



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI
(Special Original Jurisdiction)**

[3329]

MONDAY, THE TWENTY SEVENTH DAY OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE VENKATESWARLU NIMMAGADDA

WRIT PETITION NO: 11375/2026

Between:

Menda Satyavathi, and Others

...PETITIONER(S)

AND

The State Of Ap and Others

...RESPONDENT(S)

Counsel for the Petitioner(S):

1. BHUSARAPU B YESU BABU

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR ENDOWMENTS

The Court made the following:

WRIT PETITION NO: 11375/2026

Heard the learned counsel for the petitioners and the learned counsel for the respondents.

The case of the petitioners herein is that the 1st petitioner is wife and other petitioners are legal heirs of one Menda Satyanarayana and his predecessors who had been allowed to perform Kalyana Mahotsavam and Pushpayagam ceremony at the 6th respondent-temple since, immemorial time. While things stood thus, Sri Menda Satyanarayana died in the year 1998. After his death, his wife/1st petitioner and his daughters had been allowed to perform Kalyana Mahotsavam as well as Pushpayagam at their own cost till 2024, which is a recognized festival to be conducted as per 43 Register at 6th respondent-temple. While so, the respondents are not allowing the petitioners in the year 2025 for conducting Kalyana Mahotsavam and Pushpayagam for a period of five days. Then, the petitioners preferred W.P.No.11239 of 2025. The said writ petition was withdrawn by the petitioners for technical reasons for non-joinder of proper and necessary parties and by the time the cause of action has been ended. In view of the same, the petitioners submitted an application under RTI through their counsel seeking their recognized customary rights to conduct Kalyana Mahotsavam at the 6th respondent-temple vide application dated 16.12.2025. For which, the executive officer-cum-officer under RTI Act gave reply stating that in the year 2025 the temple itself conducted Kalyana Mahotsavam and Pushpayagam for the reason all the villagers are requested to conduct the same by the temple itself instead of any other family members. Since Menda Satyanarayana is no more and the petitioners herein who are daughters are not agnates and they are also coming from other villages. Considering all the aspects the temple decided to conduct Kalyana Mahotsavam and Pushpayagam on its own with the temple funds at the request of villagers and devotees.

Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the impugned proceedings dated 13.04.2026 are contrary to the recognized customary rights

conferred and continued for time immemorial and there is no express bar to conduct any festivals by way of custom by family members of the persons who was recognized and named to perform the same.

On the other hand, learned Standing Counsel furnished written instructions particularly the extract of 43 register of the temple where under it is find that there is a custom of performing Kalyana Mahotsavam and Pushpayagam was enumerated as one of the festival to be observed by the temple. However, there are no particulars about family of Menda Satyanarayana or their legal heirs as a recognized family for conducting said festival.

Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that even though it was not enumerated in 43 register, but the reply addressed by the 6th respondent-temple pursuant to the RTI application of the petitioners, which indicates that the customary rights of the family members of the Menda Satyanarayana for conducting Kalyana Mahotsavam and Pushpayagam.

In view of the submission made by both the learned counsel, there shall be an interim direction directing respondent Nos.6 and 7 to allow the petitioners to participate in the final day celebrations of Pushpayagam, which is going to be conducted by the temple along with others for this year.

Learned Standing Counsel is directed to inform the order of this Court to the respondents.

For filing counter-affidavit, list the matter after three(3) weeks.

VENKATESWARLU NIMMAGADDA, J

27.04.2026
TPS