APHC010594892026

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

FRIDAY, THE 6th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 32572/2026

Between:

1. BADIREDDI (NUJEVETI) ASHALATHA,, W/O. BADIREDDI SATISH GOVINDA BABU, D/O. NUJEVETI GANGARAJU, AGED ABOUT 48 YEARS, OCC CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRPERSON (YSRCP), YELESWARAM MUNICIPALITY,R/O. DOOR NO. 17-16-203, NARSIPATNAM ROAD, MAIN ROAD,YELESWARAM TOWN AND MANDAL, KAKINADA DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH -533429

...PETITIONER

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (MA AND UD) DEPARTMENT, A.P. SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI, GUNTUR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH -522238.

2. THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, REP. BY ITS SECRETARY / STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER, 1ST FLOOR, NEW HODS BUILDING, OPPOSITE INDIRA GANDHI MUNICIPAL STADIUM, M.G. ROAD, VIJAYAWADA, NTR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 520010.

3. THE COMMISSIONER AND DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTION AUTHORITY, STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, 4TH FLOOR, APCRDA PROJECT OFFICE BUILDING, RAYAPUDI POST, THULLUR MANDAL, AMARAVATI, GUNTUR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 522237. (ALTERNATIVE OFFICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE LOCATION PRIME HILL CREST, 4TH

FLOOR, BESIDE UTTRATECH READYMIX, NEAR DGP OFFICE, VADDESWARAM, MAN GALAGIRI, GUNTUR DISTRICT - 522502).

4. THE REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER RDO, KAKINADA DIVISION, (SUPERVISORY OFFICER AT THE COUNTING HALL, YELESWARAM MUNICIPALITY ELECTIONS), OFFICE OF THE REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, CORECTORATE COMPOUND, KAKINADA, KAKINADA DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 533001.

5. THE RETURNING OFFICER / ELECTION OFFICER, (FOR CHAIRPERSON ELECTION, YELESWARAM MUNICIPALITY), OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, YELESWARAM MUNICIPALITY, YELESWARAM TOWN AND MANDAL, KAKINADA DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 533429.

6. Y AKSHITHA, CONTESTING CANDIDATE (TELUGU DESAM PARTY - TDP) FOR CHAIRPERSON, YELESWARAM MUNICIPALITY, R/O. YELESWARAM TOWN AND MANDAL, KAKINADA DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 533429.

7. SRI POTTI NIRI REDDY KRISHNAMURTHY, REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER (RDO), KAKINADA DIVISION, (SUPERVISORY OFFICER AT THE COUNTING HALL, YELESWARAM MUNICIPALITY ELECTIONS), OFFICE OF THE REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, KAKINADA, KAKINADA DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 533001.

8. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, KAKINADA DISTRICT, 533429.

9. THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, YELESWARAM MUNICIPALITY, MUNICIPAL OFFICE, YELESWARAM TOWN AND MANDAL, KAKINADA DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH -533429.

...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 toissue an appropriate Writ, Order, or Direction, more particularly one in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus declaring the high-handed, illegal, and arbitrary actions of Respondents 4 and 5 during the counting of votes on 04.11.2026 for the election to the Office of Chairperson, Yeleswaram Municipality, Kakinada District specifically in counting 18,391 votes against 18,380 polled votes (18,374 as per press release), failing to account for a 50-

vote bundle, arbitrarily invalidating 447 votes, forcibly evicting the Petitioner's counting agents during the 4th round when 4,109 ballots remained on the table, and declaring the 6th Respondent (Y. Akshitha) as elected without disclosing the 4th round details, total votes secured, or obtaining agents' signatures and the inaction of Respondents 2, 5, and 8 on the Petitioner's written requisition dated 04.11.2026, as illegal, arbitrary, mala fide, unconstitutional, violative of Articles 14 and 243-ZA of the Constitution of India, contrary to the Andhra Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1965 and the Rules made thereunder, and in flagrant violation of the principles of natural justice consequently set aside the impugned declaration made by the 5th Respondent on 04.11.2026 purporting to declare the 6th Respondent as elected to the Office of Chairperson, Yeleswaram Municipality, Kakinada District DIRECT Respondents 2, 5, and 8 to forthwith conduct a complete re-verification and recount of all ballot papers polled for the Office of Chairperson, Yeleswaram Municipality, including a thorough scrutiny of all 447 invalid/rejected votes, in the presence of the Petitioner and her authorized counting agents under complete videography and under the supervision of an independent observer appointed by this Hontle Court, pursuant to the Petitioner's requisition dated 04.11.2026, and declare the validly elected candidate in accordance with law

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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 STAY all further proceedings pursuant to the impugned declaration of the 6th Respondent as Chairperson of Yeleswaram Municipality, Kakinada District, including restraining Respondents from administering the oath of office or handing over charge ot,Chairperson to the 6th Respondent and DIRECT Respondents 2, 5 and 8 to forthwith seize, keep in safe custody, and preserve in a sealed condition all election records relating to the election of Chairperson, Yeleswaram Municipality including all counted ballot papers, the 447 rejected/invalid ballot papers, unused/counterfoil ballot papers, Form-based ballot paper accounts, round-wise counting sheets (Rounds 1 to 4), and the complete CCTV / video footage of the counting hall and premises dated 03.11.2026 and 04.11.2026

Counsel for the Petitioner:

1. SRIPATHI RAVI TEJA

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR REVENUE
2. GP MUNCIPAL ADMN AND URBAN DEV AP

The Court made the following:

ORDER:-

Heard Sri Sripathi Ravi Teja, learned counsel for the petitioner, Sri N.Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel appearing for the respondent Nos.2, 5 and 8 and Ms. Sireesha Rani Vallabhaneni, learned Standing Counsel appearing for the respondent No.9.

2. The grievance of the petitioner in the instant writ petition is against the alleged high-handed action of the respondent Nos.4 and 5 exhibited during the counting of votes on 04.11.2026 for the election to the Office of Chairperson, Yeleswaram Municipality, Kakinada District, especially counting 18,391 votes against polled votes of 18,380 votes and invalidating certain other votes.

3. Learned Standing Counsel appearing for the SEC has placed before the Court a copy of the Gazette Notification dated 05.11.2026 issued by the SEC declaring the results for Chairperson and Ward Members of Yeleswaram Municipality.

4. Having regard to the fact that as the elections to the office of the Chairperson and Ward Members have already been declared, without going into the merits of the case, the writ petition is disposed of, granting liberty to the petitioner to avail alternative remedies available under law before the appropriate authority. Needless to observe that the SEC shall

abide by its Circulars/Orders dated 31.10.2026 and 01.11.2026, with reference to preserving the CCTV footages etc.,.

5. With the above direction, 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

Dated: 06.11.2026

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THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

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Dated: 06.11.2026
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