APHC010595052026

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: 32575/2026

Between:

1. CHEVIREDDY HARSHITH REDDY, S/O. CHEVIREDDY BHASKAR REDDY, AGED ABOUT 26 YEARS, OCC BUSINESS, RESIDING AT D.NO.1-4, THUMMALAGUNTA, TIRUPATI RURAL MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-517 502.

2. KOTALA PADMAJA,, W/O. KOTALA CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY, AGED ABOUT 47 YEARS, OCC HOUSEWIFE, RESIDING AT D.NO.1-24, KUCHUVAARIPALLI, RAMIREDDIPALLE CHANDRAGIRI MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-517 102.

3. S. SHREELEKHA,, C/O. N. KAPILESWARA REDDY, AGED ABOUT 32 YEARS, OCC HOUSEWIFE RESIDING AT D.NO.9-51/A, PANTAPALLI, PAKALA MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-517 112.

...PETITIONER(S)

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT BUILDINGS VELAGAPUDI VILLAGE, AMARAVATI.522237

2. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT BUILDINGS, VELAGAPUDI VILLAGE, AMARAVATI.522237

3. THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, REP. BY ITS SECRETARY, VIJAYAWADA, NTR DISTRICT.520001

4. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, AP POLICE HEAD QUARTERS, MANGALAGIRI, GUNTUR DISTRICT.522401
5. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, TIRUPATI DISTRICT, TIRUPATI.517501
6. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, TIRUPATI DISTRICT, TIRUPATI.517501
7. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILLA PRAJA PARISHAD AND ADDITIONAL DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, TIRUPATI DISTRICT, TIRUPATI.517501
8. THE RETURNING OFFICER, MPTC AND ZPTC ELECTIONS, TIRUPATI RURAL MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT.517501
9. THE RETURNING OFFICER, MPTC AND ZPTC ELECTIONS, CHANDRAGIRI MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT.517501
10. THE RETURNING OFFICER, MPTC AND ZPTC ELECTIONS, PAKALA MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT.517501
11. DR S VENKATESWAR IAS, THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, TIRUPATI DISTRICT, TIRUPATI.517501
12. SRI L SUBBARAYUDU IPS, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, TIRUPATI DISTRICT, TIRUPATI.517501
13. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, TIRUCHANOOR POLICE STATION, TIRUPATI DISTRICT.517501
14. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, TIMPATI RURAL POLICE STATION, TIRUPATI DISTRICT.517501
15. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, CHANDRAGIRI POLICE STATION, TIRUPATI DISTRICT.517501
16. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, PAKALA POLICE STATION, TIRUPATI DISTRICT.517501

...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 a writ more particularly in the form of Writ of Mandamus

declaring the inaction of the respondents in not considering and not deciding the complaints and representations of the petitioners dated 05.11.2026 seeking a repoll on the ground of booth capturing, rigging, assault on and forcible removal and detention of the polling agents and general agents of the petitioners at Polling Station Nos.112, 113, 114, 115, 116 and 117 at Sapthagiri Colony, Mangalam, Polling Station Nos.120, 126, 127 and 128 at Mangalam and Sapthagiri Colony (Amrutha English Medium School), Polling Station No.130 at Tirumala Nagar, Polling Station Nos.142, 144, 145 and 146 at Daminedu, Polling Station Nos.76 and 81 at Lingeswara Nagar, Polling Station Ranadeerpuram-1, and the polling stations in Oteru Panchayat, Tiruchanoor Segment-4, Avilala and Vedanthapuram of Tirupati Rural Mandal, Polling Station No.51 at Ramireddipalli, Polling Station No.16 at Ithepalli, Polling Station No.17 at Agarala, Polling Station Nos. 10 and 11 at Kotala and Polling Station No.22 at Kalroadpalli - Kasipentla of Chandragiri Mandal, and Polling Station Nos.9 and 10 at Maddinayanapalli, the polling stations in Mogarala Panchayat, Pakala Booth Areas 1, 2 and 3 and Pulivarthivandlapalli of Pakala Mandal, Tirupati District (hereinafter referred to as the affected polling stations, in the poll hel on 05.11.2026 to the Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies and the Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies of Tirupati Rural, Chandragiri and Pakala Mandals, and the failure of the 5th and 6th respondents to respond to or act upon the directions of the 3rd respondent dated 05.11.2026 calling for an immediate report and a compliance report, as per se illegal, arbitrary, mala fide, intended only to satiate the needs of the ruling party, contrary to Section 231 of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 and violative of Articles 14 and 243K of the Constitution of India, and consequently direct the 5th and 6th respondents to forthwith submit their reports to the 3rd respondent, and direct the 3rd respondent to assess the webcasting footage, CCTV and videography recordings, micro-observer reports. Presiding Officers diaries and the reports called for from the 5th and 6th respondents, and to decide whether the counting of votes of the said Territorial Constituencies is to be deferred, and to declare the poll at the affected polling stations void, fix a date for repoll at the said polling stations and conduct the repoll under the protection of adequate Central Armed Police Forces, and amend the election schedule accordingly, and further direct the 3rd to 7th respondents to secure and preserve all webcasting, CCTV and videography recordings and the polling records of the affected polling stations in their original and unedited form, and further direct the 1st, 3rd and 4th respondents to cause an enquiry into the conduct of the 11th to 16th respondents in taking away and detaining the polling agents and general agents of the petitioners at the Tiruchanoor,

Tirupati Rural, Chandragiri and Pakala Police Stations on 05.11.2026 and to fix accountability in accordance with law

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 direct the 5th and 6th respondents to forthwith submit to the 3rd respondent the reports called for by it on 05.11.2026, and direct the 3rd respondent to consider the complaints and representations of the petitioners dated 05.11.2026, assess the webcasting footage, CCTV and videography recordings, micro-observer reports. Presiding Officers' diaries and the reports called for from the 5th and 6th respondents in respect of the affected polling stations, and take a decision, before the commencement of counting at 8.00 AM on 07.11.2026, as to whether the counting of votes of the Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies and the Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies of Tirupati Rural, Chandragiri and Pakala Mandals, Tirupati District is to be deferred and a date fixed for repoll at the affected polling stations, and to amend the election schedule accordingly, and pending such decision, to direct the 3rd and 5th to 10th respondents not to commence the counting of votes of the said Territorial Constituencies, or in the alternative to keep the ballot boxes of the affected polling stations sealed and segregated and not to count them or declare the result until such decision is taken, and to direct the 3rd to 7th respondents to preserve all webcasting, CCTV and videography recordings of the affected polling stations in their original form, pending disposal of the writ petition

Counsel for the Petitioner(S):

1. VMR LEGAL

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:

ORDER:-

Heard M/s. VMR Legal, learned counsel for the petitioners, learned Government Pleader appearing for the respondent No.2 and Sri N.Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel appearing for the respondent No.3.

2. The grievance of the petitioners in the instant writ petition is against the action of the respondents in not considering the request of the petitioners for declaration of poll void and fix a date for repoll in respect of the subject polling stations. The petitioners claim to have made a representation to the 3rd respondent- SEC about the alleged violence that had taken place at the time of polling at the subject polling stations. The said representation of the petitioner was forwarded by the 3rd respondent - SEC to the District Election Authorities. The learned counsel for the petitioners argues that the petitioners were never informed of the outcome oftheir representation.

3. On instructions, learned Standing Counsel Sri N.Ashwani Kumar appearing for the respondent No.3 has placed before the Court a copy of instructions received by him in the case. A perusal of the same reflects that the 16 polling stations referred to in the representation of Sri Chevireddy Harshitha Reddy, contesting candidate, for ZPTC, Tirupati Rural, namely PS Nos. 76, 81, 112 to 117, 120, 127, 128, 130, 142, 144, 145 and 146, the report states that all 16 polling stations were categorised as Hypersensitive and covered through live webcasting throughout the poll.None of the polling

stations referred to in the representation was left without monitoring arrangements.

4. It is further stated that polling for the MPTC and ZPTC constituencies, including those in the six mandals of Chandragiri Assembly Constituency, was conducted, on 05.11.2026 as per the revised schedule. With regard to the allegations concerning the 26 polling stations in Chandragiri referred to above, the Chief Executive Officer, upon verification of the Presiding Officer's diaries and the reports, of the Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer, has reported that no incidents of booth capturing, rigging, intimidation, disturbance, or interruption of polling were recorded. The said records also do not disclose any reported seizure, tampering or unauthorised handling of ballot boxes. These findings are confined to the polling stations examined in the said report.

5. It is further stated that upon completion of polling, all ballot boxes were transported to the designated reception centres and deposited in the strong rooms. As reported by the Chief Executive Officer, the ballot boxes are kept in eight strong rooms within the counting centre campuses under round the clock armed police guard and CCTV surveillance, with appropriate arrangements for monitoring access. The relevant election records, including webcasting and videographic footage, Presiding Officer's diaries and ballot

paper accounts, are being preserved in accordance with the applicable instructions.

6. It is further submitted that polling in the MPTC and ZPTC constituencies across Tirupati District, including the six mandals of Chandragiri Assembly Constituency, was conducted on 05.11.2026 as per the revised schedule. As reported by the respective Returning Officers, the diaries and reports, of the concerned Presiding Officers were verified, and no adverse incidents or procedural irregularities were reported. Upon completion of polling, all ballot boxes were safely transported to the designated strong rooms and secured and sealed under adequate police protection and surveillance. Further, all necessary arrangements have been made for counting of votes scheduled. On 07.11.2026 from 8.00 AM onwards, including deployment of counting personnel, security arrangements, CCTV surveillance and other logistical facilities, in accordance with the instructions of the State Election Commission. The written instructions/para-wise comments of the District Election Authority in the case placed before the Court are taken on record.

7. In the light of the foregoing, without going into the merits of the issue and relief sought by the petitioners, the writ petition is disposed of, granting liberty to the petitioners to avail alternative remedies under law before the appropriate authority.

8. With the above, 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.

_____

JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

Dated: 06.11.2026

ANI

54

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO:32575 of 2026

Dated: 06.11.2026
ANI