

**HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH : AMARAVATI**

**MAIN CASE No: W.P.Nos.8163, 8164, 8165, 8166 and 8167 of 2020;  
W.P.(PIL).Nos.89, 90, 94, 95, 97, 98 and 99 of 2020**

**PROCEEDINGS SHEET**

Sl. No.	DATE	ORDER	OFFICE NOTE
	29.04.2020	<p>All these matters are listed today for further hearing through video conference, in continuation from yesterday.</p> <p>During the course of hearing through video conference, it is noticed that about 67 persons have joined the video conference, by sharing the screen, due to which there was congestion and severe disturbance has been caused to the hearing by them.</p> <p>As the ID and password of the video conference are provided only to the Advocates connected with the present batch of cases, we have requested them not to share the ID and password with the unconnected persons, who are sharing the screen, causing disturbance to the hearing. Though we have dropped the unconnected persons and also requested the Advocates in the present batch of cases to take note of this unwarranted situation that the unconnected persons are still continuing to join the video conference by sharing the screen, even after dropping them repeatedly, the same situation continued.</p> <p>It is to observe that when the ID and password of a video conference for hearing of the cases listed on a particular day is provided to the concerned advocates by the Registry in the morning hours of the particular day, sharing the details of ID and password to unrelated persons by the advocates is wholly unwarranted. It is expected that from now onwards, the details of ID and Password of video conference shall not be shared by the Advocates to any persons unconnected with the cases in which hearing would be taken up on the particular day and if any unrelated persons join the conference, the Advocates concerned may be responsible for the same.</p> <p>In view of the disturbance caused to the hearing of these cases through video conference, learned senior counsel, Mr. A. Satya Prasad, Mr. Vedula Venkata Ramana and Mr. S.Satyanarayana Prasad, made a request that</p>	

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		<p>looking to the importance and urgency involved in these cases, in which the Ordinance promulgated by the Governor amending the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Rat Act, 1994, and the consequential G.Os. are challenged, physical hearing by maintaining social distance, may be directed.</p> <p>We find substance in their request.</p> <p>During deliberations, it is found that all senior counsel and instructing counsel in the present cases are either stationed at Vijayawada or at Hyderabad and may participate in Court hearing. As there may be difficulty for the Advocates stationed at Hyderabad to cross the State Border in view of the restrictions during lockdown, however, on our request, the Advocate General has assured that as per the directions of the Court, necessary arrangement to permit the Advocates concerned to cross the State border shall be made.</p> <p>Considering the aforesaid, we are inclined to take up physical/personal hearing of these cases in open Court, maintaining social distancing.</p> <p>Sri D.V.Sitarama Murthy, learned senior counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner in W.P.No.8163 of 2020, insisted for grant of interim relief on the ground that the new incumbent has joined and he intends to proceed with the election process.</p> <p>Despite such insistence, we are not inclined to pass any interim orders at this stage. As noted above, physical hearing of the cases is directed and it is also to be noticed that the elections of the local bodies were already initiated but the election process has been suspended on account of COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, in the opinion of this Court, hearing of these cases cannot be kept pending for a long time.</p> <p>Let the cases be listed on 04.05.2020 for physical/personal hearing in open Court, maintaining social distancing.</p> <p>The following are the advocates appearing in these cases:</p> <p>Instructing Counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioners/respondents: S/Sri N.Ashwani Kumar, Srinivasa</p>	

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		<p>Rao Narra, Ginjupalli Subba Rao, S. Pranathi, Balaji Medamalli, Ravi Shankar Jandhyala, Thandava Yogesh (Party-in-person), Velagapudi V. N. Rao, T. Sreedhar, D.S.N.V.Prasad Babu, B. Nalin Kumar, M. Balanaga Srinivas, Sodum Anvesha, V.V. Prabhakar Rao, S. Vivek Chandrasekhar, Avinash Desai and Y. Nagi Reddy.</p> <p>Senior Counsel: S/Sri Vedula Venkata Ramana, D.V.Sitarama Murthy, A.Satya Prasad, S.Satyanarayana Prasad, C.V. Mohan Reddy, B. Adinarayana Rao, P. Veera Reddy and Dammalapati Srinivas.</p> <p>Advocate General for the State.</p> <p>Sri Josyula Bhaskara Rao, counsel for the Central Government.</p> <p>It is made clear that on 04.05.2020, only the abovementioned advocates along with the respective senior counsel and the Advocate General are permitted to appear for personal hearing and except them, no other advocate or party is permitted to enter into the Court to attend the hearing of cases. If personal appearance of any other party or advocate in these cases is necessary, it may be permitted only by the Registrar General.</p> <p>So far as the Advocates coming from Hyderabad are concerned, it is directed that permission to cross the State border may be accorded by both the Governments on being apprised by the Advocate General.</p> <p>With the aforesaid observations, hearing of these cases is adjourned to 04.05.2020.</p> <p>In W.P.(PIL).No.95 of 2020, an application, <i>vide</i> I.A.No.7 of 2020, has been moved for amendment of the cause title insofar as respondent No.9 is concerned and to make necessary amendment in the pleadings.</p> <p>Considering the reasons stated, we allow this application.</p> <p>Let notice be served on the Cabinet Secretary, Council of Ministers, A.P., through Law Secretary, on e-mail, along with copies of the petition and documents.</p> <p>I.A.No.6 of 2020 has also been filed in W.P.(PIL).No.95 of 2020 to receive the paper clippings and</p>	

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		<p>video clippings which are sent to the Registrar (Judicial) on e-mail. The said clippings are made available in a pen drive with the Registrar (Judicial). The said clippings, which contain the statements of various political persons for removal of the State Election Commissioner, are in Telugu language. Therefore, the Registrar (Judicial) shall translate them into English and the translated version be made part of the record on his attestation. The e-mails received by the Registrar (Judicial) regarding press statements along with the I.A. be transmitted to the Advocate General by him during the course of the day, thereby the Advocate General may submit his response at the time of hearing of I.A.No.6 of 2020 in W.P.(PIL).No.95 of 2020.</p> <p>List the cases for hearing, as directed, on 04.05.2020 along with I.A.No.6 of 2020 in W.P.(PIL).No.95 of 2020.</p> <p>Copy of this order be sent to the Advocate General for communication.</p> <p><b>J.K. MAHESHWARI, CJ     M. SATYANARAYANA MURTHY, J</b></p> <p>IBL</p>	

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