APHC010488762026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI **[3332]**
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

THURSDAY, THE 29th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE RAVI CHEEMALAPATI

WRIT PETITION NO: 26709/2026

Between:

1. PALAKA MANIKANTA, S/O. CHINNA RAO, AGED 16, BEING MINOR, REP. BY HIS NEXT FRIEND/GUARDIAN FATHER, PALAKA CHINNA RAO S/O. NARASAYYA, AGED 62, RIO. D.NO.1-30, MAIN STREET, ZILLEDUPADU VTC, SAMBHAM PO PARVATHIPURAM MANYAM, SRIKAKULAM 532 443

...PETITIONER

AND

1. UNION OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, REP. BY ITS SECRETARY, SOUTH BLOCK, NEW DELHI 110001.
2. THE PASSPORT AUTHORITY OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF PASSPORT OFFICER, PSP DIVISION, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, PATIALA HOUSE, TILAK MARG, NEW DELHI 110001.
3. THE REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICER, REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICE, NEAR P.F. OFFICE, BESIDE RYTHU BAZAR, MARRIPALEM VUDA LAYOUT, NAD POST, VISAKHAPATNAM 530009.

...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 toIssue a Writ, order or direction more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus declaring the action of the respondents, more particularly the 3rd respondent, in impounding/retaining the Passport No.

AB174437 of the petitioner pursuant to the notice dated 23-07-2026 by issuing the Surrender Certificate dated 10-08-2026, as contrary to law, illegal, arbitrary, against the principles of natural justice, violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India and contrary to the provisions of the Passports Act, 1967, and consequently direct the respondents to forthwith return the passport of the petitioner,

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 direct the respondents to forthwith return/release Passport No. AB174437 of the petitioner, which is being retained by the respondents pursuant to the Surrender Certificate dated 10-08-2026, pending disposal of the above Writ Petition

Counsel for the Petitioner:

1. P SAI SURYA TEJA

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. PELLETI RAJESH KUMAR (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COUNSEL)

ORDER

This Writ Petition is filed questioning the action of respondent no.3 in impounding/retaining the Passport No.AB174437 of the petitioner pursuant to the notice dated 23.07.2026 by issuing surrender certificate dated 10.08.2026.

2. Heard Sri P.Sai Surya Teja, learned counsel for the petitioner, and Sri Pelleti Rajesh Kumar, learned Central Government Counsel.

3. Sri Pelleti Rajesh Kumar, learned Central Government Counsel, submitted that the authorities have already released the passport of the petitioner and hence nothing remains for adjudication in this writ petition.

4. Sri P.Sai Surya Teja, learned counsel for petitioner, confirmed the submission made by the learned Central Government Counsel.

5. In view of the submissions made by the learned counsel for the parties, this writ petition is disposed of, with a direction to the authorities not to deviate the procedure while impounding/retaining the Passport of any individual. There shall be no order as to costs.

Pending miscellaneous petitions, if any, shall stand closed.

JUSTICE RAVI CHEEMALAPATI

29TH October, 2026

RR