



ITEM NO.50

COURT NO.3

SECTION X

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s)(Criminal) No(s). 244/2025

KOMMINENI SRINIVASA RAO

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Respondent(s)

IA No. 145275/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 13-06-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRASHANT KUMAR MISHRA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANMOHAN

(PARTIAL COURT WORKING DAYS BENCH)

For Petitioner(s) :

Mr. Siddhartha Dave, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ponnayolu Sudhakar Reddy, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ramesh Allanki, Adv.
Ms. Aruna Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Syed Ahmad Naqvi, Adv.
Mr. Alabhya Dhamija, AOR
Mr. Shreevardhan Dhoot, Adv.
Mr. Nakul Chengappa, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :

Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sidharth Luthra, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Guntur Pramod K, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. The petitioner, who is a senior journalist and host of the TV News show namely "Live with KSR" which is aired on the Sakshi TV, a Telugu news channel in the State of Andhra Pradesh, is challenging his arrest and remand in

connection with FIR No. 108 of 2025 dated 08.06.2025 registered at Police Station Thulluru, Guntur District for the offence punishable under Sections 79, 196(1), 353(2), 299, 356(2), 61(1) of BNS, Section 67 of Information Technology Act and Section 3(1)(u) of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Protection of Atrocities) Act.

2. It is argued by the learned senior counsel, Mr. Siddhartha Dave, appearing for the petitioner that when the petitioner was hosting the said TV News Show on 06.06.2025, one of the panelists allegedly made a defamatory statement. It is further argued that the petitioner is no way concerned with the said derogatory/defamatory statement made by one of the panelists.

3. Mr. Mukul Rohatgi and Mr. Sidharth Luthra, learned senior counsel appearing for respondent, would submit that the petitioner has abated the crime by laughing and by being a mute spectator.

4. Considering that the petitioner has himself not made any defamatory/ derogatory statement and his journalistic participation in a live TV News Show deserves to be protected which in turn shall protect right to freedom of speech, we direct that the petitioner be released on bail in connection with FIR No. 108 of 2025 dated 08.06.2025 subject to such terms or conditions to be imposed by the Trial Court.

5. It is made clear that the petitioner shall not either involve himself in making any defamatory statement nor allow any other person to make such statement in his presence in the TV News Show which the petitioner is anchoring/ hosting.

6. Issue notice, returnable in eight weeks.

(NISHA KHULBEY)
SENIOR PERSONAL ASSISTANT

(AKSHAY KUMAR BHORIA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)