



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI
(SPECIAL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

TUESDAY, THE TWENTY FIRST DAY OF MARCH
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY THREE

:PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE NINALA JAYASURYA

WRIT PETITION NO: 6812 OF 2023

Between:

1. Dr C Ramakristanaiah, S/o. C. Narasimhudu R/o. Medapuram Village, Chennekothapalli Mandal, SatyasaiPuttaparthi District.
2. T. Shirisha, W/o. Dr. C. Ramakristanaiah, R/o. Medapuram Village, Chennekothapalli Mandal, SatyasaiPuttaparthi District.

Petitioners

AND

1. The State of Andhra Pradesh, represented by its Secretary (Social Welfare and Tribal Welfare Department) Secretariat Buildings, Velagapudi, Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Collector and District Magistrate, Office of Collectorate, Puttaparthi, Sri Satyasai District, Andhra Pradesh.
3. The District SC Welfare and Empowerment Officer, Office of the Social Welfare Department, Puttaparthi, Sri Satya Sai District.
4. The Superintendent of Police, Office of SP, Puttaparthi, Sri Satyasai District.
5. Sunkanna gari veeranna, S/o.ChinnaPeddanna SC Colony, Peddamogalaipalli village, Medapurampanchayati and post, C K PalliMandal, Sri Satya Sai District, Andhra Pradesh - 515651
6. S ChinnaBabaiah, S/o S Kadirappa, Mooduaavulu village, Medapurampanchayati, C K Palli Mandal, Sri Satya Sai District, Andhra Pradesh - 515651.
7. PeddaModduNarasimhudu, S/o. M Narasimhudu, SC Colony, Medapuram village and post, C K Palli Mandal, Sri Satya Sai District.
8. Dubbolla Venkatesh, S/o D Narasappa @ Bodayappa, MooduBavulu village, Medapurampanchayati C K Palli Mandal, Sri Satya Sai District.
9. Mooganna Gari Kadaranna, S/o, M Pakkirappa, MooduBavulu village Medapurampanchayati, C K Palli Mandal, Sri Satya Sai District, Andhra Pradesh - 515651

Respondent

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith, the High Court may be pleased to issue a Writ, Order or direction particularly one in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus or any other writ declaring the practice of Namalu Ceremony or branding ceremony wherein women are branded based on the marital status in Sri Narasimhaswamy Temple, Medapuram village thereby socially boycotted as illegal, arbitrary, discriminatory, unconstitutional and consequently direct the respondents to ensure that no such practices would occur in and around Sri Narasimha Swamy Temple, Medapuram Village for Ugadi festival.

IA NO: 1 OF 2023

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to direct the respondents take necessary steps to prevent the Namalu Ceremony or branding ceremony of women in Sri Narasimhaswamy Temple, Medapuram Village for the ensuing Ugadifestival of 2023, Pending disposal of WP 6812 of 2023, on the file of the High Court. ✓

The petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Petition and the affidavit filed in support thereof and upon hearing the arguments of Sri D S Sivadarshan Advocate for the Petitioners, GP for Social Welfare for the Respondent Nos. 1 & 3, GP for Revenue for the Respondent No.2, GP for Home for the Respondent No.4, Sri S.V.S.S. Siva Ram, counsel for the Respondent Nos. 5 to 9, the Court made the following

ORDER

“Heard learned 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.

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.

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 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. ✓

As per the instructions dated 20.3.2023 of the 2nd 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.

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. ✓

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.

List the matter on 29.3.2023 in Motion List.

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. ”

Sd/- V. SAVITRI GOWRI
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//


SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Secretary (Social Welfare and Tribal Welfare Department), State of Andhra Pradesh, Secretariat Buildings, Velagapudi, Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Collector and District Magistrate, Office of Collectorate, Puttaparthi, Sri Satyasai District, Andhra Pradesh.
3. The District SC Welfare and Empowerment Officer, Office of the Social Welfare Department, Puttaparthi, Sri Satya Sai District.
4. The Superintendent of Police, Office of SP, Puttaparthi, Sri Satyasai District.
5. Sunkanna gari veeranna, S/o.ChinnaPeddanna SC Colony,Peddamogalaipalli village, Medapurampanchayati and post, C K PalliMandal,Sri Satya Sai District, Andhra Pradesh - 515651
6. S ChinnaBabaiah, S/o S Kadirappa, Mooduaavulu village, Medapurampanchayati, C K Palli Mandal,Sri Satya Sat District, Andhra Pradesh - 515651.
7. PeddaModduNarasimhudu, S/o. M Narasimhudu, SC Colony,Medapuram village and post, C K Palli Mandal,Sri Satya Sai District.
8. Dubbolla Venkatesh , S/o D Narasappa @ Bodayappa, MooduBavulu village, Medapurampanchayati C K Palli Mandal,Sri Satya Sai District.
9. Mooganna Gari Kadaranna, S/o, M Pakkirappa, MooduBavulu village Medapurampanchayati, C K Palli Mandal,Sri Satya Sai District, Andhra Pradesh - 515651(1 to 9 by RPAD)
10. One CC to Sri D S Sivadarshan Advocate [OPUC]
11. Two CCs to GP for Social Welfare ,High Court Of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
12. Two CCs to GP for Revenue ,High Court Of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
13. Two CCs to GP for Home,High Court Of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
14. One CC to Sri S.V.S.S. Siva Ram, Advocate [OPUC]
15. One spare copy

RVK

HIGH COURT

NJSJ

DATED:21/03/2023

LIST THE MATTER ON 29.3.2023 IN MOTION LIST

ORDER

WP.No.6812 of 2023



DIRECTION