



CNR: KAHC010495612026

WP NO. 22184/2026 (GM - RES - 482)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

[SRI. BASANAGOUDA R PATIL (YATNAL) AND ANOTHER VS.
STATE OF KARNATAKA AND OTHERS]

20.07.2026

(VIDEO CONFERENCING / PHYSICAL HEARING)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.NAGAPRASANNA

ORAL ORDER

Heard Sri Ventakesh P. Dalwai and Sri Girish Bharadwaj,
learned counsel appearing for the petitioners.

2. The petitioners, who claim to be the complainants, are before this Court in circumstances that strike at the very heart of public confidence in constitutional governance. Though complaints are stated to have been lodged on 03.07.2026 and thereafter on 16.07.2026, the grievance projected before this Court transcends the ordinary contours of an individual complaint. **It raises allegations which, if they carry even a semblance of truth, have the potential to erode the sanctity of a constitutional institution entrusted with one of the most solemn public functions—the recruitment of meritorious candidates into the civil services of the State.**



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3. The allegations levelled are directed against the Chairman of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (hereinafter referred to as '*the KPSC*'), **an independent constitutional body conceived to function with unimpeachable fairness, institutional integrity.** The petitioners allege that the Chairman has not merely presided over the selection process but has himself participated in it in a manner that enabled the selection of two of his own daughters, who are stated to have claimed the benefit of reservation under Category 3B.

4. The petition further avers that eligibility under Category 3B is founded upon the twin criteria of caste and income, and that income certificates produced before the KPSC allegedly disclose the income of the Chairman to be a meagre sum of ₹40,000/- per annum, thereby facilitating the claim under the reserved category.

5. **Nothing can be more disquieting, if the allegations ultimately withstand scrutiny, than the projection of such an abysmally low income by the head of an independent constitutional institution. Such an**



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assertion, on its face, does not merely invite disbelief; it raises grave questions touching upon the transparency, credibility and institutional purity of the recruitment process itself. Constitutional institutions derive their legitimacy not merely from the text of the Constitution but from the unwavering public confidence that they inspire. Any allegation that casts a shadow upon that confidence warrants examination with the seriousness it deserves.

6. Learned counsel for the petitioners would further submit that an earlier complaint dated 03.07.2026 was subjected to a preliminary enquiry and culminated in an LPT report, whereafter the information was shared with the KPSC. It is thereafter that the KPSC itself is stated to have lodged a complaint, resulting in registration of Crime No.78/2026 for the offences punishable under Sections 336(2), 336(3) and 340(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

7. The learned counsel would vehemently contend that the registration of the said crime is nothing but an **exercise in optics—an eye wash intended to create an illusion of**



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institutional responsiveness while leaving the real allegations untouched. It is, therefore, urged that the investigation deserves to be wrested from the hands of the State machinery and entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation, particularly having regard to the chequered history of controversies that have, from time to time, engulfed the KPSC. It is also submitted that the State may seek to constitute a Special Investigation Team in an attempt to allay public concern.

8. In the aforesaid circumstances, the learned High Court Government Pleader is directed to accept notice for respondent Nos.1 and 3. The learned State Public Prosecutor-I shall appear in the matter.

9. Sri P. Prasanna Kumar, learned counsel, is directed to accept notice for respondent No.2.

10. Learned counsel for the petitioners shall forthwith furnish complete sets of the petition papers to the learned counsel representing the respondents. The petitioners are at liberty to move the matter in the interregnum in the event of



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need or any attempt if made by the State to constitute and transfer it to an SIT, as is observed hereinabove.

11. The learned High Court Government Pleader shall obtain necessary instructions and place the State's response before the Court.

List the matter on 29.07.2026.

**Sd/-
(M.NAGAPRASANNA)
JUDGE**