APHC010128642026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

AT AMARAVATI [3330]

(Special Original Jurisdiction)

MONDAY, THE 2nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE TARLADA RAJASEKHAR RAO

WRIT PETITION NO: 7245/2026

Between:

1. CHODAVARAPU PAVAN SAI KISHAN, S/O CHODAVARAPU VENKATA JANARDHAN RAO, AGED 36YEARS/OCC.BUSINESS R/O. 6-147/1,SEETHARAMAPURAM, JAGGAIAHPETA MANDAL NTR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 521175

...PETITIONER

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP.BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, REVENUE (ENDOWMENTS) DEPARTMENT, A.P. SECRETARIAT VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATHI, GUNTUR DISTRICT.
2. THE COMMISSIONER, ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT, GOLLAPUDI AMARAVATHI, GUNTUR DISTRICT.
3. THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SRI VENKATESWARA SWAMY VARI DEVASTHANAM, TIRUMAIAGIRI, JAGGAIAHPET MANDAL, NTR DISTRICT-521178
4. SRI VENKATESWARA SWAMY VARI DEVASTHANAM, REP BY ITS EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TIRUMAIAGIRI, JAGGAIAHPET MANDAL, NTR DISTRICT-521178,
5. TIRUNAGARI RAMA KRISHNAMA CHARYULU RAMA KRISHNA, S/O. CHENNA KRISHNAMA CHARYULU @ CHENNA KRISHNAIAH, AGED ABOUT 49 YEARS, OCC ARCHAKA, R/O D.NO. 14-221, RANGA SWAMY BAZAR, JAGGAIAHPETA TOWN AND MANDAL, KRISHNA DISTRICT - 521175.
6. ALAHARI CHAKRAPANI, S/O. YOGANANDAM, AGED ABOUT 46 YEARS, OCC ARCHAKA, R/O. H.NO. 14-224, RANGA SWAMY BAZAR, JAGGAIAHPETA TOWN AND MANDAL, KRISHNA DISTRICT - 521175. RR 5 AND 6 ARE IMPLEADED AS PER COURTS ORDER DT. 19.09.2026 IN I.A.NO.3 OF 2026

...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 an appropriate Writ, Order or Direction, more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus, declaring the inaction of the Respondents in not implementing the Circular Rc.No.Bl/COE-12026(51)/89/2025 dated 04-06-2025 issued by the 2nd Respondent mandating installation of CCTV cameras with audio recording facilities in the 4th Respondent Temple as illegal, arbitrary, omission of duties and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India and consequently direct the Respondents to a) Install CCTV cameras with audio recording facilities in the Antharalayam and other designated areas of the temple premises as mandated by the 2nd Respondent's circular b) Ensure continuous monitoring and recording of temple activities by assigning responsible staff as directed in the said circular c) Preserve CCTV backup capacity for a period of 90 days and make it available for inspection by the Respondents and other competent Authorities in order to ensure transparency in temple administration

IA NO: 1 OF 2026

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 pleased to direct the Respondents to forthwith install CCTV cameras with audio recording facilities in the Antharalayam (excluding the Garbhalayam) and other designated areas of the 3rd Respondent temple in compliance with Circular Rc.No.Bl/COE- 12026(51)/89/2025 dated 04-06-2025 issued by the 2nd Respondent pending disposal of the Writ Petition, and pass

IA NO: 2 OF 2026

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 the Respondent No.2 and 3 to consider and pass appropriate order against the petitioners representation dated 12-02-2026 and 26-02-2026 pending disposal of the Writ Petition, and pass

IA NO: 3 OF 2026

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 may be pleased to implead the present petitioners as proposed respondents No. 5 and 6 as party respondents No.5 and 6 in the W.P No. 7245 of 2026 as well as in the connected I.A.'s and pass

Counsel for the Petitioner:

1. KIRAN TIRUMALASETTI

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. KAPPERA KOTESWARA RAO SC for Endowments,AP Region.
2. GP FOR ENDOWMENTS
3. D V SASIDHAR

The Court made the following:

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE TARLADA RAJASEKHAR RAO

WRIT PETITION No.7245 of 2026

ORDER:

The present Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking the following relief:

> "….to issue an appropriate Writ, Order or Direction, more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus, declaring the inaction of the Respondents in not implementing the Circular Rc.No.B1/COE-12026(51)/89/2025 dated 04-06-2025 issued by the 2nd Respondent mandating installation of CCTV cameras with audio recording facilities in the 4th Respondent Temple as illegal, arbitrary, omission of duties and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India and consequently direct the Respondents to:
> a) Install CCTV cameras with audio recording facilities in the Antharalayam and other designated areas of the temple premises as mandated by the 2nd Respondent's circular
> b) Ensure continuous monitoring and recording of temple activities by assigning responsible staff as directed in the said circular
> c) Preserve CCTV backup capacity for a period of 90 days and make it available for inspection by the Respondents and other competent Authorities in order to ensure transparency in temple administration and pass such other order or orders…"

2. Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and learned counsel for the respondents.

3. The Office of the Commissioner, Endowments Department, A.P.Vijayawada, issued a circular *vide* Rc.No.B1/COE-12026(51)/ 89/2025, dated 04.06.2025, in order to strengthen temple security, water conservation, waste management and zero waste disposal towards achieving circular economy, utilization of volunteer services etc., in temples, decided to install CCTV cameras with audio recording

facilities at chappal stands, cloak rooms, cell phone deposit counters, room booking counters and Antharalayams excluding Garbhalayams.

4. The present Writ Petition is filed by the petitioner, invoking Section 2(18) of the Andhra Pradesh Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act, 1987, seeking implementation of the circular dated 04.06.2025.

5. This Court, *vide* order dated 19.09.2026, directed the respondents to consider the petitioner's representations dated 12.02.2026 and 26.02.2026 and pass appropriate orders, in accordance with law, and communicate the decision to the petitioner.

6. Accordingly, the respondents have disposed of the petitioner's representation, *vide* order dated 15.10.2026 and the same was placed before this Court. It is observed in the order dated 15.10.2026, that the petitioner had not approached the authorities with relevant evidence. However, the representation was disposed of. It is further observed that the Executive Authority had already installed CCTV cameras in front of the Antharalayam, despite the Archakas of the Temple were opposed to install CCTV cameras inside Antharalayam-cum-Garbhalayam, on the ground that installation is contrary to the Vykhanasa Agama Sastra. The temple is sacrosanct one.

7. Impleaded respondent Nos.5 and 6 filed affidavit, asserting that the installation of CCTV cameras will expose the rituals performed

behind the curtains, which is impermissible, and that secrecy has to be maintained because all the rituals to be performed in the Garbhalayam are performed in the Anthralayam. As such the claim made by the petitioner to install CCTV camera is only to harass respondent Nos.5 and 6, because the petitioner is under the impression that respondent Nos.5 and 6 had helped the temple authorities in issuing eviction notices to the petitioner and the petitioner is taking vengeance for the same. It is further asserted that in O.S.No.6 of 1994 dated 17.04.1998, learned Jaggaihpeta District Court directed the authorities not to interfere with the place collections i.e., install the hundials of the hereditary archakas of the 4th respondent-Temple.

8. It appears that there are differences between the writ petitioner and respondent Nos.5 and 6.

9. However, as seen from the proceedings dated 15.10.2026 it appears that the 4th respondent - Temple has installed the CCTV cameras in front of Anthralayam. If at all the petitioner intends to donate CCTV cameras, he may donate the same to the Temple. The Temple authorities are directed to install the same at appropriate places in the Anthralayam. The said installation does not contravene the Agama Sastras, which are followed in the Temple.

10. With the above observations, the present Writ Petition is disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs.

As a sequel thereto, miscellaneous petitions pending, if any, shall stand closed.

JUSTICE TARLADA RAJASEKHAR RAO

Date: 02.11.2026

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THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE TARLADA RAJASEKHAR RAO

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