

**HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
AT JAMMU**

WP(C) No. 1176/2026
CM No. 2577/2026
CM No. 2578/2026

Inhabitants of Village Gowari

.....Applicant(s)/Petitioner(s)

Through :- Ms. Rozina Afzal, Advocate.

v/s

UT of J & K & Ors.

.....Respondent(s)

Through :- Ms. Chetna Manhas, Advocate vice
Mr. Raman Sharma, AAG for R-1,
and vice Mrs. Monika Kohli, Sr. AAG
for R-2 and 3.

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MOKSHA KHAJURIA KAZMI, JUDGE

ORDER
08.05.2026

1. By this petition, the petitioners herein are seeking a direction upon respondents to hold general elections for the post of Lambardar of Village Gowari alongwith other Panchayats strictly as per Rules; with a further direction to respondents to allow the present Lambardar of Village Gowari to continue to discharge his duties till the general elections are conducted.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioners has stated that respondent no.4 has filed certain resolutions on behalf of inhabitants of Village Gowari thereby placing some forged signatures, fabricated resolutions and suppression of genuine will and consent and has obtained a resolution by misrepresentation. She further states that before conducting election, respondents 2 and 3 are under an obligation to conduct an impartial enquiry with respect to the allegations being alleged by the petitioner herein.

3. Ms. Chetna, who was directed to report instructions, has stated that vide letter dated 06.08.2025, Commissioner/Secretary to Govt. Revenue Department has issued necessary directions in the light of judgment dated 11.07.2025. An affidavit has been filed by the office of Revenue Secretary on 10.03.2026 in CCP(D) No.62/2025, wherein it has been stated that conducting of general election in respect of village Gowari is under active consideration of the Department. It is also stated that the matter has been placed before the Minister-in-charge Revenue, for approval and issuance of necessary instructions regarding updation of electoral rolls of village Gowari under Rule 22 of the Lambardari Rules, 1980.

4. Notice. Notice is waived by Ms. Chetna Manhas, learned counsel vice Mr. Raman Sharma, AAG for respondent No.1, and vice Mrs. Monika Kohli, Sr. AAG for respondents 2 and 3. She seeks and is granted three weeks' time for filing reply, with advance copy to the learned counsel for the other side.

5. Let notice go to respondent No.4.

6. List on 08.07.2026.

7. Meanwhile, petitioners are at liberty to file comprehensive representation before respondents 2 and 3. In case such a representation is filed, respondents 2 and 3 are directed to consider the same within three weeks by passing a speaking order, thereon.

(Moksha Khajuria Kazmi)
Judge

JAMMU
08.05.2026
Raj Kumar