

**HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH :: AMARAVATI**

MAIN CASE: **WRIT PETITION No.6812 of 2023**

**PROCEEDING SHEET**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ORDER</b>	<b>OFFICE NOTE.</b>
2.	21.3.2023	<p><b><u>NJS,J</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>W.P. No.6812 of 2023</u></b></p> <p>Heard leaned counsel for the petitioners and learned counsel appearing for the unofficial respondent Nos.5 to 9, who placed a copy of the Memo dated 21.3.2023 filed into the Registry, vide USR No.30138 of 2023. Also heard learned Assistant Government Pleader for Social Welfare and learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home.</p> <p>The writ petition is filed seeking to declare the practice of Namalu ceremony or branding ceremony in Sri Narasimhaswamy Temple, Medapuram Village during Ugadi festival as illegal, arbitrary, discriminatory, and for a consequential direction to the respondents to ensure that no such practice would occur in and around Sri Narasimha Swamy Temple, Medapuram Village during Ugadi festival.</p> <p>When the matter is taken up for consideration, learned counsel for the unofficial respondent Nos.5 to 9, on the basis of the above referred Memo, made his submissions to the effect that the age old practice of Namalu ceremony during Ugadi festival in</p>	

	<p>Sri Narasimhaswamy Temple, Medapuram Village would not be performed by the temple Priest. However, he submits that vermilion would be kept in a bowl in the premises of the Temple and the devotees themselves can apply vermilion from the bowl and that there will be no compulsion for any individual to apply vermilion.</p> <p>As per the instructions dated 20.3.2023 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent, which are placed before this Court, it would appear that the District Collector with the help of Police is making efforts to stop the age old practice of performing Namalu ceremony during Ugadi festival in Sri Narasimhaswamy Temple, Medapuram Village.</p> <p>Be that as it may. In view of the Memo filed by the learned counsel for the unofficial respondents, this Court deems it appropriate to hear the matter after one week.</p> <p>During Ugadi festival, the devotees may apply vermilion on their own, but the Priest or others shall not perform any such act contrary to the contents in the Memo. The elders / Members and Priest of the Lakshmi Narsimha Swamy Devasthanam shall strictly abide by the Memo filed before this Court.</p> <p>List the matter on 29.3.2023 in Motion List.</p>	
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Learned Assistant Government Pleader for Social Welfare and learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home are directed to send a copy of the Memo filed on behalf of respondent Nos.5 to 9 to the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police respectively so that they would take appropriate steps to oversee the situation and report to this Court on the next date of posting.

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**NJS,J**

Note:  
Dispatch order copy today.  
(By Order)  
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