

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI
(SPECIAL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

FRIDAY, THE TWENTY FOURTH DAY OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX



:PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE NYAPATHY VIJAY
WRIT PETITION NO: 10987 OF 2026

Between:

1. Private B.Ed. College Managements Association, Represented by its President Sri. Medarametia Rama Sesha Giri Rao D.No. 4-498, Podili Road, Darsi, Darsi Mandal, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh.
2. St. Mark NTR College of Education, Represented by its Correspondent, Sri Medarametia Rama Sesha Giri Rao, Narsaraopet, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh - 522 601.
3. Batchu Rambotlu College of Education, Represented by its Correspondent Sri. Batchu Sreenivasa Rao Baligattam, Narsipatnam, Visakhapatnam Andhra Pradesh.
4. Sri Vijayabharathi College of Education, Represented by its Correspondent, Sri U. Chandrarao, Ongole Taluk and City, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh.
5. BG College of Education, Represented by its Correspondent Sri Boggavarapu Seshagiri Rao, Piduguralla Mandal, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh

Petitioners

AND

1. The State of Andhra Pradesh, Represented by its Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati. 522238
2. The Commissioner of Higher Education, O/o Commissionerate of Higher Education Ground and Second Floors, Garudadri KK Towers, Sri

Lakshmi Narasimha Colony, Mangalagiri - 522503 Guntur Dt., Andhra Pradesh.

3. The Convenor, APEDCET-2026 Director IQAC & NAAC O/o Dravidian University Srinivasavanam, Kuppam - 517426.

Respondents

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 an appropriate Writ, Order or Direction, more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus, declaring the action of the Respondents, more particularly the 2nd Respondent, in issuing proceedings vide Lr.No.01/O.P-V/FRS-ATT/2026 dated 09-04-2026, mandating compulsory implementation of the Facial Recognition System (FRS) with immediate effect and linking the same to grant of affiliation and participation in admissions counselling, without providing reasonable time for compliance, as illegal, arbitrary, unreasonable, and violative of Articles 14, 19(1)(g) and 21 of the Constitution of India and consequently set aside the said proceedings and further declare the action of the Respondent in restricting the grant of affiliation to a year-to-year basis, in the absence of any statutory provision under the Andhra Pradesh Universities Act and in contravention of Section 16 of the NCTE Act, 1993, as arbitrary, ultra vires, and unsustainable in law and consequently direct the Respondents to grant affiliation to the Petitioner institutions strictly in accordance with the statutory framework governing recognition and affiliation, without restricting the same to a particular academic year, and to permit the Petitioner institutions to participate in the ongoing and ensuing admissions counselling processes, including APEDCET-2026;

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 grant an interim direction directing the Respondents to grant a minimum period of one academic year for implementation of the Facial Recognition System (FRS) pursuant to proceedings dated 09-04-2026

and not to take any coercive steps, including denial of affiliation, admissions counselling, or portal access, against the Petitioner institutions for non-implementation during the said period, pending disposal of the Writ Petition and pass, Pending disposal of WP 10987 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 pass an interim direction directing the Respondent University to grant affiliation to the Petitioner institutions strictly in accordance with the provisions of the NCTE Act, 1993 and the Andhra Pradesh Universities Act, without restricting the same to a particular academic year, and consequently permit the Petitioner institutions to participate in the ongoing and ensuing admissions counselling process. Pending disposal of WP 10987 of 2026, on the file of the High Court.

The petition, coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Petition and the affidavit filed in support thereof and upon hearing the arguments of Sri SRI VIJAY MATHUKUMILLI Advocate for the Petitioners, GP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION for Respondent Nos.1 to 3 and the Court made the following.

ORDER

The Writ Petition is filed questioning the Proceedings issued by the Respondent No.2 vide Lr.No.01/O.P-V/FRS-ATT/2026, dated 09.04.2026, for linking Faculty Registration and Facial Recognition System for the grant of affiliation to B.E.D. colleges on the respective universities.

The Petitioner No.1 is an Association of Private B.E.D Colleges. Petitioner No.2 to 5 are offering B.E.D Courses to the aspirants. The Petitioner Nos. 2 to 5 had requisite permissions and affiliations from the respective authorities. While so, the Respondent No.2 vide impugned Proceedings dated 09.04.2026 issued certain conditions for grant of affiliation by the respective universities. As per the impugned

Proceedings, the following conditions were mandated for grant of affiliation:

"Nomination & Registration of Nodal Officer

Each Higher Education Institution shall nominate a Nodal Officer responsible for coordination and implementation of LEAP Higher and FRS. The nominated Nodal Officer shall be registered on the LEAP-HE/FRS portal at <https://aphep.rnits.technology>.

Faculty Registration and Facial Recognition System (FRS)

All institutions shall ensure that complete and accurate faculty details are registered as part of the integration process. Only those faculty members who have completed FRS registration shall be reflected and made visible in the Affiliation Portal for the respective institution.

Linkage of Affiliation and Admissions Counselling

Access to the Affiliation Portal shall be enabled only for those institutions that have completed institutional registration, nomination and registration of the Nodal Officer, and faculty registration along with successful Facial Recognition System (FRS) verification.

Responsibility and Accountability

The Principal/ Head of the Institution shall be personally responsible for ensuring completion of all above processes. Therefore, all the Principals/Heads of Institutions are directed to ensure strict compliance of the above instructions and confirm the implementation immediately".

These conditions are questioned in this Writ Petition on the ground that Respondent No. 2 does not have any authority to impinge on the power and discretion of the universities to grant affiliation in accordance with the norms. It is further submitted that these conditions are not traceable to any statutory power and, if at all the pre-requisite conditions are to be imposed for grant of affiliation; the concerned authority is the government and not Respondent No. 2.

Alternatively, learned counsel for the Petitioner would submit that it is not possible to comply with the conditions in the time fixed by the Respondent Authorities for grant of affiliation, as there would be a change of faculty of the institutions since the institutions issued public notifications for recruitment and in that context, the time frame fixed is short and cannot be insisted upon.

Learned Government Pleader submits that the instructions issued in the impugned Proceedings are to the Universities for grant of affiliation and as long as the Universities have accepted the conditions imposed in the impugned Proceedings, the Petitioners cannot have any grievance, nor do they have locus standi to question these proceedings. He further submits that, subsequent to the impugned Proceedings, Lr. No. 11/APCHE(CE)/Affiliation/ 2026-2027, dated 23.04.2026, was issued extending the time limit for submission of information, as mentioned in the impugned Proceedings, up to 10.05.2026.

Heard the respective counsels.

There is some merit in the contention of the learned counsel for the Petitioner vis a vis the time frame fixed as a pre-condition for grant of affiliation. As the time frame fixed appears to be difficult to comply, there shall be an interim direction as follows:

- i) The online portal for the affiliation process will be opened by the Respondent Authorities to enable the Petitioners and also to Colleges offering B.E.D degree for affiliation by the respective Universities.
- ii) The respective Universities may undertake physical verification for grant of affiliation as per the norms fixed.
- iii) In the interregnum, the Petitioners' Colleges will complete the Faculty Registration and Facial Recognition process within the time frame fixed in Lr. No. 11/APCHE(CE)/Affiliation/2026-2027, dated 23.04.2026, by 10.05.2026.

- iv) In the event of any delay in adhering to the time frame fixed in the Letter dated 10.05.2026, the individual Colleges may seek an extension from the respective Universities and the respective Universities shall grant reasonable time to the respective Colleges on a case-to-case basis for complying with faculty registration and facial recognition.
- v) The validity of the impugned Proceedings would be decided after filing the Counter Affidavit by the Respondents.

For filing Counter Affidavit by the Respondents, post on 29.06.2026.

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For

SD/- K. KASIRAO ACHARI
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

AB
SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Principal Secretary, State of Andhra Pradesh, Higher Education Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati. 522238 (by **Special Messenger**)
2. The Commissioner of Higher Education, O/o Commissionerate of Higher Education Ground and Second Floors, Garudadri KK Towers, Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Colony, Mangalagiri - 522503 Guntur Dt., Andhra Pradesh.
3. The Convenor, APEDCET-2026 Director IQAC and NAAC O/o Dravidian University Srinivasavanam, Kuppam - 517426. (addressee 2 and 3 by **RPAD**)
4. One CC to SRI. SRI VIJAY MATHUKUMILLI Advocate [OPUC]
5. Two CCs to GP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, High Court of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
6. One spare copy

HIGH COURT

VN,J

DATED:24/04/2026

POST ON 29.06.2026.

ORDER

WP.No.10987 of 2026

INTERIM DIRECTION

