2026:AHC-LKO:39670-DB

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD
LUCKNOW
WRIT - C No. - 5414 of 2026

Ram Chandra Gupta And Another

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

U.O.I. Thru. Ministry Of External Affairs New Delhi And Another

.....Respondent(s)

Counsel for Petitioner(s)	:	Piyush Pathak, Priya Singh
Counsel for Respondent(s)	:	A.S.G.I.

Court No. - 3

HON'BLE SHEKHAR B. SARAF, J.
HON'BLE ABDHESH KUMAR CHAUDHARY, J.

1. Heard Shri Piyush Pathak, learned counsel for the petitioners, as well as Sri Varun Pandey, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respondents.

2. This writ petition has been filed for the following main relief:

"(i) Issue a writ, order or direction in the nature of mandamus commanding the Opp-Party No.2 to issue the passport of the petitioners bearing Application Reference no. 24-0001188222 & Application Reference No. 24-0001177008, copy of online appointment receipt of which are contained as Annexure No.1 & 2 to the writ petition"

3. Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that four criminal cases i.e. (i) FIR No.0170/2020, under Sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B of the IPC lodged at Police Station Kamrauli, District Amethi (charge-sheet filed); (ii) FIR No.0011/2021, under Sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 406, 120-B, 384, 504 and 506 of the IPC lodged at Police Station Kamrauli, District Amethi (final report filed);(iii) FIR No. 0165/2021, under Sections 419, 420, 406, 120-B, 384, 504 and 506 of the IPC lodged at Police Station Kamrauli, District Amethi (final report filed) and (iv) FIR No.0166/2021, under Sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 406, 120-B, 384, 504 and 506 IPC lodged at Police Station Kamrauli, District Amethi(final report filed) were lodged against the petitioners, however, the matter may be disposed of in light of the judgment passed by Division Bench of this Court in ***Pawan Kumar Rajbhar versus Union of India and 2 others***; Writ-C No.41540 of 2023 : Neutral Citation No.-2024:AHC:9963-DB.

4. The submission of learned counsel for the petitioners is controverted by

Shri Varun Pandey appearing on behalf of the respondents. His submission is that the judgment of *Pawan Kumar Rajbhar* (supra) has been modified by Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Rita Verma vs. Union of India and others***; Petition(s) Special Leave to Appeal (C) No.7481 of 2024 vide judgment and order dated 20.09.2024.

5. It may be noted that in ***Smt. Rita Verma vs. Union of India and others***; Writ-C No.6450 of 2024; Neutral Citation No.2024:AHC:35201-DB, the Division Bench of this Court had reiterated the ratio of *Pawan Kumar Rajbhar* (supra). However, after examining the entire position with regard to the Memorandum No.VI/401/1/5/2019 dated 10.10.2019, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Rita Verma* (supra) has directed as follows:-

"4. In spite of the clear wordings in the Memo, the High Court by the order impugned herein came to a conclusion that the office Memorandum is contrary to the statutory position and proceeded to dismiss the Writ Petition.

5. We have heard Mr. Malak Manish Bhatt, appearing for the appellant as also Mr. K.M. Natraj, learned Additional Solicitor General appearing for the Union of India. Mr. K.M. Natraj, learned Additional Solicitor General submits that the approach adopted by the High Court that the Office Memorandum is contrary to the statutory positions and is not supported by law and it is also not the stand of the Union of India. Learned Additional Solicitor General expressed no difficulty in processing the application of the appellant on the basis of the Office Memorandum.

6. In this view of the matter, it is sufficient for us to direct the authorities to consider the application for renewal of the passport on the basis of Office Memorandum dated 10.10.2019 or any other subsequent Office Memorandums that may govern the field notwithstanding the order passed by the High Court in Writ Petition(C) No.6450/2024 dated 28.02.2024, upon making of an appropriate application, the same shall be disposed of, as expeditiously as possible."

6. In light of the above finding(s) of Hon'ble Supreme Court, we are of the view that the authorities are required to consider the application of the petitioners for issuance of passport on the basis of Office Memorandum dated 10.10.2019 or any other subsequent office memorandum that may govern the field as the Hon'ble Supreme Court has finally dealt with this issue in *Rita Verma* (supra). The law laid down by Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Rita Verma* (supra) shall apply in the present case, therefore, we direct the authorities to act expeditiously in accordance with law in the subject matter.

7. With the aforesaid direction, the writ petition is ***disposed of***.

May 29, 2026MVS/-

(Abdhesh Kumar Chaudhary,J.) (Shekhar B. Saraf,J.)

Digitally signed by :-
MANOJ VIKRAM SINGH CHAUHAN
High Court of Judicature at Allahabad,
Lucknow Bench