APHC010484812026

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: 31651/2026

Between:

1. SIVAPURAM NAGESWAR RAO, S/O. KOTILINGAM, AGED ABOUT 66 YEARS, AGRAHARIKULU, EX-JOURNALIST AND FOUNDER TRUSTY OF SRI SIDDAMALLESWA SWAMY TEMPLE, SIVAPURAM VILLAGE, VINUKONDA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P- 522 647

...PETITIONER

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, REVENUE (ENDOWMENTS) DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI, A.P-522238.
2. THE COMMISSIONER OF ENDOWMENTS, GOLLAPUDI, VIJAYAWADA, NTR DISTRICT- 521225
3. THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF ENDOWMENTS, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P -522601.
4. THE COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P - 522601.
5. THE REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, VINUKONDA DIVISION, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P - 522647.
6. THE MANDAL REVENUE OFFICER, VINUKONDA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P - 522647.
7. SHAIK KASIM, THE VILLAGE REVENUE OFFICER (VRO), SIVAPURAM VILLAGE, VINUKONDA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P - 522647.
8. THE TAHSILDAR ERSTWHILE B KIRAN KUMAR, VINUKONDA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P - 522647.

...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 a Writ of Mandamus, (a) declaring the action of the Respondent Nos. 5 to 8 to conduct a proper verification and correction of the revenue records in Sy.No.67, Sy.Nos.135/1 116/1, Sy.Nos.325 to 330, Sy.No.219/2 and Sy.No.218

pertaining to the subject lands, to restore the revenue entries in accordance with the lawful title and possession of the respective parties, and to conduct a lawful survey and demarcation of the temple lands and the Petitioners joint family lands situated at Sivapuram Village, by fixing permanent boundary stones in accordance with law as per my representation dated 19.07.2026 (b) direct the competent Endowments authorities to initiate appropriate proceedings for cancellation of the alleged unauthorized assignment of an extent of Ac.140.00 of temple/encroached lands made by the Executive Officer in the year 2010, without authority of law under the applicable provisions of the Endowments Act, and consequently to take all necessary steps for recovery of possession of the said temple lands from the encroachers in accordance with law (c) direct the Respondent Nos. 2 and 3, namely the Commissioner of Endowments and the Assistant Commissioner of Endowments, to identify and allot an extent of at least Ac.2.00 of suitable land in favour of Sri Siddamalleswara Swamy Temple, Sivapuram Village in Sy.No.67, Sy.Nos.135/1 116/1, Sy.Nos.325 to 330, Sy.No.219/2 and Sy.No.218, for reconstruction and restoration of the temple, which is presently in a dilapidated and unsafe condition, the temple having originally been constructed in the year 1672

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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 restrain the Respondents, their agents, officials and any person claiming through or under them from carrying out any further encroachment, dispossession, alienation, transfer, occupation or handover of the temple lands and the Petitioner's joint family lands situated in Sy.No.67, Sy.Nos.135/1 & 116/1, Sy.Nos.325 to 330, Sy.No.219/2 and Sy.No.218, and further direct the Respondents not to alter, mutate or otherwise modify the existing revenue records in respect of the said lands, pending disposal of the present Writ Petition, and pass

Counsel for the Petitioner:

1. SATYA SREENIVASA RAO K

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR REVENUE
2. GP FOR ENDOWMENTS

The Court made the following:

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE TARLADA RAJASEKHAR RAO

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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 a Writ of Mandamus,
> (a) declaring the action of the Respondent Nos.5 to 8 to conduct a proper verification and correction of the revenue records in Sy.No.67, Sy.Nos.135/1 & 116/1, Sy.Nos.325 to 330, Sy.No.219/2 and Sy.No.218 pertaining to the subject lands, to restore the revenue entries in accordance with the lawful title and possession of the respective parties, and to conduct a lawful survey and demarcation of the temple lands and the Petitioner's joint family lands situated at Sivapuram Village, by fixing permanent boundary stones in accordance with law as per my representation dated 19.07.2026;
> (b) direct the competent Endowments authorities to initiate appropriate proceedings for cancellation of the alleged unauthorized assignment of an extent of Ac.140.00 of temple/encroached lands made by the Executive Officer in the year 2010, without authority of law under the applicable provisions of the Endowments Act, and consequently to take all necessary steps for recovery of possession of the said temple lands from the encroachers in accordance with law;
> (c) direct the Respondent Nos.2 and 3, namely the Commissioner of Endowments and the Assistant Commissioner of Endowments, to identify and allot an extent of at least Ac.2.00 of suitable land in favour of Sri Siddamalleswara Swamy Temple, Sivapuram Village in Sy.No.67, Sy.Nos.135/1 116/1, Sy.Nos.325 to 330, Sy.No.219/2 and Sy.No.218, for reconstruction and restoration of the temple, which is presently in a dilapidated and unsafe condition, the temple having originally been constructed in the year 1672 and pass such other order or orders…"

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

3. The petitioner submitted a representation dated 19.07.2026 to the 4th respondent for the following reliefs:

> "….(a) order a fresh, joint survey of the entire land belonging to Sri Siddamalleswara Swamy Temple, by the Revenue and Endowments Departments together, in my presence, so that the correct extent is finally fixed and the confusion between the different records is cleared up;
>
> (b) direct the Tahsildar, Vinukonda Mandal, and the Endowments Department, Palnadu District, to actually take back the remaining temple land from the encroachers named in my Grievance Petition dated 13.04.2026, with police help if necessary, within a fixed period of not more than three months;
>
> (c) cause a fair enquiry into the conduct of the then Tahsildar Sri B. Kiran Kumar and VRO Sri Shaik Kasim, and take appropriate departmental action against them if the allegations of record-tampering and helping the encroachers are found to be true;
>
> (d) direct that appropriate legal action be taken against the persons who have encroached the temple's land, as named in my Grievance Petition
>
> (e) call for the status report on how much temple land has actually been recovered so far, and what steps are planned for the rest;
>
> (f) direct the Tahsildar, Vinukonda Mandal, to conduct a possession/joint so as to separately identify the temple lands, my personal lands, and our joint family lands that are under encroachment, including at Sy.Nos.67, 135/1, 116/1, 325 to 330, 219/2 and 218, referred to above;
>
> (g) having regard to the Hon'ble High Court's order in W.P.No.21805 of 2021 the handing over of temple to me as Founder Trustee on 05.05.2024, recommend to the Government that the temple be released from the administrative control of the Endowments Department, and that the temple lands and my family's lands required for Government purposes be purchased/acquired by the Government at the prevailing Government rate;
>
> (h) in addition to the departmental and legal action prayed for in clauses (c) and (d) above, take steps to recover from the encroachers and land-grabbers, including the then Tahsildar Sri B.Kiran Kumar and VRO Sri Shaik Kasim, the losses caused to me and my family on account of their acts;….."

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner requested this Court that it would suffice to direct the respondent authorities to dispose of the petitioner's representation dated 19.07.2026, in accordance with law.

5. Learned counsel for the respondents submitted that it would be difficult to address the grievance raised in the petitioner's representation, as the relief is not within the realm of the Endowments Department and requested time to secure instructions.

6. As the relief sought is innocuous and the prayer is confined to seeking disposal of the representation, this Court is of the view that it is unnecessary to keep the writ petition pending by inviting counter-affidavit.

7. Hence, the present Writ Petition is disposed of at the admission stage, directing the respondent authorities to consider the petitioner's representation dated 19.07.2026 and pass appropriate orders, in accordance with law, and communicate the decision to the petitioner within a period of six weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. 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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Date: 02.11.2026

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