APHC010579902026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI **[3458]**
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

WEDNESDAY, THE 4th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 31798/2026

Between:

1. MEPPELLI RAJU, S/O. MEPPELLI CHAN.THAYYA, AGED ABOUT 54 YEARS, OCCUPATION AGRICULTURIST, R/O. DOOR NO. 4-2024, SC COLONY, TORREDU, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT.

...PETITIONER

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF SECRETARY, SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI, GUNTUR DISTRICT.-522238
2. THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH, SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI.-522238
3. THE COMMISSIONER AND DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION, APCRDA PROJECT OFFICE, 4TH FLOOR, RAYAPUDI POST, TULLURU MANDAL, AMARAVATI, GUNTUR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 522237.
4. THE RAJARNAHENDRAVARAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, REPRESENTED BY ITS COMMISSIONER, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT.-533104
5. THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, 1ST FLOOR, NEW HOD BUILDING, OPP. INDIRA GANDHI MUNICIPAL STADIUM, M.G.

ROAD, VIJAYAWADA.-522238

...RESPONDENT(S):

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 topleased to issue an appropriate Writ Order or Direction more particularly one in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus a declaring the action of the respondents in issuing GOMsNo252 Municipal Administration Urban Development Department dated 12102026 insofar as it reserves the office of Mayor of the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation for the Scheduled Castes General at Serial No 3 of ScheduleII before GOMsNo155 dated 13102026 was issued on the merger of the Gram Panchayats before the Corporation was delimited into 72 wards by the Final Notification Roc No 52712026G1 dated 17102026 and before the reservation of seats in those wards without considering the legally applicable territorial limits and population of the Corporation and without reference to the rotation Register maintained under Rule 6 as illegal arbitrary premature and dehors Section 14A of the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Corporations Act 1994 read with Rules 3 6 and 7 of the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Corporations Reservation of Offices of Mayor Rules 1995 and violative of Articles 14 and 243T of the Constitution of India b consequently setting aside GOMsNo252 dated 12102026 insofar as it relates to the reservation of the office of Mayor of the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation c directing respondent Nos 1 to 3 to undertake a fresh computation and determination of the reservation of the office of Mayor of the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation under Section 14A of the said Act and Rules 3 to 7 and 9 of the said Rules on the basis of the 2011 Census population of the Corporation as enlarged by the merger and as delimited into 72 wards by the Final Notification dated 17102026 including the population of the merged Gram Panchayats together with the reservation of seats in those 72 wards after taking into account the rotation Register maintained under Rule 6 and the representation dated 19102026 and to pass a reasoned order disclosing the population figures and percentages relied upon before respondent No 5 notifies the election to the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation and d passing

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 pleased to grant ad-interim relief staying the operation of G.O.Ms.No.252, Municipal Administration 85 Urban Development Department, dated

12.10.2026, insofar as it reserves the office of Mayor of the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation for the Scheduled Castes (General) at Serial No. 3 of Schedule-II, and directing the respondents not to proceed with the election to the office of Mayor of the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation on the basis of the impugned reservation, and to pass

IA NO: 2 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 pleased to grant ad-interim relief directing respondent No. 5, the Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission, not to issue the election notification for the office of Mayor of the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation on the basis of the reservation made at Serial No. 3 of Schedule-II of G.O.Ms.No.252 dated 12.10.2026, until the reservation is determined afresh in accordance with law or until further orders of this Hon'ble Court, and to pass

IA NO: 3 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 pleased to direct respondent Nos. 2 and 3 to place before this Hon'ble Court the proposal in Roc. No. 13023/8/2026/H1 dated 12.10.2026 with its working sheets, the population figures and Scheduled Caste percentages adopted for each Municipal Corporation, the rotation Register maintained under Rule 6 of the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Corporations (Reservation of Offices of Mayor) Rules, 1995, and any amendment inserting a Rule 12 into the said Rules, and to pass

Counsel for the Petitioner:

1. RAVITEJA PADIRI

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
2. GP MUNCIPAL ADMN AND URBAN DEV AP

The Court made the following:

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 31798/2026

ORDER:-

Heard Sri Raviteja Padiri, learned counsel for the petitioner; learned Government Pleader for Municipal Administration and Urban Development, appearing for respondent Nos.2 & 3; and Sri N. Ashwini Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the State Election Commission appearing for respondent No.5.

2. The grievance of the petitioner is with regard to the notification in G.O.Ms.No.252, dated 12.10.2026, insofar as it reserves the office of Mayor of the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation for the Scheduled Castes (General). It is contended that the reservation was fixed on 12.10.2026, before G.O.Ms.No.155, dated 13.10.2026, was issued for the merger of 10 Gram Panchayats into the subject Municipal Corporation (RMC). The said fixation of reservation was without taking into consideration the population of the merging Gram Panchayats. Challenging the said G.O.Ms.No.252 dated 12.10.2026, the instant Writ Petition has been filed.

3. The contention of the petitioner is that the reservation was fixed vide G.O.Ms.No.252, dated 12.10.2026, even before the merger of the subject Gram Panchayats on 13.10.2026. Learned counsel further submits that the petitioner, along with the representatives of the subject villages, submitted a representation to respondent Nos. 1 to 4 on 19.10.2026, pointing out the said discrepancy and seeking reconsideration of their decisions.

4. In the light of the same, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that, since the matter is pending consideration before the authorities, a direction may be issued to respondent No. 2 to pass appropriate orders on the representation.

5. When the matter has been taken up for consideration, the learned Government Pleader appearing for respondents 2 & 3 has placed before the Court a copy of the instructions received by him in the case. The same are taken on record. A perusal of the same would reflect that the population of the subject merged villages was also taken into consideration while fixing the subject reservation.

6. It is further stated therein that, by the common order dated 01.10.2026 in W.P.No.19118 of 2021 and batch, the validity of Act No. 5 of 2021 and the statutory mechanism for inclusion of the specified Gram Panchayats have been upheld by the Division Bench of this Court. Accordingly, the 10 Gram Panchayats covered by the said Amendment Act forms part of the jurisdiction of RMC. Therefore, their population was duly included in the total population for the purpose of finalizing the reservation to the office of Mayor. Hence, the specific allegation of the petitioner that the population of the 10 merged Gram Panchayats was excluded while determining the reservation to the office of Mayor of RMC is factually incorrect, and the same does not merit for further consideration.

7. Having regard to the rival contentions, and since the representation of the petitioner is pending consideration before respondent No.2, respondent No.2 is directed to pass appropriate orders on the representation of the petitioner within a period of one (1) week from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. Such orders shall be passed before any election notification for conducting elections in respect of the subject Municipal Corporation is issued.

8. With the above observations, the Writ Petition is disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs.

As a sequel, miscellaneous applications pending, if any, shall also stand closed.

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JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

Date: 04.11.2026
MVK

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 31798/2026

Date:04.11.2026

MVK