

HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
MAIN CASE No: W.P.Nos.46477 of 2022; 8431 and 21277
of 2023; W.P.(TR).Nos.5305 and 5969 of 2017

PROCEEDING SHEET

Sl. No.	Date	ORDER	OFFICE NOTE
15.	13.11.2025	<u>HCJ (AKrS,J) & GMM,J</u> <u>I.A.Nos.1 and 4 of 2025 in W.P.No.21277 of 2023</u> Mr. G. Vidya Sagar, learned Senior Counsel represents Ms. Priyanka Singh, learned counsel for the petitioners in I.A.No.1 of 2025. Mr. M. Surendar Rao, learned Senior Counsel represents Mr. Srinivasa Rao Madiraju, learned counsel for the petitioner in I.A.No.4 of 2025. For the reasons stated in the accompanying affidavits, these applications to implead the petitioners, who belong to the feeder cadre of Superintendents of Works Accounts Department to the post of Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer, as proposed respondents are allowed. <u>I.A.Nos.1, 3 & 4 of 2025 in W.P.No.46477 of 2022</u> <u>I.A.Nos.1, 2, 4, & 5 of 2025 in W.P.No.8431 of 2023</u> <u>I.A.Nos.2, 3, 5 & 6 of 2025 in W.P.No.21277 of 2023</u> Ms. A. Satyasiri, learned counsel for the petitioners in W.P.Nos.46477 of 2022 and 21277 of 2023. Mr. V. Ravichandran, learned counsel for the petitioner in W.P.No.8431 of 2023.	

		Mr. M. Surendar Rao, learned Senior Counsel appears for Mr. Srinivasa Rao Madiraju, learned counsel; Mr. S. Suman, learned Government Pleader for Services-III; Mr. G. Vidya Sagar, learned Senior Counsel appears for Mr. Sai Prasen Gundavaram, learned counsel; Ms. K. Kiran Mayee, learned counsel for the respondents. Mr. B. Rajeshwar Reddy, learned Government Pleader appears for Government of Andhra Pradesh in W.P.No.46477 of 2022, 8431 and 21277 of 2023. 2. We have heard learned counsel for the petitioners and the respondents in all these writ petitions on the interlocutory applications preferred by the respondents for vacation of the interim order dated 22.04.2025, whereby the coordinate Bench of this Court after taking note of the submissions of the learned counsel for the parties, directed that <i>status quo</i> as it exists on that date by the State of Telangana insofar as promotion process for filling up the post of Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer (APAO) is concerned be maintained till the next date of hearing. 3. The respondent State in its stay vacate petition i.e., I.A.No.4 of 2025 in W.P.No.46477 of 2022 has <i>inter alia</i> contended as under:	
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		There are three feeder categories eligible for promotion/appointment by transfer to the post of APAO, namely, (i) Divisional Accounts Officer DAO (W) Grade-I. (ii) Section Officers/Private Secretaries in the Finance Department. (iii) Superintendents of the Accounts Organization. 4. The petitioners in W.P.Nos.46477 of 2022 and 8431 of 2023 belong to the DAO (W) Grade-I feeder category. 5. As per Note 1 under Rule 3 of Works Accounts Service Special Rules (for short, “the Rules”) in respect of appointment to the category of Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer and Accounts Officers (Category-IV), out of every 10 successive vacancies, the third and eighth vacancies shall be filled in by the Section Officer or Private Secretary to Secretary to Government of Finance Department of Secretariat; second, fifth, sixth and ninth vacancies shall be filled in by the Superintendents working in the Pay and Accounts Organization under the administrative control of Director of Works Accounts and remaining four vacancies shall be filled in by Divisional Accounts Officers (Works) Grade-1. The third category is that of the petitioners. According to the respondent State, all these feeder categories have	
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equal statutory entitlement to be considered in their respective turns.

6. It is submitted that 8 vacancies are available for the panel year 2024-25 and the panel commences from roster point 45 and cycle point 10 and the proposals in this regard have been submitted to the Government for convening DPC with the following names:

Sl. No.	Roster point	Cycle point	Name of the candidate	Remarks
1	45	10 DAO	G. Mallikarjuna Sarma, DAO(W) Gr.1	
2	46	1 DAO	K. Maheswara Reddy, DAO(W) Gr.1	
3	47 SC	12 Supdt	M. Srinivasa Rao, Supdt.	Adequacy fulfilled. Merit considered
4	48	13 SO	Section Officer of Finance Department	
5	49	14 DAO	Md. Mohiuddin, DAO(W) Gr.1	
6	50	15 Supdt	R. Surender, Supdt.	
7	51	16 Supdt	B. Srinivasa Rao, Supdt.	
8	52 SC	17 DAO	Ch. Laxminarayana, DAO	Adequacy fulfilled. Merit considered

7. It is submitted that the details of eligible candidates have been prepared strictly in accordance with the seniority lists published during the composite State of Andhra Pradesh (vide proceedings dated 16.05.2014) as well as the State of Telangana (vide proceedings dated 03.06.2016 and 16.02.2023). Let it be indicated here that these three proceedings are the three seniority lists.

		8. The seniority list dated 03.06.2016 is under challenge in W.P.(TR)Nos.5305 and 5969 of 2017. 9. According to the learned Government Pleader for the State, DAO (W) Grade-I shown at Sl.Nos.1, 2, 5 and 8 of the above table are seniors and placed above the petitioners in the seniority list published during the composite State of Andhra Pradesh as well as the State of Telangana. 10. Learned Government Pleader for the State submits that on account of the <i>status quo</i> order granted at the instance of the petitioners, who belong to one feeder category, namely, DAO (W) Grade-I, who are not in the zone of consideration for the vacancies arising in the panel year 2024-25, the entire promotion process has been stalled causing prejudice to the other feeder categories i.e., Section Officers/PS and Superintendents, whose quota vacancies are legitimately due in the present panel year. 11. Learned Government Pleader for the State submits that promotions in respect of unchallenged categories can be proceeded with without disturbing the petitioners' rights in W.P.Nos.46477 of 2022 and 8431 and 21277 of 2023 which can be made subject to the outcome of the writ petitions, thereby the rights of the petitioners with other eligible candidates, who are	
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		entitled to promotions from other feeder categories, can be balanced. 12. Learned Government Pleader for the State has prayed for vacation or for suitable modification of the interim order. 13. We have taken note of the three seniority lists, which are under consideration in these writ petitions. 14. The seniority list dated 16.05.2014 was prepared by the Director of Works Accounts, Andhra Pradesh. It contains the list of DAOs (W) Grade-II from the year 1980-81 onwards. The parent State of Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated into the successor States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana with effect from 02.06.2014. The seniority list dated 03.06.2016 was published after inviting objections by the Office of the Director of Works Accounts, Telangana State. This seniority list is of DAOs (W) Grade-II, who were finally allocated to the Telangana State. On the basis of this list, promotions of DAOs have been carried out till the impugned seniority list dated 16.02.2023 was published. The seniority list dated 16.02.2023 published by the Director of Works Accounts, Telangana State, has referred to the provisional seniority list as on 02.06.2014 prepared by the Director of Works Accounts, Andhra Pradesh. To this provisional seniority list,	
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		objections were invited from the affected persons. Their objections were dealt with as per Rules vide memo of the same date i.e., 16.02.2023. 15. The proceedings dated 16.02.2023 accepted the provisional seniority list published on 16.12.2022 by adopting the seniority list published by the Director of Works Accounts, Andhra Pradesh. The final seniority list of DAOs (W) Grade-II as on 02.06.2014 was thereby published as Annexure-I. The seniority list dated 16.02.2023 does not supersede the seniority list dated 03.06.2016 as is evident from the recitals of the proceedings dated 16.02.2023. 16. The coordinate Bench of this Court had upon hearing the learned counsel for the petitioners and the respondents, granted <i>status quo</i> so far as the promotion process for filling up the post of Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer is concerned by the respondent State of Telangana. 17. From the averments made in the stay vacate petitions and upon hearing the learned counsel for the parties, it is apparent that there are vacancies earmarked for all the three feeder categories to the post of Assistant Pay and Accounts Officer (APAO). The petitioners and the contesting respondents are those who belong to the cadre of DAO (W) Grade-I. In the panel year 2024-25, eight vacancies are available which	
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		commences from roster point 45 and cycle point 10. 18. The incumbents at Sl.Nos.3, 4, 6 and 7 of the above quoted table belong to other feeder category other than the DAO (W) Grade-I. If the promotional exercise from this feeder cadre is conducted for the existing vacancies for the panel year 2024-25, the position of the petitioners and the contesting respondents are not going to be affected. This practice is not disputed by both sides. So far as the rest of the names are concerned in the table quoted above, they belong to DAO (W) Grade-I category to which the petitioners and the contesting respondents belong. 19. Therefore, the interim order dated 22.04.2025 is modified by permitting the respondent department to carry out the promotional exercise of the persons named at Sl.Nos.3, 4, 6 and 7 in the table extracted above. We are also of the considered view that if the department is interested in carrying out the promotional exercise from the feeder cadre of DAO (W) Grade-I, they are permitted to undertake the exercise from the seniority list dated 03.06.2016. These promotions shall be subject to the outcome of the writ petitions.	
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		20. The interim order dated 22.04.2025 in W.P.Nos.46477 of 2022, 8431 and 21277 of 2023 is modified in the manner and to the extent indicated hereinabove. 21. The stay vacate petitions are accordingly disposed of. <u>W.P.Nos.46477 of 2022; 8431 and 21277 of 2023; W.P.(TR).Nos.5305 and 5969 of 2017</u> Pleadings are complete. Let the matters appear under the heading “For hearing” on 23.12.2025. The impleaded respondents would be allowed to assist the Court at the time of hearing. Written submissions, if any, of the contesting respondents and the State may be submitted one week before the next date of hearing. _____ H CJ (AKrS,J) _____ GMM,J ES	
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