APHC010612372026

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

WEDNESDAY, THE 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 33529/2026

Between:

1. PERIKALA ANJAIAH, S/O LAKSHMAIAH, AGED ABOUT 50 YEARS, OCC BUSINESS, RIO MUSSAPURAM VILLAGE, PEDAKURAPADU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 522402.
2. YELLAMANDAIAH GOLI, S/O BHAVNARSHI, OCC BUSINESS, RIO GARAPADU VILLAGE, PEDAKURAPADU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 522402.
3. RUDRAPOGU MANIKYAM, W/O RAMESH BABU, OCC HOUSEWIFE, RIO JALALPURAM VILLAGE, PEDAKURAPADU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 522436.
4. BOJJA SIVAMMA, W/O PEDA VENKAIAH, OCC HOUSEWIFE, RIO CHINNAMAKKENA VILLAGE, PEDAKURAPADU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 522402.
5. PARCHURI RAMAKRISHNA, S/O MALLIKHARJUNA RAO, AGED ABOUT 50 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURE, RIO BUCHAIAHPALEM VILLAGE, PEDAKURAPADU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 522402.
6. SHEK MASTANVALI, S/O CHENCHUSAHEB, OCC AGRICULTURE, RIO TAMMAVARAM VILLAGE, PEDAKURAPADU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 522436.
7. CHINNA BABU VETITHOTI, S/O SOURILU VELITHOTI,AGED ABOUT 30 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURE, R/O PODAPADU VILLAGE, PEDAKURAPADU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 522402.
8. CHINNAMMAYI GODDUGARLA @ GODDUGORLA KOTESWARAMMA CHINNA AMMAI, W/O RAVIVARMA @ RAVINDRA VARMA, AGED ABOUT 49 YEARS, OCC HOUSEWIFE, R/O RAMAPURAM VILLAGE, PEDAKURAPADU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 522436.

9. YENDLURI UDAYA LAKSHMI, W/O NAGAMALLESWARA RAO, AGED ABOUT 47 YEARS, OCC HOUSEWIFE, R/O LINGAMGUNTLA VILLAGE, PEDAKURAPADU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 522402.
10. KESARA VENKATA GANGADHAR REDDY, S/O RAMAGOPAL REDDY, AGED ABOUT 31 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURE, R/O 75-TYALLURU VILLAGE, PEDAKURAPADU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 522436. .
11. GUTTIKONDA KOTIREDDY, S/O VEERA PRATAPA REDDY, AGED ABOUT 31 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURE, R/O PARASA VILLAGE, PEDAKURAPADU MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 522436.
12. FATIMUN SHEK @ SHAIK FATIMUN, W/O SUBHANI, AGED ABOUT 43 YEARS, OCC HOUSEWIFE, R/O PEDAKURAPADU VILLAGE AND MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH 522402

...PETITIONER(S)

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. THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, REPRESENTED BY THE COMMISSIONER, 1ST FLOOR, NEW HODS BUILDING, M.G. ROAD, VIJAYAWADA 520010.
3. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND 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

...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 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 Stage-I nomination arrangements pertaining to the petitioners' Gram Panchayats in Pedakurapadu Mandal, Palnadu District, without considering their representations, accessibility of the receiving places and the prevailing threat of intimidation and obstruction, and their failure 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 respondent Nos.2, 3 and 5 to ensure compliance with the aforesaid directions through the concerned Returning Officers and election officials, restore the earlier nomination-receiving arrangements for the affected Gram Panchayats, ensure effective police bandobast at the receiving premises and along the approach roads, personal police protection and escort to the petitioners, of persons unlawfully obstructing access, exclusion CCTV/videography coverage and preservation of footage, and in the alternative provide a duly authorised facility for receipt of the petitioners' nominations before the District Collector at District Headquarters, Narasaraopet, within the notified election schedule,

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 HDFC Bank Limited, Office at 50-96-5, Plot No.175, Seethamadhara, Opposite Old SBH, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh — 530013. 3. Mrs. P Lakshmi Thulasamma Advocate Commissioner, Appointed in Crl Mp 416 of 2026 in Proceedings initiated under Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act 2002 Ongole, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh -523001.

IA NO: 2 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 respondents to strictly implement the directions of the Hon'ble

Supreme Court dated 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, by providing adequate police bandobast at the nomination-receiving centres, personal police protection and escort to the petitioners and their lawful proposers, securing the approach roads, preventing unlawful obstruction by unauthorised persons and ensuring CCTV/videography coverage with preservation of footage, thereby enabling the petitioners to submit nominations peacefully within the prescribed schedule, pending disposal of the writ petition,

IA NO: 3 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 respondent Nos.2, 3 and 5 to restore the earlier nomination-receiving arrangements pertaining to the affected Gram Panchayats in Pedakurapadu Mandal through the concerned Returning Officers, and in the alternative direct the State Election Commission to arrange for receipt of the petitioners' nomination papers before the District Collector at District Headquarters, Narasaraopet, within the prescribed election schedule, pending disposal of the writ petition

Counsel for the Petitioner(S):

1. VENKATA NARAYANA RAO VEDULA

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

WRIT PETITION NO: 33529 of 2026

ORDER:-

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

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.

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JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

Date: 18.11.2026

PBS / DS

85

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 33529/2026

Date:18.11.2026

PBS / DS