

FROM THE COURTS

■ NRI petitioner accuses TD, Congress, BJP and YSRC of colluding with Reliance in his

# Judge recuses himself from hearing plea against RIL

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar of the AP High Court has recused himself from hearing a PIL seeking a probe into the inaction of the Centre and the state government in allocating gas explored from the Krishna Godavari Basin (KG Basin) by Reliance Industries Ltd.

Palem Srikanth Reddy, an NRI and convener of the Janapalana Party, had moved the plea alleging that the Centre, state government and political parties had connived in allocating the contract to Reliance Industries to explore gas in D6 bloc in KG Basin.

The petitioner alleged that TD, Congress, BJP and YSRC were responsible for the state not getting its share of the gas explored by Reliance from KG basin.

He alleged that the TD and

the BJP were the main instruments for Reliance bagging the contract and the Congress had failed to take proper steps to get the state's share. Meanwhile, he accused the YSRC for failing to raise its voice against non-allocation of the state's share.

The petitioner, who is a Masters in Engineering from Stanford University and chairman of a IT company, had contested for the Kadapa Lok Sabha seat against Jagan Mohan Reddy in the by-polls as a TD candidate.

He told the court that the basis for the contractual relationship between the Centre and the private contractors was production sharing and that Reliance was just a contractor hired by the Centre to extract gas; strangely RIL sold 30 per cent of its stake to British Petroleum in July 2011.



Palem Srikanth Reddy

Due to non-receipt of its legitimate share of gas explored by Reliance, the state government was failing to supply the same to gas-based power units, which was resulting in acute power shortages, he added.

He urged the court to conduct an investigation under its direct supervision through the Transmission Corporation of India and the CBI into the active collusion of TD, Congress, BJP and YSRC with Reliance. He

also urged the court to direct the state government to take steps to allocate gas explored by Reliance from the KG Basin.

As Justice Sanjay Kumar recused from hearing the case due to personal reasons, Chief Justice Kalyan Jyoti Sengupta directed the Registry to place it before another Bench.

## Order to remove illegal construction

A divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Kalyan Jyoti Sengupta and Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar, of the HC, has directed the Vishakhapatnam district collector to take steps to remove the illegal structures in Yendada which come up in violation of coastal regulation. The HC was hearing a PIL by an NGO.

## Tsundur carnage case: HC seeks Attorney-General hel

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

A division Bench comprising Justice L. Narasimha Reddy and Justice M.S.K. Jaiswal of the AP High Court on Tuesday sought the assistance of the Attorney-General of India to decide an issue that arose during hearing appeals in the Tsundur carnage case.

The Bench asked the assistant solicitor general to inform the AG that the court is seeking his point of view on whether a special public prosecutor appointed for a specific case could take instruction

from persons (victims in the case) other than the government.

The Bench asked the AG himself or a senior judicial officer deputed by him to be present before the court on Monday to clarify the issue. The Bench also directed the advocate general to seek instructions from the chief secretary regarding the issue and place his views before it on the same day.

In Aug. 1991, the remote village of Tsundur in Guntur district had witnessed a brutal massacre of Dalits in a carnage unleashed by socially dominant commu-

nities. Eight persons died in the massacre.

In 2007, a special court had convicted 56 accused of whom 21 were awarded life imprisonment and simple imprisonment. It had let off 115 others on lack of evidence. An appeal seeking life imprisonment for 35 persons was awarded simple imprisonment is still pending in the high court.

The state had appointed Bojja Tarakam, senior advocate, as special public prosecutor and assistant special prosecutor in the