

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD
(Special Original Jurisdiction)**

**THURSDAY, THE FOURTH DAY OF JUNE
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX**

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE NAGESH BHEEMAPAKA

WRIT PETITION NO: 17074 OF 2026

Between:

Gurram Laxma Reddy, S/o Kista Reddy Gurram Aged about 56 years
Occ.Business R/o H.No. D/ 11-B Flat No.301, Suryapark view, Street No.3,
Kakathiya Nagar, Habsiguda, Hyderabad

...PETITIONER

AND

1. The Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs, Rep.by Secretary, External Affairs, New Delhi.
2. The Regional Passport Officer, Regional Passport Office, Kummariguda, Secunderabad.

...RESPONDENTS

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 a writ, order or directions more particularly writ of mandamus declared the letter of the 2nd respondent dated 26-05-2026 refused to renew/re-issue passport/travel document under application bearing No.HY1076800669826 to the petitioner is arbitrary, illegal, against to the circular and the letter and spirit to the Constitution of India. Consequentially to direct the 2nd respondent to renew/re-issue the passport/travel document to the petitioner and to process the application of petitioner without further delay

I.A. 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 to direct the 2nd respondent to renew/re-issue the passport/travel document to the petitioner, to process the application bearing No.HY1076800669826 of petitioner without further delay, in pending disposal of main writ petition

Counsel for the Petitioner: SRI. MOHD MUMTAZ PASHA

**Counsel for the Respondents: SRI. N BHUJANGA RAO
DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA**

The Court made the following: ORDER

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD**

**THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE NAGESH BHEEMAPAKA
WRIT PETITION No.17074 of 2026**

04.06.2026

Between:

Mr.Gurram Laxma Reddy

...Petitioner

AND

The Government of India,
Ministry of External Affairs, rep.by Secretary,
External Affairs, New Delhi and another.

...Respondents

ORDER:

The petitioner made an application to the respondent-Passport authority seeking renewal of the passport; however, the passport authority refused to renew the same on the ground that the police verification revealed adverse report stating that criminal proceedings are pending against the petitioner in Cr.No.598 of 2023 of Nacharam Police station for the offence under Sections 171-B read with Section 171-E, 188 IPC.

2. Heard Mr.Mohd.Mumtaz Pasha, learned counsel for the petitioner and Sri N.Bhujanga Rao, learned Deputy Solicitor General of India, for respondent Nos.1 and 2. Perused the record.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that mere arraignment of the petitioner in a criminal case cannot be a ground

for denial of passport. Therefore, he seeks renewal of the passport of the petitioner without reference to the pendency of criminal case.

4. Learned Standing Counsel for Central Government relies on the judgment of the Division Bench of this Court in W.A.No.194 of 2026, dated 17.02.2026. Further, by referring to Office Memorandum dated 10.10.2019 issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, submits that in view of the pending criminal proceedings against the petitioner, the petitioner is required to approach the concerned trial Court for necessary 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC)/permission to obtain passport, and thereafter, furnish the same before the passport authority for considering renewal of passport. In the instant case, the petitioner has not furnished NOC/permission from the trial Court and therefore, there is no illegality in refusing to renew the passport.

5. Having considered the respective submissions, at the outset, it is settled law that mere pendency of criminal proceedings cannot be a ground to refuse renewal of passport. In this connection, it is relevant to refer to the orders passed by the Division Bench of this Court in W.A.No.194 of 2026, dated 17.02.2026, wherein the Division Bench has observed as follows:

"13. In the light of the principle laid down by the Apex Court concerning the interpretation of GSR 570(E) dated 25.08.1993 and Office Memorandum dated 10.10.2019, we are of the considered view that the appellant should make an application for seeking NOC from the concerned trial courts where criminal cases are pending against him. It is upon issuance of NOC

that the appellant should file an application for renewal of the passport. In case the courts prescribe a period for which the passport is to be issued, the passport authority should honour that period. Otherwise, if it does not stipulate any period, the notification provides default rules, including issuance for a shorter period, ordinarily one year, in appropriate cases."

14. Since the passport of the appellant is going to expire on 28.02.2026, the appellant is at liberty to make an application for issuance of NOC from the concerned courts within this week. If such an application is made before the learned courts, the learned courts would endeavour to take it up expeditiously, preferably within a week, and pass appropriate orders after hearing the parties. It is for the appellant to seek renewal of passport based upon such NOC before the Regional Passport Authority. Needless to say, the Regional Passport Authority would consider the request of extension in accordance with law i.e., the Passports Act, 1967, GSR 570(E) dated 25.08.1993 and Office Memorandum dated 10.10.2019 applicable to the case on hand."

6. In the instant case, there is no material placed on record to show that the petitioner filed an application before the concerned trial Court seeking a "No Objection Certificate" for obtaining of passport. In view of the pending criminal proceedings against the petitioner Cr.No.598 of 2023 of Nacharam Police station and the same was numbered as C.C.No.317 of 2024 on the file of Special Judicial Magistrate of First Class-cum-Excise Court, Nampally, Hyderabad, this Court deems it appropriate to direct the petitioner to approach the said trial Court and make an appropriate application seeking a 'No Objection Certificate' for renewal of passport. Upon filing such application, the concerned trial Court shall consider the same and pass appropriate orders expeditiously, preferably within one week

from the date of filing of such application. Upon furnishing the NOC by the petitioner, the passport authority shall consider the same for reissuing/renewing of passports in accordance with law.

7. It is made clear that the NOC that may be issued by the trial Court to the petitioner for obtaining passport shall not be construed as a permission to travel abroad. In case the petitioner intends to travel abroad during pendency of criminal proceedings, the petitioner shall file a separate application seeking permission to travel abroad, by specifying the duration of travel, and the trial Court shall consider such application on its own merits, by imposing appropriate conditions in accordance with law. Needless to mention that the trial Court shall proceed in accordance with law to secure the presence of the petitioner in case of violation of any of the conditions so imposed while granting abroad travel permission.

8. With the above said directions, the Writ Petition stands disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs.

Miscellaneous petitions, if any, pending in this Writ Petition, shall stand closed.

//TRUE COPY//

**SD/-T. SRIDEVI
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs, External Affairs, New Delhi.
2. The Regional Passport Officer, Regional Passport Office, Kummariguda, Secunderabad.
3. One CC to SRI. MOHD MUMTAZ PASHA Advocate [OPUC]

4. One CC to SRI. N BHUJANGA RAO Deputy Solicitor General of India [OPUC]
5. Two CD Copies

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[Handwritten signature]

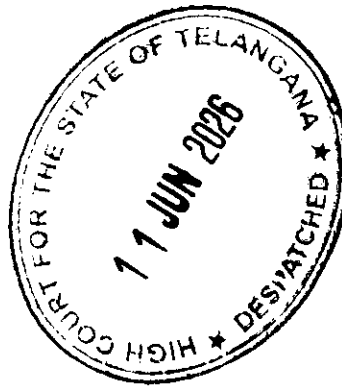
VACATION COURT

HIGH COURT

DATED: 04/06/2026

ORDER

WP.No.17074 of 2026



**DISPOSING OF THE WRIT PETITION
WITHOUT COSTS**

⑦ NT
10/6/26