaring the action of the respondents pertaining to Notification No.3/2024, dated 09.02.2024, wherein seven posts of Assistant Directors in the A.P. Town and Country Planning Service were notified. The petitioner is eligible and having minimum qualification of M.Sc (Geography) earlier known as MA (Geography) and also PG Diploma Urban Planning & Development, he applied for the above said post in pursuance of the notification.

2. In fact, the University Grants Commission has considered the issue of equivalency and the same was clarified vide F.No.6-2/2016 (DEBI)/347, dated: June, 2016, wherein it is clarified that the institution decided to provide a recognition to the institution to offer certain programmes through distance mode for two academic years 2016-17 and 2017-18 for the subjects annexed along with the said proceedings. The SL.No.169 pertaining to Post Graduate Diploma in Urban Planning and Development. Once, the UGC has recognised the certificates issued by the Indira Gandhi National Open University for two years i.e., 2016- 17 and 2017-18 and certificate issued to the petitioner in the academic year 2016-17 comes under the recognition accorded by the UGC. Hence, the certificate, which is having by the petitioner is already recognized by the UGC, hence, the petitioner is eligible and qualified as per para 3 of the notification.

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3. But, now, the respondents for the reasons best known to them though the petitioner was called for certificate verification, without deciding the eligibility of the petitioner, the respondents again called for certain other group of persons for certificate verification, which is contrary to the rules and regulations of UGC. Hence, the present writ petition is filed.

4. Learned Standing Counsel appearing for the respondents on instructions has submitted that the recruitment process is still under progress and the final selection notification has not yet been issued. Clarification with regard to equivalency of certain qualifications have been sought from the unit officer and till getting relevant information from the unit officer, they will not finalise the selection.

5. Recording the said submission, list the matter after two (2) weeks, for filing counter.

6. If any clarifications are received, the respondent-authorities shall provide the opportunity to the petitioner before finalization of the selection pursuant to the impugned notification.”

Pursuant to the above said orders, instead of considering the case of the petitioner in terms of the exemption granted by the UGC in March 2021, the respondents straightaway rejected the case of the petitioner stating that she is not eligible.

Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner submitted that in fact, an identical issue has already been considered by the Hon'ble Apex Court with regard to the certificates of qualifications and the certificates issued by the IGNOU. Further, he has also brought to the notice of this Court that, while rejecting the case of the petitioner in W.P.No.6029 of 2026, the 1st respondent has finalized the selections and sent the selection list on 23.03.2026. But, the fact remains that no appointments have been made so far.

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Considering the said submissions and on perusal of the record, there shall be a direction to respondent Nos.2 and 3 not to fill up one post of Assistant Director in A.P. Town and Country Planning Service.

List the matter after two (2) weeks.”

//TRUE COPY//

SD/-B.CHITTI JOSEPH
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Secretary, The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission R and B Buildings, MG Road, Vijayawada, NTR District.
2. The Principal Secretary, The State of Andhra Pradesh,, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Andhra Pradesh.
3. The Director of Town and Country Planning, Ground Floor, MGM Capital, behind Dr. NTR Vaidyaseva Trust, Chinnakakani, Andhra Pradesh 522508.
4. AP State Council of Higher Education,, Neeladri Towers, 6th Battalion Road, Atmakur, Andhra Pradesh - 522503. (by RPAD – 1 to 4)
5. One CC to SRI. J SUDHEER Advocate [OPUC]
6. One CC to G.Sravan Kumar, Advocate [OPUC]
7. Two CCs to GP FOR MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION & URBAN DEVELOPMENT, High Court Of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati. [OUT]
8. One CC to Sri K.Radha, Standing Counsel for Higher Education, High Court Of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
9. One spare copy

TVSR

HIGH COURT

DR,J

DATED:06/04/2026

LIST THE MATTER AFTER TWO (2) WEEKS

ORDER

WP.No.8766 of 2026

DIRECTION

