

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

MONDAY, THE TWENTY FOURTH DAY OF FEBRUARY
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FIVE

:PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE B.VIJAYSEN REDDY

WRIT PETITION NOS: 1184 & 1189 OF 2025

AND

WRIT PETITION NOS. 33923 AND 37007 OF 2024

WP. No. 1184 of 2025

Between:

Satish Kamaal, S/o. K. Ramulu.

Petitioner

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep by its Principal Secretary Home (General -A) Department, Dr B R Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat Hyderabad 500022
 2. The Telangana State Film Television and Theatre Development, Corporation, Rep By its Managing Director, 10-2-1, FDC Complex, A.C. Guards, Hyderabad 500 028.
 3. M/s. Sri Venkateswara Creations, Plot No. 132 AND 133, 8-2-293/K/133, Kamalapuri Colony, Sri Nagar Colony, Hyderabad, 500073 Rep. by its Founder V. Venkata Ramana Reddy (alias Dil Raju)
 4. Multiplex Association of India, Federation House, Tanseng Marg, New Delhi 110001. Rep by V. Kiran Kumar
 5. Sumendar Reddy, Shareholder of PVR INOX Cinemas, Occ Manager, Finance and Accounts S/o Raji Reddy, R/o Flat No. 101, Mahadev's rvs avenue, Power Nagar, Kukatpally Hyderabad 500018.
- (RR 4 and 5 are impleaded as per C.O. dt.18.02.2025 in IA. No. 3/2025)

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 an order writ or direction more particularly one in the nature of WRIT OF MANDAMUS declaring the action of the 1st respondent enhancing the ticketing price of 3rd respondent Movie GAME CHANGER w.e.f. 10/01/2025 to 19/01/2025 allowing to screen additional shows on to Screen on release date (i.e, 10/01/2025) at 4.00 AM is illegal arbitrary unjust improper against principles of Natural Justice, consequently set aside the memo issued by the 1st Respondent, Govt of Telangana, Home Department, Memo No. 109-P/General A1/2025 dated 08/01/2025 issued by Special Chief Secretary and to Direct the respondents to adhere the ticket price/s as per GO Ms. 120 Home (Gent) Department dated 21/12/2021 in the interest of justice;

IA 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 suspend the Memo No. 109-P/General A1/2025 dated 08/01/2025 for enhancing the ticket rates for 3RD respondent

movie GAME CHANGER, Pending disposal of WP 1184 of 2025, 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 order of the High Court dated 10.01.2025 made herein and upon hearing the arguments of Md Sultana Basha Advocate for the Petitioner, GP FOR HOME for the Respondent No 1 and Sri S. Niranjan Reddy and Sri A. Venkatesh, learned Senior counsels representing Smt Rubina S. Khatoon, Advocate for the respondent No. 4 & 5;

WP. No. 1189 of 2025

Between:

Gorla Bharat Raj, S/o Gorla Chandra Shekar

Petitioner

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Department of Home, Rep by Principal Secretary Telangana Secretariat, Khairatabad, Hyderabad, Telangana 500022
2. Commissioner of Police, Rep by Hyderabad City Police (Cinemas Licensing Authority), 0/0 Commissioner of Police, Tower-A, ICCB Building, Road No 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, 500034
3. Sri Venkateshwara Creations, Rep by Director, R/o 8-2-684/P/23, DURGA ENCLAVE PLOT 1583, ROAD 12, BANJARA HILLS, HYDERABAD, Telangana, India – 500034
4. Multiplex Association of India, Federation House, Tanseng Marg, New Delhi 110001. Rep by V. Kiran Kumar
5. Sumendar Reddy, Shareholder of PVR INOX Cinemas, Occ Manager, Finance and Accounts S/o Raji Reddy, R/o Flat No. 101, Mahadev's rvs avenue, Power Nagar, Kukatpally Hyderabad 500018.
(RR 4 and 5 are impleaded as per C.O. dt.18.02.2025 in IA. No. 3/2025)

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 an appropriate Writ, Direction or Order more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus and

1. To Declare the issuing of executive order (viz. i.e. Memo vide **Memo. No. 109-P/GenI/A1/2025, Dated 08-01-2025**}, issued by the Respondent No. 1 (Home Department). permitting exhibition of cinemas between at 4 am as contrary to Rule 12 (2) read with cinemas licensing conditions in Form-B (condition 12 (43) of the Cinemas (Regulations) Rules 1970) as arbitrary, illegal and set aside the same and consequentially prohibit the Respondent No. 1 (Home Dept.) from issuing executive orders allowing any movie exhibition between 130 am to 440 am 1ST as mandated and envisaged under the Cinemas Regulation Act 1955 and Cinemas Regulation Rules 1970 hereon and uphold Article 14 of the Constitution of India

2.To declare the Memo. No. 109-P/Gent/A1/2025, Dated 08-01-2025, allowing increase of cinema ticket rates for the Telugu Movie Game Changer, as arbitrary, illegal and contrary to the GO Ms. 120 Home (Gen') Dept, Dt 21.12.2021 read with Cinemas Regulation

Act 1955 and set aside the same immediately and consequentially direct the Respondent No. 1 (Home Dept.) to NOT issue such orders contrary to the laws under Cinemas Regulation Act 1955.

IA 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 Respondent No. 1 (Home Dept.) to ensure that any movie show in for any screen has a minimum of 45 minutes gap in multiplex and 90 minutes gap in standalone theatres, keeping safety in view and to avoid stampede and curb the danger of loss of life due to overcrowding of the theatre premises, Pending disposal of WP 1189 of 2025, on the file of the High Court.

IA NO: 2 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 stay the impugned memo i.e. (Memo. No. 109-P/GenI/A1/2025, Dated 08-01-2025) issued by the Respondent No. 1 (Home Dept.) effectively immediately as it is in contrary to the Cinemas Regulation Act 1955 read with Cinemas Regulation Rules 1970 and also in contradiction to the Orders of the division bench of this Hon'ble High Court issued in December, until the final outcome of this writ petition, Pending disposal of WP 1189 of 2025, 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 order of the High Court dated 10.01.2025 made herein and upon hearing the arguments of Sri Vijay Gopal, Advocate for the Petitioner, GP for Home for the Respondent No 1 & 2 and Sri S. Niranjana Reddy and Sri A. Venkatesh, learned Senior counsels representing Smt Rubina S. Khatoon, Advocate for the respondent No. 4 & 5;;

WP. No. 33923 of 2024

Between:

Satish Kamaal, S/o. K. Ramulu

Petitioner

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep by its Principal Secretary Home (General -A) Department, Dr B R Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat Hyderabad - 500022
2. The Telangana State Film Television and Theatre Development Corporation, Rep By its Managing Director, 10-2-1, FDC Complex, A.C. Guards, Hyderabad 500 028.
3. M/s. Mythri Movie Makers LLP., having its registered office at Plot No 58, 3rd Floor, Road No.72, Aswini Layout, Journalist Colony, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana India 500033 Rep. by its Director, Ravi Shankar Yalamanchili.
4. Multiplex Association of India, Federation House, Tanseng Marg, New Delhi 110001. Rep by V. Kiran Kumar
5. Sumendar Reddy, Shareholder of PVR INOX Cinemas, Occ Manager, Finance and Accounts S/o Raji Reddy, R/o Flat No. 101, Mahadev's rvs avenue, Power Nagar, Kukatpally Hyderabad 500018.

(RR 4 and 5 are impleaded as per C.O. dt.18.02.2025 in IA. No. 1/20250

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 an order writ or direction more particularly one in the nature of WRIT OF MANDAMUS

declaring the action of the respondents enhancing the ticketing price of 3rd respondent Movie PUSHPA -2 w.e.f. 05.12.2024 to 23.12.2024 and to allowing to screen a Benefit Show at 9.30 AM at prior to date of release (i.e, 04.12.2024) and allowing 2 additional shows on to Screen on release dated (i.e, 05.12.2024) at 1.00 AM and at 4.00 AM is illegal arbitrary unjust improper against principles of Natural Justice, consequently set aside the memo issued Govt of Telangana, Home Department, Memo No. 6480-P/General A1/2024 dated 29.11.2024 issued Special Chief Secretary and to Direct the respondents to adhere to the ticket price as per GO Ms. 120 Home (Gent) Department dated 21.12.2021 in the interest of justice;

IA NO: 1 OF 2024

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 Memo No. 6480-P/ General A1/2024 dated 29.11.2024 for enhancing the ticket rates for 3rd respondent movie PUSHPA -2, pending disposal of WP 33923 of 2024, on the file of the High Court.

IA NO: 2 OF 2024

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 to stay the Memo No. 6480-P/General A1/2024 dated 29.11.2024 allowing to screen a Benefit Show at 9.30 AM at prior to date of release (i.e, 04.12.2024) and allowing 2 additional shows on to Screen on release dated (i.e, 05.12.2024) at 1.00AM and at 4.00 AM for 3rd respondent movie PUSHPA -2, pending disposal of WP 33923 of 2024, 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 upon hearing the arguments of Sri P Srinivasa Reddy Advocate for the Petitioner and GP for Home for the respondent No.1 and Sri S. Niranjana Reddy and Sri A. Venkatesh, learned Senior counsels representing Smt Rubina S. Khatoon, Advocate for the respondent No. 4 & 5;

WP. NO. 37007 OF 2024

Between:

Mallangi Sai Vijay Reddy, S/o Mallangi Vivekananda Reddy

Petitioner

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Department of Home, Rep by. Principal Secretary Telangana Secretariat, Khairatabad, Hyderabad, Telangana 500022
2. Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City Police (Cinemas Licensing Authority), O/o Commissioner of Police, Tower-A, ICCB Building, Road No 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, 500034
3. Chikkadpally Police Station, Rep by. Station House Officer, CF4V + FFV, ChikkadaPalli 6 St, Jawahar Nagar, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad, Telangana 500020
4. Sandhya Theatre, 35 MM, Rep by. Cinemas License Holder, RTC X Rd, opp. Bawarchi Restaurant, Zamistanpur, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad, Telangana 500020
5. Multiplex Association of India, Federation House, Tanseng Marg, New Delhi 110001. Rep by its Authorised Representative, V. Kiran Kumar
6. Sumendar Reddy, Shareholder of PVR INOX Cinemas, Occ Manager, Finance and Accounts S/o Raji Reddy, R/o Flat No. 101, Mahadev's rvs avenue, Power Nagar, Kukatpally Hyderabad 500018.

(RR 5 and 6 are impleaded as per C.O. dt.18.02.2025 in IA. No. 1/2025)

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 an appropriate Writ, Direction or Order more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus and.

1. To Declare the issuing of executive order (viz. i.e. Memo vide Memo No. 6480-P/General.A1 /2024, dated. 29/11/2024. issued by the Respondent No. 1 (Home Department), permitting exhibition of cinemas between 1.30 am to 8.30 am as contrary to Rule 12 (2) read with cinemas licensing conditions in Form-B (condition 12 (43) of the Cinemas (Regulations) Rules 1970) as arbitrary, illegal and set aside the same and consequentially prohibit the Respondent No. 1 (Home Dept.) from issuing executive orders contrary to the licensing conditions envisaged under the Cinemas Regulation Act 1955 and Cinemas Regulation Rules 1970 hereon and uphold Article 14 of the Constitution of India

2. Consequentially to direct Respondent No. 1 (Home Dept.) to consider issuing rule making minimum ninety (90) minutes duration mandatory between two shows at any standalone theatre in Telangana so as to manage crowds and avoid stampedes occurring with 600 plus cinema goers exiting/entering a theatre

3. Consequentially to direct the Respondent No 1 (Home Dept.) to ensure the cinemas license holders under the Cinemas Regulation Act 1955, do not resort to victorial publicity or use fire crackers or inflammable material, as prohibited under License Conditions outlined in Form-B, i.e. (condition 12 (14) and prohibit usage of fire crackers or inflammable material condition 12 (29) and (31), etc). and to issue necessary orders to all Cinemas Licensing Authorities in Telangana, to ensure the licensing conditions of Form-B of the Cinemas Regulation Rules 1970 are implemented scrupulously;

IA NO: 1 OF 2024

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 No. 1 (Home Dept.) to NOT issue any orders in by whatsoever name, allowing any shows between 1.30am 8.30 am 1st in Telangana, until the final outcome of this writ petition, effectively immediately or in such other time as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit, Pending disposal of WP 37007 of 2024, 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 upon hearing the arguments of Sri Vijay Gopal Advocate for the Petitioner and GP for Home for the respondent No.1 to 3 and Sri G. Arun Kumar, Advocate for the respondent No. 3 and Sri S. Niranjana Reddy and Sri A. Venkatesh, learned Senior counsels representing Smt Rubina S. Khatoon, Advocate for the respondent No. 4 & 5;

The Court made the following

ORDER:

Heard Mr. S. Niranjana Reddy and Mr. A. Venkatesh, learned senior counsel, appearing for the respondents No.4 and 5 in WP.Nos.1184 and 1189 of 2025 and WP.No.33923 of 2024 and respondents No.5 and 6 in WP.No.37007 of 2024.

Learned senior counsel submitted that the direction dated 24.01.2025, issued by this Court to the authorities restricting the entry of children below

16 years into cinema theatres, has severely impacted the business of the respondents No.4, 5 and 6, who are multiplex operators. There is no statutory restriction for allowing children of any age to watch late night movies after 11 PM. The petitioners have approached this Court aggrieved by the action of the respondent No.1 in enhancing the price of ticket of 'Pushpa-2' and 'Game Changer' movies and allowing screening of benefit shows/additional shows. Pursuant to interim order passed by this Court, the Government has taken a decision not to enhance the ticket prices and not to allow benefit shows.

Learned senior counsel further submitted that so far as the direction given by this Court to the Government to consult all the stake holders and take necessary decision for regulating entry of children below 16 years in multiplexes/theaters before 11 AM and after 11 PM is concerned, the multiplex operators are not aggrieved. It is for the administration to take a call in the interest of children and public at large. The multiplexes have been running five shows and they are permitted to run last show till 1.30 AM, as per the statutory regulations. The order of this Court restricting entry of children below 16 years is in the nature of a final order and more over, it is beyond the scope of the writ petitions, which are not public interest litigations.

Learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that there are several regulations, which would regulate the entry of children to late night shows. Though there is no specific provision as such under the regulations, on a reading of all the provisions, it would suggest that children below certain age cannot be permitted to watch late night movies.

Learned Government Pleader for Home submitted that pursuant to the order of this Court the children below 16 years are not being permitted to watch movies after 11 PM in multiplexes and theatres.

Upon hearing the learned senior counsel, this Court is of the opinion that the matter requires to be heard by giving opportunity of hearing to respondents No.4, 5 and 6 – multiplex operators, whose interest is stated to be adversely affected. It is relevant to note that there is no statutory regulation as of now restricting entry of children in theatres during late night shows. The order of this Court dated 24.01.2025 may have ramifications all over the State and may cause substantial loss to the

multiplexes/theatres during release of new movies. As it is contended that the multiplex operators are stake holders and their interest have to be taken into consideration and they ought to be given opportunity before any order is passed, in the interest of justice, the order dated 24.01.2025 is modified and the direction "*Till such decision is taken the respondents shall not allow children below 16 years to watch movies after 11 PM.*" shall stand deleted from the order dated 24.01.2025.

In view of the submission of the learned Government Pleader for Home that suggestions of the stake holders have been received and it is in active consideration of the Government and appropriate decision will be taken as expeditiously as possible, the respondent No.1 is directed to expedite and take a decision in terms of the order dated 24.01.2025 at the earliest.

List on 17.03.2025.

ms
SD/-K.SREERAMA MURTHY
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

ms
SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Principal Secretary Home (General -A) Department, State of Telangana, Dr B R Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat Hyderabad 500022
2. The Managing Director, Telangana State Film Television and Theatre Development, Corporation, 10-2-1, FDC Complex, A.C. Guards, Hyderabad 500 028.
3. Sri V. Venkata Ramana Reddy (alias Dil Raju) Founder M/s. Sri Venkateswara Creations, Plot No. 132 AND 133, 8-2-293/K/133, Kamalapuri Colony, Sri Nagar Colony, Hyderabad, 500073 .
4. The Hyderabad City Police (Cinemas Licensing Authority), Commissioner of Police, 0/0 Commissioner of Police, Tower-A, ICCB Building, Road No 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, 500034
5. The Director, Sri Venkateshwara Creations, R/o 8-2-684/P/23, DURGA ENCLAVE PLOT 1583, ROAD 12, BANJARA HILLS , HYDERABAD, Telangana, India – 500034
6. Sri V. Kiran Kumar, Multiplex Association of India, Federation House, Tanseng Marg, New Delhi 110001
7. Sumendar Reddy, Shareholder of PVR INOX Cinemas, Occ Manager, Finance and Accounts S/o Raji Reddy, R/o Flat No. 101, Mahadev's rvs avenue, Power Nagar, Kukatpally Hyderabad 500018.
(Addressees 1 to 7 by RPAD)
6. One CC to Sri Md Sultana Basha Advocate [OPUC]
7. One CC to Sri Vijay Gopal, Advocate (OPUC)
8. One CC to Sri P. Srinivasa Reddy, Advocate (OPUC)
9. Two CCs to GP FOR HOME ,High Court at Hyderabad. [OUT]
10. One spare copy

HIGH COURT

BVRJ

DATED: ^{24.02.2025} ~~19/01/2025~~

NOTE: POST ON 17.03.2025

ORDER

**WP.No.1184 & 1189 of 2025
AND
WP. NOS. 33923 ND 37007 OF 2024**

DIRECTION

