

**THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD**

THURSDAY, THE TWENTY SIXTH DAY OF MARCH
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

:PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE MRS JUSTICE SUREPALLI NANDA

WRIT PETITION NO: 8887 OF 2026

Between:

1. Poonam Bhatnagar, D/ o. Late Sri Raja Ajay Mohan Lal Bhatnagar.
2. Pooja Bhatnagar, D/ o. Late Sri Raja Ajay Mohan Lal Bhatnagar.
3. Thakur Arjun Singh, S/ o. Late Sri Lal Singh.

Petitioners

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Endowments Department, Rep. by its principal Secretary, Secretariat, Hyderabad
2. The Commissioner, Endowments, Bogulkunta, Hyderabad.
3. The Assistant Commissioner, Endowments, Ranga Reddy District.
4. Sri Seetha Rama Chandra Swamy Temple, Attapur, Rajendernagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District Rep by its Executive Officer
5. Sri Kaltiri Jaya Vardhan, S/ o. Harichabndar Aged major, Occ. not known, R/ o. Flat No 41083, Block-4. Hyderguda Attapur
6. Sri Gumalla Ramesh Reddy, S/ o. Hanmanth Aged major, Occ. not known, H.No.4-6-181/1,Rambagh.Attapur Hyderabad
7. Sri G Raj Ramesh, S/ o. Rajulu Aged major, Occ. not known, R/o. H.No 4-6-129/2, Rambagh. Attapur Hyderabad
8. Sri Mukkapalli Madhya Rao, S/ o. Rajaiah Aged major, Occ. not known, H.No 4-6-171 Rambagh.Attapur Hyderabad
9. Smt. Masani Jaya Sree, W/o. Sudarshan Aged major, Occ. not known,R/ o. H.No 4-6-101/ 2,Rambagh Attapur Hyderabad
10. Sri B.Eshwar Rao, S/ o. Raghava Rao Aged major, Occ. not known, R/o. H.No.4-6-85/5.Rambgh.Attapur
11. Sri Satish Mane, S/ o. Kashinath Aged major, Occ. not known, R/ o. H.no.4-7-194/1, Rambagh Attapur Hyderabad

Respondents

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 more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus declaring the proceedings in Rc.No. F4/4184/2026 dated 23.03.2026 of the 2nd Respondent in appointing the Respondents 5 to 11 as 'festival committee' for the 4th Respondent temple on the basis of the recommendations of the Member of Legislative Assembly in LR.No. 136/2026/MLA/RJNR dated 11.03.2026 as illegal, arbitrary, violative of the status quo order dated 21.03.2025 passed in W.P. No. 8728 of 2025 directing to maintain status quo and contrary to the judgment of this Hon'ble

Court reported in Pagadala Pratap and another Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh and others reported in 2010 SCC Online AP 455 as illegal, arbitrary, violative of principles of natural justice, violative of the orders of this Honble Court, violative of the provisions of Telangana Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions & Endowments Act, 1987, violative of Article 14 and 26 of the Constitution of India and consequently to set aside the same.

(Prayer is amended as per court order dated 26.03.2026 vice IA. No. 2 of 2026)

IA NO: 1 OF 2026

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 suspend the proceedings in Rc.No. F4/4184/2026 dated 23.03.2026 of the 2nd Respondent appointing the Respondents 5 to 11 as 'festival committee' for the 4th Respondent temple on the basis of the recommendations of the Member of Legislative Assembly in LR.No. 136/2026/MLA/RJNR dated 11.03.2026, pending disposal of WP 8887 of 2026, on the file of the High Court.

(Prayer is amended as per court order dated 26.03.2026 vice IA. No. 2 of 2026)

The petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Petition and the affidavit filed in support thereof and upon hearing the arguments of Sri T SURYA SATISH Advocate for the Petitioners, GP FOR ENVIRONMENT for the Respondent Nos.1 to 3 and Sri CH. Satish Kumar, Advocate for respondent No. 4.

The Court made the following.

ORDER:

The learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioners mainly puts forth the following submissions:

(i) The constitution of Committee vide impugned proceedings dated 23.03.2026 issued by the 2nd respondent is in violation of the orders passed in favour of the petitioner dated 21.03.2025 passed in W.P.8728 of 2025 which are in force as on date.

(ii) The action of the 2nd respondent in issuing the impugned proceedings dated 23.03.2026 appointing the Respondents 5 to 11 as 'festival committee' for the 4th respondent temple on the basis of the recommendations of the Member of Legislative Assembly in LR.No.136/2026/MLA/RJNR dated 11.03.2026 indicates favouritism and reflects surrender of discretion and abdication of duty by the Competent Authority and hence illegal.

(iii) The practice of appointing the persons recommended by the public representatives is uncalled for.

Based on the aforesaid submissions the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioners contended that the petitioners are entitled for the relief as prayed for in the present writ petition.

The learned Government Pleader appearing on behalf of the respondents, placing reliance on the written instructions brought on record by the Executive Officer, Endowment Department of the subject temple mainly puts forth the following submissions:

(i) The petitioners have no connection with the administration of the subject temple.

(ii) The subject temple is registered under the provisions of Section 43(10) of the Endowments Act 30 of 1987.

(iii) The petitioners with a malafide intention have filed this writ petition with an ulterior motive to stop the peaceful conduct of Srirama Navami festival.

Based on the aforesaid submissions the learned Government Pleader appearing on behalf of the respondents contended that the petitioner is not entitled for the grant of relief as prayed for by the petitioners herein.

Perused the Record.

A bare perusal of the letter No.136/2026/MLA/RJNR dated 11.03.2026 of the MLA addressed to Minister for Endowments, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad indicates that names of seven candidates had been recommended for constitution of the festival committee of Sri Ramachandra Swamy Temple at Rambagh, Attapur, Rajendranagar Mandal of Rangareddy District for conduct of Sri Rama Navami festival celebrations in Temple from 19.03.2026 to 30.03.2026.

A bare perusal of the impugned proceedings in RC.No.F4/4184/2026 dated 23.03.2026 of the 2nd Respondent further indicates that the 2nd respondent appointed the Respondents 5 to 11 as festival committee for the 4th respondent temple solely on the basis of the recommendations of the Member of Legislative Assembly in LR No.136/2026/MLA/RJNR dated 11.03.2026, without any application of mind independently.

This Court opines that Justice should not only be done but manifestly seen to be done. This Court is of the firm opinion that the very constitution of the Committee apparently indicates that it was intended to favour the MLA, which is sufficient to destroy the credibility and fairness of the process.

One of the settled principles of law which Lord Esher M.R. stated in The Queen on the prosecution of Richard Westbrook in the late 19th Century (1890) 24 Queen's Bench Division 371 "if people who have to exercise a public duty by exercising their discretion take into account matters which the Courts consider not to be proper for the guidance of their discretion, then in the eye of the law they have not exercised their discretion, has found very many eminent approvals including that of the Supreme Court of India in S.R.Venkataraman Vs. Union of India reported in 1979 (2) SCC 491: AIR 1979 SC 49 and it is stated in the later" the influence of extraneous matters will be undoubted where the authority making the order has admitted their influence.

This Court opines, that the present case squarely falls within the rule aforementioned particularly when the influence of the MLA and the Minister in appointing the festival Committee vide the impugned proceedings in RC No.F4/4184/2026 dated 23.3.2026 of the 2nd respondent is writ large in the facts that:

(1) All those named in the letter of the Member of the Legislative Assembly are appointed as members of the festival Committee and are placed in the same position as indicated and suggested in the letter of the Member of the Legislative Assembly in LR No.136/2026/MLA/RJNR dated 11.3.2026 addressed to the Minister of Endowments, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad and

(2) Apparently there is no application of mind independently by the 2nd respondent since he had completely abdicated his functions to the desire of a Member of the Legislative Assembly and the Minister of Endowment, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad an act which in itself is enough to destroy the credibility behind the proceedings impugned in RC No.F4/4184/2026 dated 23.03.2026 of the 2nd respondent.

Therefore, there shall be interim suspension of the impugned proceedings in Rc.No.F4/4184/2026 dated 23.3.2026 of the 2nd respondent.

List the matter on 06.04.2026 for the counter of the respondents.

**Sd/- M.JAWAHAR REDDY
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**

//TRUE COPY//


SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Principal Secretary, Endowments Department, Secretariat, State of Telangana, Hyderabad.
2. The Commissioner, Endowments, Bogulkunta, Hyderabad.
3. The Assistant Commissioner, Endowments, Ranga Reddy District.
4. The Executive Officer, Sri Seetha Rama Chandra Swamy Temple, Attapur, Rajendernagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District.
5. Sri Kaltiri Jaya Vardhan, S/ o. Harichabndar, R/ o. Flat No 41083, Block-4. Hyderguda Attapur
6. Sri Gumalla Ramesh Reddy, S/ o. Hanmanth, H.No.4-6-181/1, Rambagh, Attapur, Hyderabad,
7. Sri G Raj Ramesh, S/ o. Rajulu, R/o. H.No 4-6-129/2, Rambagh. Attapur Hyderabad
8. Sri Mukkapalli Madhya Rao, S/ o. Rajaiah, H.No 4-6-171 Rambagh, Attapur, Hyderabad.
9. Smt. Masani Jaya Sree, W/o. Sudarshan, R/ o. H.No 4-6-101/ 2, Rambagh, Attapur, Hyderabad
10. Sri B.Eshwar Rao, S/ o. Raghava Rao, R/o. H.No.4-6-85/5, Rambgh, Attapur.
11. Sri Satish Mane, S/ o. Kashinath, R/ o. H.no.4-7-194/1, Rambagh, Attapur Hyderabad.

(For 1 to 11 by SPAD)

12. One CC to SRI T SURYA SATISH Advocate [OPUC]
13. Two CCs to GP FOR ENVIRONMENT, High Court at Hyderabad. [OUT]
14. One spare copy

HIGH COURT

SNJ

DATED:26/03/2026



LIST ON 06.04.2026.

ORDER

WP.No.8887 of 2026

INTERIM SUSPENSION