APHC010609992026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

WEDNESDAY, THE 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 33392 OF 2026

Between:

1. KOTAPATI USHARANI, W/o Radha Krishna, aged about 57 years Occ Housewife, R/o Grandhasiri Village, Atchampet Mandal, Palnadu District, Andhra Pradesh - 522410.
2. Kommavarapu Ravi Kumar, S/o Punnaiah aged about 43 years Occ Agriculture R/o Kogantivaripalem Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522409
3. Mudavathu Sakku Bai, W/o Mudavatu Badriya Naik aged about 49 years Occ Housewife R/o Kanchubodu Tanda H/o Madipadu Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522409
4. Gade Yashaya, S/o Koteswara Rao aged about 43 years Occ Business R/o Konduru Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522410
5. Kotte Koteswara Rao, S/o Kotaiah aged about 64 years Occ Agriculture R/o Mittapalem Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522410
6. Chilaka Balaswami, S/o Koteswara Rao aged about 47 years Occ Agriculture R/o Velpuru Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522410
7. Pola Gowri, W/o Sree Venu aged about 35 years Occ Housewife R/o Orvakallu Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522410
8. Yevuri Srinivasa Reddy, S/o Seshi Reddy aged about 58 years Occ Business R/o DNo 5 95 16 6 12 Brodipeta Guntur Guntur District Andhra Pradesh 522002
9. Komperla Roasaiah, S/o Ananda Rao aged about 42 years Occ Agriculture R/o Chintapalli Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522409
10. Sivamma Kamchala Kambala Sivamma, W/o Srinadha Rao aged about 41 years Occ Housewife R/o Putlagudem Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522409

11. Matsa Srinivasa Rao, S/o Badhraiah aged about 54 years Occ Agriculture R/o Konuru Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522410
12. Sakhamuri Sreeja, D/o Srinivas Sakhamuri Occ Student R/o Konuru Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522409
13. Emani Brahmareddy, S/o Roshi Reddy Occ Agriculture R/o Rudravaram Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522409
14. Degala Sitharavamma, W/o Srinivasa Rao aged about 47 years Occ Housewife R/o Rokatiguntavaripalem Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522409
15. Kastala Sandhya Gudeti Sandhya, D/o Yesobu Occ Housewife R/o Kastala Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522410
16. Ramaiah Marri, S/o Punnarao Occ Business R/o Chigurupadu Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522409
17. Murali Ekkirala, S/o Ramaiah aged about 49 years Occ Advocate R/o Taduvoy Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522409
18. Andela Nagalakshmi, W/o Venkateswara Rao aged about 52 years Occ Housewife R/o Atchampet Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522409
19. Kumbha Nagaraju, S/o Adeamma aged about 33 years Occ Agriculture R/o Tallacheruvu Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522409
20. Kattekota Malleswari, W/o Srinivasa Rao aged about 48 years Occ Housewife R/o Kothapalli Village Atchampet Mandal Palnadu District Andhra Pradesh 522409

...PETITIONERs

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, Represented by its Principal Secretary, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, Secretariat Buildings, Velagapudi, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh - 522238 2
2. The Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission, Represented by the Commissioner, 1st Floor, New HODs Building, M.G. Road, Vijayawada - 520010.
3. The District Collector District Election Authority, Palnadu District, Narasaraopet, Andhra Pradesh - 522601
4. The Superintendent of Police, Palnadu District, Andhra Pradesh - 522601
5. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Sattenapalli Revenue Division, Sattenapalli, Palnadu District, Andhra Pradesh - 522403

...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, Order or Direction, more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus, declaring the action of the respondents in arbitrarily altering the established nomination-receiving centres pertaining to

the Gram Panchayats of the petitioners in Atchampet Mandal, Palnadu District, without considering their representations, accessibility of the centres and the prevailing threat of intimidation and obstruction, and the failure of the respondents to effectively implement the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 21.10.2026 and 27.10.2026 in the proceedings arising out of SLP(C) No.37476 of 2026 and APSEC Order No.840/SEC-F1/2026 dated 16.10.2026, as illegal, arbitrary and violative of Articles 14, 21 and 243K of the Constitution of India and the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2006, and consequently direct the Respondents, to ensure compliance with the aforesaid directions through the concerned Returning Officers and other election officials, and to make effective arrangements for the petitioners to submit their nomination papers without obstruction within the prescribed election schedule, provide CCTV/videography coverage with preservation of footage, and to ensure filing of nominations by the Petitioners by making alternative arrangements for receipt of nominations before the District Collector at the District Headquarters, Narasaraopet, with the authorisation of the State Election Commission, and pass

Counsel for the Petitioners:

1. KIRAN KUMAR VADLAMUDI

Counsel for the Respondents:

1.GP FOR PANCHAYAT RAJ RURAL DEV

2.GP FOR HOME

3.GP FOR REVENUE

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 33392 of 2026

ORDER:-

Heard Sri Kiran Kumar Vadlamudi, learned counsel for the petitioners; the learned Government Pleader for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development appearing for respondent No.1; Sri N. Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the State Election Commission appearing for respondent No.2 & 3; learned Government Pleader for Home for respondent No.4 and learned Government Pleader for Revenue for respondent No.5.

2. It is contended that in the second phase of scheduled elections for the Gram panchayats, in respect of the subject Gram panchayat election notification was issued on 16.11.2026. The dates scheduled for receipt of nominations are between 18.11.2026 to 20.11.2026. The scrutiny of the same are scheduled to 21.11.2026, while the polling is on 29.11.2026.

3. The petitioners referring to the elections that were conducted in respect of MPTCs and ZPTCs submit that there were serious life threats to the contesting candidates and they were subjected to intimidation, preventing the contesting candidates from the approaching the respective nomination centers. Having regard to the said circumstances that were prevailing at the relevant time, the petitioners apprehending similar threat and intimidation in the scheduled Gram Panchayat `elections seeks protection to reach the designated centers for filing of the nominations. In the said regard petitioners have also stated to have filed a detailed representation dated 09.11.2026 for

effective measures for alternate provision of nomination centers/reconsideration of the earlier nomination arrangements, personal police protection and conducive conditions to approach the respective nomination centers and to take all measures for prevention of untoward incidents to ensure free and fair election process. As no orders on the said representations have been passed the petitioners have approached this Court by way of the present petition.

4. When the matter has been taken up for hearing, the learned Standing Counsel appearing for respondent Nos.2 & 3, has submitted that in the similar circumstances in W.P.No.32726 of 2026, this Court has already considered the similar contention raised in the instant writ petition and the other relief sought in the writ petition with reference to preserving CCTV footage etc., and with respect to providing protection, the SEC has already issued Circular/instructions dated 01.11.2026 and 13.11.2026 and the same would address the grievance of the petitioner.

5. Considered the submissions.

6. In respect of similar grievance of the petitioners in W.P.No.32726 of 2026, this Court had observed as under:

> *"13. In the light of the submissions made on behalf of SEC that in Stage-I, Gram Panchayat election process, one Returning Officer would be appointed for a group/cluster of 2 to 4 Gram Panchayats. The Returning Officer will sit in the Major Panchayat or the Panchayat*

which is convenient for all the Gram Panchayats in that cluster to receive the nomination papers from all the Gram Panchayats.

14.This Court is of the view that upon such appointment of the Returning Officer it is for the Returning Officer so appointed to issue Form-I under Rule 6 of the Rules, 2006 specifying the details as contained under the said Form. While issuing so, if any Assistance is taken by the Returning Officer from any of the Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) appointed by the DEA, and any proceedings issued in connection thereto by the ARO's which are in the nature of providing assistance to Returning Officer, the said proceedings/assistance cannot be said to be without jurisdiction."

7. Accordingly, the writ petition is disposed of in terms of the order passed in W.P.No.32726 of 2026 and the respondents are further directed to Act in terms of the Circular/instructions dated 01.11.2026 and 13.11.2026 of the SEC, so as to ensure and enable that the petitioners submit their nomination forms under conducive circumstances.

8. With the above directions, 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

Date: 18.11.2026

PBS / DS

96

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 33392/2026

Date:18.11.2026

PBS / DS