APHC010517192026

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

THURSDAY, THE 29th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE MAHESWARA RAO KUNCHEAM

WRIT PETITION NO: 28646 OF 2026

Between:

1. Chidarla Suseela, W/o. Prasad, Aged about 46 years, R/o D.No.9-349, 6th Line, Gandhi Nagar, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522413.

2. Vipala Chandra Kumari, D/o. Prasad, Aged about 27 years, R/o D.No.9-349, 6th Line, Gandhi Nagar, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522413.

...Petitioners

AND

1. The State of Andhra Pradesh, Rep. by its Principal Secretary, Home Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh - 522238.

2. The Superintendent of Police, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh – 522004.

3. The Station House Officer, Piduguralla Police Station, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522413.

4. Belli Anjali, W/o. Yagayya, Aged about 44 years, R/o D.No.9-344/8, Gandhi Nagar, Revenue Ward No.9, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522413.

5. Nakka Sampurna, W/o. Nakka Sagar, aged about 35 years, R/o D.No.9-344/8, Gandhi Nagar, Revenue Ward No.9, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522413.

6. Nakka Sagar, S/o. Nakka, aged about 38 years, R/o D.No.9-344/8, Gandhi Nagar, Revenue Ward No.9, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522413.

7. Chittimalla Mukanti, S/o. Chandrayya, Aged about 50 years, R/o D.No.9-344/8, Gandhi Nagar, Revenue Ward No.9, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522413.

8. Chittimalla Chandra Sekhar, S/o. Mukanti, Aged about 32 years, R/o D.No.9-344/8, Gandhi Nagar, Revenue Ward No.9, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522413.

9. Chittimalla Pushpa, W/o. Mukanti, Aged about 55 years, R/o D.No.9-344/8, Gandhi Nagar, Revenue Ward No.9, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522413.

10. Belli Yagayya, S/o. Koteswara Rao, aged about 46 years, R/o D.No.9-344/8, Gandhi Nagar, Revenue Ward No.9, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522413.

11. Borugadda Nirmala, W/o. Kotayya, Aged about 35 years, R/o D.No.9-344/8, Gandhi Nagar, Revenue Ward No.9, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522413.

12. Borugadda Kotahiya, S/o. Kotayya, aged about 37 years, R/o D.No.9-344/8, Gandhi Nagar, Revenue Ward No.9, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522413.

13. Borugadda Chinni, S/o. Kotahiya, Aged about 22 years, R/o D.No.9-344/8, Gandhi Nagar, Revenue Ward No.9, Piduguralla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh -522413.

...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 action of Respondent Nos.2 and 3 in failing to register FIR(s) on the complaints submitted by the Petitioners in respect of (i) the theft of gold ornaments and pearl necklace from the dwelling house of the Petitioners on 24.06.2026, and (ii) the assault, causing of injuries, abuse, threats and other offences committed against the Petitioners on 11.08.2026, despite the disclosure of cognizable offences, as illegal, arbitrary and contrary to Section 173 of the BNSS, 2023, and consequently direct Respondent Nos.2 and 3 to register appropriate FIR(s) on the said complaints and conduct a fair and proper investigation in accordance with law, and pass

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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 Respondent Nos.2 and 3 to extend necessary protection to the Petitioners, including close protection, regular patrolling and physical checks around the residence of the Petitioners, in terms of Clause 7(g) of the Andhra

Pradesh Witness Protection Scheme, 2025, notified vide G.O.Ms.No.137, Home (Legal) Department, dated 18.09.2025, issued under Section 398 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and in accordance with law, in view of the continuing threats and the apprehension of further harm to the life and safety of the Petitioners, pending disposal of the above Writ Petition, and pass

Counsel for the Petitioners: K V ADITYA CHOWDARY
Counsel for the Respondents: GP FOR HOME

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The Court made the following Order:

Instant Writ Petition has been filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking the following relief:

> *"to issue a Writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction, more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus declaring the action of Respondent Nos.2 and 3 in failing to register FIR(s) on the complaints submitted by the Petitioners in respect of (i) the theft of gold ornaments and pearl necklace from the dwelling house of the Petitioners on 24.06.2026, and (ii) the assault, causing of injuries, abuse, threats and other offences committed against the Petitioners on 11.08.2026, despite the disclosure of cognizable offences, as illegal, arbitrary and contrary to Section 173 of the BNSS, 2023, and consequently direct Respondent Nos.2 and 3 to register appropriate FIR(s) on the said complaints and conduct a fair and proper investigation in accordance with law and to pass".*

2. Heard learned counsel for the petitioners and learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home appearing on behalf of Respondent/State and perused the material placed available on record.

3. Conspectus of facts in the present Writ Petition is that, despite the petitioners' complaint to the police personnel, the respondent police are not acting upon the same by registering an FIR, thereby lodging criminal proceedings.

4. Learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home, basing on the written instructions of the Respondent/Police, submits that preliminary enquiry of the police reveals that the petitioners' complaint does not disclose commission of any cognizable offence. As such, Writ Petition itself is not maintainable.

5. Now, coming to the central issue in the *lis,* despite the petitioners' complaint, the police are not registering an FIR; the aggrieved party directly initiating proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India or Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 corresponding to Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

6. In this juncture, it is appropriate to note that the issue involved in the present *lis*, is squarely covered by the Order of this Court dated 23.07.2026 in WP No.18425 of 2026, wherein this Court appreciated the facts and law by taking into consideration of the dictums laid down by the Apex Court including latest expression held in ***Sujal Vishwas Attavar and another vs. State of Maharashtra and others***[1], wherein it was held as under:

> *"7. Keeping in view the above exposition of law, we find that the extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India ought not to have been invoked when alternative equally efficacious statutory remedies were available. If a person has a grievance that his FIR has not been registered by the police, or having been registered, proper investigation is not being conducted, then the remedy does not ordinarily lie in invoking the writ jurisdiction in the first instance, but in*

[1] 2026 SCC OnLine SC 798

seeking recourse to the statutory framework, unless of course the urgency of the circumstances warrant otherwise.

8. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 (erstwhile Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973) provides a structured sequential mechanism for initiating criminal prosecution. The statutory framework contemplates that information relating to the commission of a cognizable offence is first placed before the officer-in-charge of the police station and an FIR is registered under Section 173(1) BNSS. In the event of refusal to register the FIR, recourse lies before the jurisdictional Superintendent of Police under Section 173(4) BNSS and, thereafter, before the Magistrate, under Section 175(3) BNSS.

9. xxxx.

10. xxxx.

11. The High Court is not bound to entertain a writ petition merely because a case of alleged inaction or negligence is made out against a statutory authority. Ordinarily, where a statute provides a complete and efficacious remedy, the same must be exhausted before invoking constitutional jurisdiction [See: Sakiri Vasu (supra) and Sudhir Bhaskarrao Tambe (supra)]. In the present facts, the complainant Company has not exhausted the sequential statutory remedies available under BNSS. There is, therefore, no foundation to invoke the extraordinary jurisdiction of the High Court for the reason that efficacious and efficient alternative remedies exists. Hence, at this stage, we find the instant writ petition to be premature, and, therefore, not fit to be entertained."

7. Accordingly, by applying the above ratio to the present case too, this Writ Petition is disposed of as under:

i) Liberty is granted to the petitioners to approach the learned jurisdictional Magistrate by filing appropriate complaint under Section 175(3) and 210 read with 223 of BNSS, 2023.

ii) This Court has not expressed any opinion on merits and whether or not the complaint discloses criminal offences.

iii) Equally, it will be open to all the stakeholders to avail remedies in terms of the statutory realm."

There shall be no order as to costs.

8. Registry is directed to append a copy of the Order of this Court dated 23.07.2026 in WP No.18425 of 2026 along with the instant order.

Interlocutory applications, if any, pending shall stand closed.

JUSTICE MAHESWARA RAO KUNCHEAM

Date: 29.10.2026
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THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE MAHESWARA RAO KUNCHEAM

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