IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

FRIDAY, THE NINTH DAY OF OCTOBER
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE TANGIRALA MADHAVI DEVI

WRIT PETITION NO: 33446 OF 2025

Between:

M/s Citizens Club, Rep by its Committee Member President of Citizens Club Reg No 84/1962 Mr. Mahindala Srinivas Ramesh S/o Srinivas Bangera Mahindala, aged about 55 years, Occ: Business, O/o. H.No.9-2-65, Gandhi Chowk, Siddipet Dist, T.S. Pin - 502103

...PETITIONER

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep. by Principal Secretary, Department of Home, Secretariat, Hyderabad
2. The Commissioner of Police, Siddipet Police Commissionerate, Duddeda (V), Kondapak(M), Siddipet (D), Telangana, 502277.
3. The Assistant Commissioner of Police, ACP Ravindar Reddy Siddipet, Siddipet Division, Siddipet Dist T.S.,
4. The Task Force ACP, Ravindar, Siddipet, Division SiddipetDist T.S.
5. The Station House Officer, SIDDIPET 1-TOWN Police Station, SiddipetDist. T.S.,

...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 any Writ, Order or Direction more particularly, one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus declaring the action of the Respondents No. 2 to 5 in frequently riding the Citizens Club and harassing members and registered false cases by implicating members as accused as illegal and arbitrary and in violation of principles of natural justice. in violation of Article 14 & 21 and in violation of the Petitioner's rights under Article 300 of the Constitution of India and contrary to law and consequently direct the Respondents No. 2 to 5 to not to interfere with any card game of Rummy (13 Cards game), being played in the card room of the Petitioner's club.

I.A. NO: 1 OF 2025

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 No. 2 to 5 not to interfere with any card game of Rummy (13 Cards game), being played in the card room of the Petitioner's society, pending disposal of the writ petition.

Counsel for the Petitioner: SRI CH. JAGANNATHA CHARY

Counsel for the Respondents: GP FOR HOME

The Court made the following: ORDER

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE TANGIRALA MADHAVI DEVI

WRIT PETITION No. 33446 of 2025

(CNR No. HBHC010658392025)

DATE: 09.10.2026

Reserved on: 02.07.2026 **Pronounced on: 09.10.2026**

Uploaded on: 09.10.2026

Between:

M/s.Citizens Club

...Petitioner

AND

The State of Telangana and Four Others.

...Respondents

ORDER

This writ petition is filed seeking a writ of mandamus to declare the action of respondents No.2 to 5 in frequently raiding the petitioner Club and harassing its members and in registering false cases against its members as illegal and arbitrary and consequently, to direct the respondents No.2 to 5 not to interfere with any card game of Rummy (13-cards game) being played in the card room of the petitioner's club and to pass such other order or orders.

2. Brief facts leading to the filing of the present writ petition are that the petitioner is a club, registered under the Telangana Societies

Registration Act, 2021 with registration No.84 of 1962. It is submitted that the aim and objective of the said society is to provide a non-commercial, non-profit, mutual benefit society space to promote and facilitate social sporting, recreational and other recreational activities for its members. It is submitted that at the time of registration of the society, there were about 843 members in the Citizen Club, including contractors, businessmen, engineers and retired Government employees of the town. It is submitted that apart from the facilities like Bar and Restaurant, Coffee Shop, Shuttle Badminton Court, Tennis Court, Gymnasium, Banquet Hall, Studio, Game room, Chess game and Carrom Board, the Citizen Club also included card room for recreational activities and each activity has regulating committees for strict implementation of rules and regulations.

3. It is submitted that the card room activity is scheduled in fixed hours i.e., 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. on all days and is available only for its members and is classified as a skill based games like Rummy and Bridge, which by law are permitted to be played in the card room. It is submitted that gambling games like 3 cards (teen patti) are strictly prohibited and such games are not encouraged at the petitioner's club. It

is submitted that ever since its formation, the Citizen Club has been complying with the provisions of law and there are no previous complaints of nuisance, disturbance, inconvenience or danger to the members of the club. It is submitted that the club has started offering and operating the card rooms for the members only after ascertaining from the police authorities that the same was not illegal and also in view of the order passed by this Court in W.P.No.1181 of 2027, dated 23.01.2007. It is submitted that the respondent police have, however, raided the premises of the petitioner's club on 27.10.2025 at 1900 hours and have taken sumoto cognizance of the complaint made by Mr.S.Vasudeva Rao, Inspector of Police, stating that some persons are playing 13 cards Rummy game and therefore, the police seized the club token coins and a case was registered under Crime No.522 of 2025, under Section 3 and 4 of the Telangana Gaming Act, 1974, implicating 50 members as accused and challenging the said action of the police, this writ petition has been filed.

4. The learned Senior Counsel Mr.L.Ravichander, appearing for the petitioner club, submitted that this Court, in a number of writ petitions, has held that there is no necessity for the petitioner's club to

take a license under Section 2(f)(i) of the Hyderabad City Police Act for operating a card room. However, the petitioner in abundant caution had informed respondent No.2 and had requested to grant permission to operate the card room.

5. He also referred to the provisions of the Telangana Gaming Act of 1974 and Section 5(2) thereof to submit that the police authorities are empowered to take action in case they find unlawful playing of games, but in the present case, since the club had already intimated respondents No.2 and 6 authorities and no unlawful playing of the game was found by the concerned authorities, the Citizen Club was not obligated to procure license for operating card playing room. It is submitted that the club had only sought permission under Section 5(2) of the Telangana Gaming Act, 1974.

6. He placed reliance upon the decisions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the following cases

1. State of A.P. Vs K.Satyanarayana[1];

2. Dr.K.R.Lakshmanan Vs. State of Tamil Nadu[2];

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[1] AIR 1968 SC 825
[2] (1996) 2 SCC 226

3. Executive Club Vs. State of A.P.[3];

4. D.Krishna Kumar Vs. State of A.P.[4].

7. He further placed reliance upon the decision of the Hon'ble High Court in the case of **G.V.R.Family Club Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh[5]**, in support of his contentions.

8. The learned senior counsel has drawn the attention of this Court to the provisions of the Telangana Gaming Act to submit that 13 cards rummy is not prohibited under the said Act.

9. Mr.Mahesh Raje, the learned Government Pleader for Home, placed reliance upon the averments made in the counter affidavit filed by respondent No.5 and submitted that the petitioner's club was raided on 27.10.2025 and 50 persons were found playing 13-cards game for stakes and on seeing the police, they tried to run away from there and they were caught and a case in Crime No.522/2025 under Section 3 & 4 of the Gaming Act was registered against the said 50 persons. It is stated that the parties were playing the game by betting money and the

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[3] (1998) 5 ALD 126
[4] (2002) 5 ALT 806
[5] 2011 SCC OnLine AP 1281

persons apprehended also admitted that they came to the club to play 13-cards Rummy game by betting with the plastic coins with printed numbers. It is stated that two mobile phones were also seized and notices under Section 35(3) of BNSS were issued to the persons who were apprehended. It is stated that the club's activities go beyond lawful gaming and involve illegal gambling practices that harm the community and that several complaints were received from women residents of Siddipet Town highlighting financial distress caused by gambling at the club. It is further stated that as per Section 2(d) of the Telangana Gaming Act (Amendment Act of 2017), the exemption for 'games of skill' has been removed when the outcome results in profit or gain for the organizer, regardless of whether the game involves skill or chance. It is therefore submitted that the activity indulged in by the members of the club was wagering or betting and therefore the provisions of the Telangana Gaming Act are applicable and the accused are liable for punishment. The copies of the FIR, statements recorded and also the confession-cum-seizure report are also filed along with the counter affidavit.

10. Having regard to the rival contentions and the material on record, this Court finds that the Telangana Gaming Act, 1974 defines the word "gaming" to mean playing a game for winnings or prizes in money or otherwise and includes playing a game of mutka or satta (or online gaming for money or any other stakes) and lucky board and wagering or betting, except where such wagering or betting takes place upon a horse-race and the explanation thereto defines wagering or betting to include any act or risking money, or otherwise on the unknown result of an event including on a game of skill. Therefore, the game of skill has been excluded from the definition of wagering or betting. The said provision was considered by a Single Judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, as it then was, in the case of **D.Krishna Kumar Vs. State of A.P.** (4 supra) and it was held that, as per Section 15 of the Telangana Gaming Act, 1974, the provisions of the said Act would not apply to games of skill and the Court had considered the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of **State of A.P. Vs K.Satyanarayana** (1 supra) and **Dr.K.R.Lakshmanan Vs. State of Tamil Nadu** (2 supra), wherein it was held that the 13-card game of Rummy is a game of skill as success therein depends to a substantial

degree upon skill. It was further observed that the playing 13-card Rummy with stakes would not attract the provision of the Act. However, this Court finds that the Gaming Act was amended in the year 2017 and the exemption given to games of skill was removed. Considering the said amendment and the precedents on the issue, this Court in W.P.No.33556 of 2015, held that 13-card Rummy is a game of skill, but the police have the authority to interfere with the game of Rummy if there are stakes involved and if it is demonstrated that the parties were playing the game with stakes. The Court had allowed the W.P.No.33556 of 2015 with the following directions:

> "1. The respondent police authorities shall not interfere with the card game of rummy (13 card game) whatever be the stakes:
>
> 2. The petitioner shall install video cameras and record the entire recreational activities in the resort and preserve the said data at least for a period of fortnight so that the police can check the footage. The said C.C. cameras shall be connected with the jurisdictional police station and the Office of the Superintendent of Police for observation by the police to find out as to whether members of the resort are indulging in the

activity of gambling. If any of the gaming places is not covered by C.C. cameras, it is for the police to take action.

3. The police are entitled to enter into the premises of the petitioner's resort for taking action as per law in the event of there being any violation of the provisions of law by the petitioner and the petitioner shall not cause any hindrance to the police in exercising their statutory powers; and

4. This order would not come in the way of the respondents from taking action as per law.

5. Any deviation of the above guidelines by the petitioner's resort will be construed as violation of these orders."

11. The said order was passed on 02.11.2015. Therefore, the respondents ought to have directed the petitioner-club to install CCTV cameras and ought to have initiated action if, upon verification, they found that the petitioner-club was permitting the playing of 13-card Rummy with stages. The veracity of allegation of playing a card game with money would come out in the investigation conducted by the police. Accordingly, this Court holds that though playing of 13-card

Rummy game without stakes is not unlawful, the police can take action if the said game is being played for stakes/by betting.

12. The Writ Petition is, accordingly, disposed of in terms of the directions issued by this Court in W.P.No.33556 of 2015 dated 02.11.2015. There shall be no order as to costs.

13. Miscellaneous petitions, if any, pending in this writ petition, shall stand closed.

SD/-B.REKHA RANI
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Principal Secretary, Department of Home, The State of Telangana, Secretariat, Hyderabad
2. The Commissioner of Police, Siddipet Police Commissionerate, Duddeda (V), Kondapak(M), Siddipet (D), Telangana, 502277.
3. The Assistant Commissioner of Police, ACP Ravindar Reddy Siddipet, Siddipet Division, Siddipet Dist T.S.,
4. The Task Force ACP, Ravindar, Siddipet, Division SiddipetDist T.S.
5. The Station House Officer, SIDDIPET 1-TOWN Police Station, SiddipetDist. T.S.,
6. One CC to SRI CH. JAGANNATHA CHARY, Advocate [OPUC]
7. Two CCs to GP FOR HOME, High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad [OUT]
8. Two CD Copies

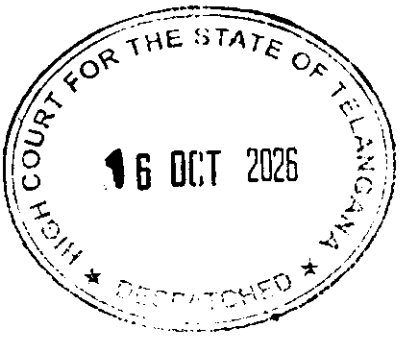
BN
PB

HIGH COURT

DATED: 09/10/2026

ORDER

WP.No.33446 of 2025



DISPOSING OF THE WRIT PETITION WITHOUT COSTS

16/10/26