

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

WEDNESDAY, THE TWENTY NINTH 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 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

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 the earlier order of the High Court dated 21.03.2023 made herein 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. Also heard learned Assistant Government Pleader for Social Welfare and learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home.

Learned counsel representing the unofficial respondent Nos.5 to 9 seeks time to secure instructions on the additional affidavit filed on behalf of the petitioners with reference to the incidents that occurred on 22.3.2023 during Namalu Ceremony and performance of the said ceremony by the Priest and others giving a go-bye to the contents of the Memo dated 21.3.2023 filed before this Court.

Learned Assistant Government Pleader for Social Welfare placed a copy of the instructions dated 25.3.2023 received from the 2nd respondent along with a copy of the report dated 23.3.2023 and submits that Namalu Ceremony was performed on 22.3.2023 and vermilion was applied by some of the individuals by themselves and some get through their respective family members/relatives in a peaceful way. It is also mentioned that the age-old practice of Namalu Ceremony during Ugadi festival is dispensed this time.

However, in view of the specific averments made in the additional affidavit filed by the petitioners along with the material (photographs and pen-drive) referring to the events that occurred on Ugadi day, it is deemed appropriate that the 2nd respondent–District Collector shall examine the matter by adverting to the averments in the additional affidavit and the CCTV

coverage by the Department officials and place a report before this Court by the date of next adjournment, for further examination.

Learned counsel representing the unofficial respondents shall also file counter.

List the matter on 19.4.2023.”

Sd/- K. SRINIVASA RAJU
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR


SECTION OFFICER

//TRUE COPY//

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
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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 **SPEED POST**)
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

NPC



HIGH COURT

NJSJ

DATED:29/03/2023

LIST THE MATTER ON 19.4.2023

ORDER

WP.No.6812 of 2023

DIRECTION

