



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, AT DHARWAD

DATED THIS THE 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE SMT. JUSTICE LALITHA KANNEGANTI

WRIT PETITION NO.101456 OF 2026 (EDN-CET)

BETWEEN:

1. PRAJNA MANJUNATH GOND
D/O. MANJUNATH GOND,
AGED ABOUT 17 YEARS,
REPRESENTED BY LEGAL GUARDIAN,
MANJUNATH SANKAYYA GOND (FATHER)
R/A. NO.5, NEDAGINAMANE HEJJLU,
MARUKERI, BHATKAL TALUK,
UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT-581320.
2. POOJA KRISHNA GOND
D/O. KRISHNA GOND,
AGED ABOUT 17 YEARS,
REPRESENTED BY LEGAL GUARDIAN
LALITA KRISHNA GOND (MOTHER)
R/A NO.64, BILOORMANE,
KONNAR VILLAGE, BHATKAL TALUK,
UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT-581320.
3. SEVANTI IRAYYA GOND
D/O. IRAYYA GOND,
AGED ABOUT 17 YEARS,
REPRESENTED BY LEGAL GUARDIAN,
GANAPAYYA SAKRA GOND,
R/A SAMPANAKERI, HEBLE VILLAGE,
BHATKAL TALUK, UTTARA KANNADA
DISTRICT-581320.



...PETITIONERS

(BY SRI. NAGENDRA R.NAIK, ADVOCATE)



AND:

1. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA,
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
REPRESENTED BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
VIDHANA SOUDHA, BENGALURU-560001.
2. KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY,
18TH CROSS, SAMPIGE ROAD,
MALLESHWARAM, BENGALURU-560012,
REP. BY ITS DIRECTOR.

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI. T. HANUMAREDDY, ADDL. GOVT. ADVOCATE FOR R1;
SMT. SURABHI KULKARNI, ADVOCATE FOR R2)

THIS WRIT PETITION IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 AND 227 OF CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, PRAYING TO A. ISSUE A WRIT IN THE NATURE OF MANDAMUS DIRECTING THE RESPONDENT NO.2 TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATIONS OF THE PETITIONER NO.1, PETITIONER NO.2 AND PETITIONER NO.3 PRODUCED AS PER ANNEXURE-B1, B2 AND B3 FOR THE KCET-2026 EXAMINATION UNDER THE SCHEDULED TRIBE (ST) CATEGORY FOR ALLOTMENT OF SEATS IN UG-CET AND UG-NEET CATEGORY, IN SO FAR AS THE PETITIONERS ARE CONCERNED. B. PASS SUCH OTHER OR ORDERS AS THIS HON'BLE COURT MAY DEEM FIT AND PROPER IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE.

THIS WRIT PETITION, COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: THE HON'BLE SMT. JUSTICE LALITHA KANNEGANTI



ORAL ORDER

The present writ petition is filed seeking the following prayers:

"a. Issue a Writ in the nature of Mandamus directing the Respondent No.2 to consider the applications of the Petitioner No.1, Petitioner No.2 and Petitioner No.3 produced as per ANNEXURE-B1, B2 and B3 for the KCET-2026 examination under the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category for allotment of seats in UG-CET and UG-NEET category, in so far as the Petitioners are concerned.

b. Pass such other or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case."

2. It is the case of the petitioners that on 16.01.2026, respondent No.2 published the guidelines for completing the online application documents at the respective colleges based on the claim certificate and information regarding the KCET-2026 examination on its official website. The last day to submit application for the kcet-2026 examination is 17.02.2026. The exam is scheduled to be conducted on 23.04.2026 and 24.04.2026. On 22.04.2026, Kannada language test is scheduled only for Horanadu and Gadinadu Kannadiga candidates. It is stated that pursuant to the brochure issued by respondent No.2, the petitioner No.1 submitted a common UG online application bearing No.26203366, petitioner No.2 submitted application



bearing No.26330134 and petitioner No.3 submitted application bearing No.26295684. The petitioner No.1 has applied for PCM (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics for UG-CET Engineering), UG Architecture (NATA), UG-NEET (Medical/Dental/UYASH) and Diploma in Pharmacy. Petitioner No.2 applied for the course of PCM (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and UG-CET Engineering) on 10.02.2026. Petitioner No.3 submitted an application for the courses of PCMB (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology for all courses). It is the case of the petitioners that at the time of filing the online application, the petitioners wanted to claim a category reservation under the Schedule Tribe category for which they submitted both their caste as well as income certificates. The petitioners' category and certificate details, as reflected in the online system show discrepancies that have resulted in rejection of their claims despite valid caste certificates issued by the Tahsildar. When each petitioner checked the category reservation status, the system showed an error citing "category certificate validated but rejected due to name mismatch". It is the case of the petitioners that the variation in each case is merely the inclusion or omission of the father's name as a middle name, which is a common and accepted practice in Karnataka



and does not create any ambiguity about the identity of the person. It is stated that the petitioners want to claim the reservation under the Scheduled Tribe category for the KCET-2026 examination, but owing to the error regarding the rejection of their category certificate due to name mismatch, the petitioners' applications have been submitted in the General Merit category and they should have been considered in the Scheduled Tribe category but due to the software inefficiency, they had to apply in the General Merit category and the petitioners are deprived of the benefits. Hence having no other alternative, they have come before this Court.

3. The learned counsel appearing for the respondent No.2, on instruction, submits that if the petitioners come up with original certificates and approach the respondents, they will consider the same in accordance with law.

4. Having heard the learned counsels on either side, perused the materials on record. Taking into consideration the specific instructions from the respondent No.2, this Court is passing the following:



ORDER

- (i) The petitioners shall appear before the respondent No.2 on 03.03.2026 with all relevant certificates/documents and the respondent No.2 shall consider the same in accordance with law.
- (ii) Accordingly, the writ petition is ***disposed off***.
- (iii) All I.As., in this writ petition stand closed.

Sd/-
JUSTICE LALITHA KANNEGANTI

YAN
CT: UMD
List No.: 1 Sl No.: 25