APHC010612282026

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

TUESDAY, THE 17th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 33505/2026

Between:

1. JINKALA LAKSHMI REDDY, S/O ANKI REDDY AGED ABOUT 50 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURALIST, R/O NARSINGAPADU VILLAGE, NEKARIKALLU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P-522615.
2. JINKALA ANIL KUMAR REDDY,, S/O ANKI REDDY AGED ABOUT 36 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURALIST, R/O NARSINGAPADU VILLAGE, NEKARIKALLU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P-522615.
3. AVULA BALARAMI REDDY,, S/O CHINNAPPI REDDY AGED ABOUT 64 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURALIST, R/O NARSINGAPADU VILLAGE, NEKARIKALLU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P-522615.
4. AVULA CHANDRA REDDY,, S/O AVULA MALAKONDA REDDY AGED ABOUT 47 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURALIST, R/O NARSINGAPADU VILLAGE, NEKARIKALLU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P-522615.
5. SOMU VENKATA RAMANA REDDY,, S/O BUDDA REDDY AGED ABOUT 50 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURALIST, R/O NARSINGAPADU VILLAGE, NEKARIKALLU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P-522615.

...PETITIONER(S)

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT, A.P. SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATHI, GUNTUR DISTRICT, A.P-522237.

2. THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER, 1ST FLOOR, NEW HODS BUILDING, M.G. ROAD, VIJAYAWADA, NTR DISTRICT, A.P-520010.

3. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, , ANDHRA PRADESH, MANGALAGIRI, GUNTUR DISTRICT, A.P-522503.

4. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, PALNADU DISTRICT, NARASARAOPET, A.P-522601.

5. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, PALNADU DISTRICT, NARASARAOPET, A.P-522601.

6. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, NEKARIKALLU POLICE STATION, NEKARIKALLU, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P-522615.

...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, Order or Direction, more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus, declaring the inaction of the Respondents in not considering the representation of the 1st Petitioner dated 16.11.2026 seeking police protection to file nominations for the office of Sarpanch and Ward Members of Narsingapadu Gram Panchayat, Nekarikallu Mandal, Palnadu District, in the ensuing 2nd Ordinary Elections to Gram Panchayats, 2026, as illegal, arbitrary and violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India, and consequently direct the Respondents to consider the said representation and provide adequate police protection to the 1st Petitioner, Sarpanch candidate, and the Petitioner Nos. 2 to 5, Ward Member candidates of Narsingapadu Gram Panchayat, to enable the Petitioners to go to the nomination centre at the Swarna Gramam-1 Office, Nekarikallu and file their nominations, and to continue such protection during the scrutiny of nominations and the period for withdrawal of candidatures and till the completion of the election process,

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 Respondent Nos. 3 to 6 to provide adequate police protection to the 1st Petitioner, Sarpanch candidate, and the Petitioner Nos. 2 to 5, Ward Member candidates of Narsingapadu Gram Panchayat, to enable the

Petitioners to go to the nomination centre at the Swarna Gramam-1 Office, Nekarikallu and file their nominations between 18.11.2026 and 20.11.2026, pending disposal of the above Writ Petition,

Counsel for the Petitioner(S):

1. SRINIVASULA REDDY KOMMASANI

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR HOME
2. GP FOR REVENUE

The Court made the following:

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 33505/2026

ORDER:-

Heard Sri Srinivasula Reddy Kommasani learned counsel for the petitioners; the learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home appearing for respondent Nos.1,3, 5 & 6; Sri N. Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the State Election Commission appearing for respondent No.2.

2. It is stated that the petitioner intends to contest the scheduled elections to the office of Sarpanch, Narsingapadu Gram Panchayat, Nakarikallu Mandal, Palnadu District. It is contended that the petitioners have been threatened by their political opponents and their associates to see that the petitioners do not participate in the scheduled elections to the Gram Panchayat.

3. The petitioner apprehends threats from his political opponents and, therefore, approached the authorities by submitting a representation dated 16.11.2026, seeking police protection to enable them to file nomination papers.

4. When the matter has been taken up for hearing, the learned Standing Counsel appearing for respondent No.2, has placed before the Court a copy of the Circular/instructions dated 13.11.2026 issued by the State Election Commission. The same is taken on record. The State Election Commission has issued the following instructions:

"1. The Collectors & DEAs are requested to provide Videography/CCTV Camera coverage at all Nomination Receiving Centers. If there is any constraint, videography can be undertaken using a mobile instrument with memory card and tripod. Videography / CCTV coverage shall be done at Polling Stations and Counting Centers.

2. The Commission vide its Order No.1470/SEC-F1/2026, dated 31.10.2026 has issued instructions that the footage shall be preserved in the safe custody of MPDO concerned with the supervision of the District Panchayat Officer concerned. The footage shall be preserved for 60 days. Where any Election Petition is filed, the footage shall be preserved beyond 60 days and till final disposal of the election petition. The footage shall be permanently deleted from the laptops/video recording devices, and it shall be ensured that the personnel entrusted with this activity shall not retain copies of the recorded footage in their devices. They shall not share, transmit or circulate such footage to any person or on social media platforms.

3. Necessary Police protection shall be provided to the candidates, who request for such protection, based on the threat perception assessment conducted by the Police Department. The Director General of Police is requested to issue necessary instructions to the Superintendents of Police concerned in this regard."

5. Having regard to the contentions advanced and having regard to the instructions issued by the State Election Commission vide Circular dated 13.11.2026, this Court deems it appropriate to dispose of the Writ Petition, directing the respondents 5 & 6 to consider the representation of the petitioner dated 16.11.2026 and pass appropriate orders forthwith in terms of the said Circular/instructions of the State Election Commission dated 13.11.2026.

6. 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: 17.11.2026
MVK

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 33505/2026

Date:17.11.2026

MVK