APHC010591042026

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: 32359/2026

Between:

1. AVULA MALLIKARJUNA REDDY, S/O. AVULA VENUGOPAL REDDY, AGED ABOUT 49 YEARS, OCC. CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR ZPTC, PEDDAMANDEM MANDAL, RIO. SAMBE PAILI MANDAL, RAYACHOTY CONSTITUENCY, ANNAMAYYA DISTRICT.

...PETITIONER

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, ., REP BY ITS PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI, GUNTUR DISTRICT,522237.
2. THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, VIJAYAWADA, NTR DISTRICT., REP BY ITS STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER., NEW HODS BUILDING, OPP INDIRA GANDHI MUNICIPAL STADIUM, M.G ROAD, VIJAYAWADA,520010.
3. THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER CUM DISTRICT COLLECTOR, MADANAPALLE, ANNAMAYYA DISTRICT, 517325.
4. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, MADANAPALLE, ANNAMAYYA DISTRICT,517325.
5. THE RETURNING OFFICER, ZILLA PARISHAD TERRITORIAL CONSTITUENCY, ANNAMAYYA DISTRICT,516269.
6. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, CHINNAMANDEM P.S, ANNAMAYYA DISTRICT,516214.

...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, declaring the order, dated 03.11.2026 issued by the 6th Respondent rejecting to provide security to me for participation in election for the post of ZPTC, Sambepalli Mandal, Rayachoty Constituency, Annamayya District as illegal, arbitrary and violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India, and consequently direct the Respondents to provide adequate security as required for the protection of life and liberty and for participating in the free and fair elections process until completion of the election process, 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 pleased to direct the Respondents to any adequate protection to me until completion of the election process enabling me for participation in the subject election in a free and fair manner, and pass

Counsel for the Petitioner:

1. PAPUDIPPU SASHIDAR REDDY

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR PANCHAYAT RAJ RURAL DEV
2. GP FOR HOME
3. GP FOR REVENUE

The Court made the following:

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

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ORDER:-

Heard Sri Papudippu Sashidar Reddy, learned counsel for the petitioner; learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home, appearing for respondent Nos.4 and 6; and Sri N. Ashwini Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the State Election Commission, appearing for respondent No.2.

2. Seeking police protection for participating in the scheduled MPTC/ZPTC elections, the petitioner has filed a representation before the authorities. Since the said representation was not considered, the petitioner has approached this Court by way of a writ petition in W.P. No.31884 of 2026. The said writ petition was disposed of directing the respondent to pass appropriate orders forthwith on the said representation. In compliance thereof, the representation was considered and disposed of, refusing to grant police protection as no specific or imminent threat has been established. It is further stated that the adequate measures taken for conducting of elections in a smooth and fair manner ensuring that no incidents of violence would occur causing obstruction in the election process. Challenging the said proceedings, the instant writ petition has been filed.

3. The petitioner contends that even at the time of filing of the nominations, violence had taken place and the vehicles belonging to the petitioners and their family members were torched and he had also stated he was personally attacked by a large group of more than ten people identified as

his political opponents and the area wise also the subject area, Rayachoty, is very highly sensitive and prone for volatile situations during the elections. Thus having regard to the intensity of the situation seeks police protection consisting of 2+2 gunmen.

4. The learned Standing Counsel submits that the State Election Commission has also issued a Circular dated 01.11.2026, instructing all the officers concerned to ensure strict compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to ensure that the poll process is conducted in a free, fair and impartial manner, without giving scope for any complaints.

5. It is further stated that the Director General of Police has given instructions to their Unit Officers (CPs/SPs/Range IGPs/DIGs) on 21.10.2026 pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SPA (C) No. 37476/2026 to provide Police bandobast, CCTV coverage, protection for the candidates, etc. The Director General of Police is requested to take similar measures for the ensuing MPTC/ZPTC Poll and Gram Panchayat Nomination filing process.

6. Considered the submissions. Perused the record.

7. From material filed along with the Writ Petition, it appears that some violent incidents have occurred, and the petitioner clearly stated in his representation that it happened on 16.10.2026. However, while passing the impugned order, the respondents' police authorities did not refer to the said incident. They merely observed that there is no imminent threat as alleged in

the representation. This Court directed the respondents, in its order dated 30.10.2026, to pass orders on the petitioner's representation. In light of the said directions, the respondents' police were required to give due consideration to the petitioner's submissions in the representation, and, having regard to the incident from 15 days back, it should have been duly considered. From the impugned order, it does not appear that the respondents made any such exercise while rejecting the petitioner's request.

8. In the light of the same, the order impugned in the Writ Petition is set aside. And the 4th respondent is directed to provide personal security (one armed gunman) to the petitioner with effect from the scheduled time fixed for polling, *i.e*., from 06.00 AM on 05.11.2026, until the completion of counting of ballots scheduled on 07.11.2026.

9. 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

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MVK