



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

[3504]

THURSDAY, THE TWENTY THIRD DAY OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE MAHESWARA RAO KUNCHEAM

WRIT PETITION NO: 26130/2025

Between:

1. PASALA RAMBABU, S/O. SATYANARAYANA, AGED 49 YEARS,
OCC CONTRACTOR, R/O. H.NO. 5-31/2, MAIN ROAD STREET,
NEAR SOCIETY BANK, PADAMARAVIPPARRU VILLAGE,
PENTAPADU MANDAL, WEST GODAVARI DISTRICT.

...PETITIONER

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REPRESENTED BY ITS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY HIGHER EDUCATION (CE)
DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI,
THULLUR MANDAL, GUNTUR DISTRICT.
2. STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REPRESENTED BY ITS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FINANCE DEPARTMENT,
SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI, THULLUR MANDAL,
GUNTUR DISTRICT.
3. THE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGIATE EDUCATION, ANDHRA
PRADESH, MANGALAGIRI.
4. THE DIRECTOR OF WORKS AND ACCOUNT OFFICER, NIDHI
BHAVAN, MANGALAGIRI IT PARK, BEHIND APIIC BUILDING,
MANGALAGIRI, GUNTUR DISTRICT.
5. ANDHRA PRADESH EDUCATION AND WELFARE
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
(A.P.E.W.I.D.C) REP. BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR, 5, 6-59,

FRASERPETA, VIJAYAWADA, ANDHRA PRADESH - 520001.

6. THE CHIEF ENGINEER, ANDHRA PRADESH EDUCATION AND WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, (A.P.E.W.I.D.C), VIJAYAWADA.
7. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, WEST GODAVARI DISTRICT, BHIMAVARAM.
8. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ANDHRA PRADESH EDUCATION AND WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, (A.P.E.W.I.D.C), GUNTUR, GUNTUR DISTRICT.
9. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ANDHRA PRADESH EDUCATION AND WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, (A.P.E.W.I.D.C), ELURU, ELURU DISTRICT.
10. THE PAY AND ACCOUNTS OFFICER, WORKS AND PROJECTS, ELURU, ELURU DISTRICT.

...RESPONDENT(S):

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 or any other appropriate writ or direction declaring the action of the respondents in not releasing the payments for the works i.e.. Construction of Additional Class Rooms over existing RUSA Building in SCIM Government Degree College at Tanuku Village and Mandal in West Godavari District through the Agreement No. Cir.Agt. No. /2022-23, dated 06-09-2022 for an amount of Rs.42,89,764/- as illegal, arbitrary and violative of Art 14 and 21 of Constitution of India and consequently direct the respondent authorities to release Rs.42,89,764/- forthwith for the above said works executed by the petitioner and pass such

IA NO: 1 OF 2025

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 respondents to consider for payment of amount of Rs.42,89,764/- for the works executed by the petitioner i.e.. Construction of Additional Class Rooms over existing RUSA Building in SCIM Government Degree College at Tanuku Village & Mandal in West Godavari District through the Agreement

No. Cir.Agt. No. /2022-23, dated 06-09-2022 for an amount of Rs.42,89,764/- forthwith, pending disposal of the main Writ Petition and pass such

Counsel for the Petitioner:

- 1.RAMBABU KOPPINEEDI

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

- 1.GP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
- 2.GP FOR FINANCE PLANNING

The Court made the following:

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE MAHESWARA RAO KUNCHEAM**WRIT PETITION NO: 26130 of 2025****ORDER:-**

The instant writ petition has been filed by the petitioners under Article 226 of Constitution of India seeking the following main prayer:

“....to issue a Writ, Order, or Direction more particularly one in the nature of WRIT OF MANDAMUS or any other appropriate writ or direction declaring the action of the respondents in not releasing the payments for the works i.e.. Construction of Additional Class Rooms over existing RUSA Building in SCIM Government Degree College at Tanuku Village and Mandal in West Godavari District through the Agreement No. Cir.Agt. No. /2022-23, dated 06-09-2022 for an amount of Rs.42,89,764/- as illegal, arbitrary and violative of Art 14 and 21 of Constitution of India and consequently direct the respondent authorities to release Rs.42,89,764/- forthwith for the above said works executed by the petitioner and pass such....”

2. The sum and substance of the writ petition is that the petitioner challenged the inaction of the respondents in not releasing the amounts even after completion of the entire works entrusted to him.

3. Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and Sri L.Radha Krishna, counsel representing Sri V.C.H. Naidu, learned Standing Counsel for APEWIDC appearing for respondents.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner, while reiterating the averments made in the writ affidavit, submits that in view of the non-release of the admitted amounts, the petitioner is facing multifarious problems, physically and fiscally. Hence, he submits that the release of the amounts is just and essential.

5. On the other hand, learned Standing Counsel for the respondent Corporation, places a copy of the written instructions dated 15.04.2026 issued by the concerned authority of the Corporation and submits that five months' time may be granted for paying the admitted amount of Rs.42,89,764/- to the petitioner.

6. Since it is not in dispute that the petitioner completed the works and has yet to receive payment, this Court finds the respondents' failure to pay is unjustified. However, taking into consideration of the ground realities to settle the admitted amounts, the respondents are granted rational time to settle the dues.

7. Recently the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held in ***Utkal Highways Engineers and Contractor Vs Chief General Manager and Others***¹, in vivid terms categorically held in the following manner.

“8. Be that as it may, the High Court has not dealt with the merits of the writ petition. Moreover, it is not an inviolable rule that no money claim can be adjudicated upon in exercise of writ jurisdiction.....”

8. It is apt to note that a mere financial incapacity/poor financial conditions, as stated by the respondent Corporation, for non-releasing of amounts after getting the works from the petitioner, cannot be a ground.

¹ (2025) SCC Online SC 1400

9. In view of the above stated legal position, the respondent Corporation, being the instrumentality of the 'State' within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India, is bound to release the amount for the undisputed works done by the petitioner, without any further delay. A mere financial incapacity or paucity of funds cannot be a valid defence for non-fulfillment of such statutory obligations, more particularly, when the works executed by the petitioner are admitted by the respondent Corporation.

10. So far as the interest portion is concerned, the Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court in the case of **Managing Director & Ors. Vs. Sree Balaji Constructions & Ors.** (Writ Appeal No.60 of 2025) held that the award of interest on delayed payments was unsustainable in the absence of specific terms and conditions of the relevant agreement between the parties, but in the instant case, the learned counsel for the petitioner has not touched on the said point. However, the Hon'ble Division Bench in similar circumstances made it clear that the parties are at liberty to pursue their claims before an appropriate forum in accordance with the Law.

11. In the light of the above legal position, coupled with the fact that the liability for the undisputed works was admitted by the respondents, the Writ Petition is disposed of with a direction to the respondents to release the amount payable to the petitioner, within a period of five (05) months, from the date of receipt of copy of this order. It is needless to say that the petitioner is

at liberty to approach the appropriate civil court with regard to interest, if so advised.

There shall be no order as to costs. Miscellaneous petitions pending, if any, shall stand closed.

JUSTICE MAHESWARA RAO KUNCHEAM

Date: 23.04.2026
PBS

190

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE MAHESWARA RAO KUNCHEAM

WRIT PETITION No. 26130 of 2025

Date: 23.04.2026

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