APHC010614782026

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: 33648/2026

Between:

1. G SUNITHA, W/O VENGAMUNI REDDY AGED ABOUT 40 YEARS OCCUPATION MPTC RESIDING AT D.NO.7-120 7TH WARD VERA PALLI PETA PATNAM SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT 515541
2. BUKYA GEETHA BAI, W/O DHASARTHA NAIK AGED ABOUT 37 YEARS OCCUPATION MPTC RESIDING AT BHODE NAIK THANDA NEERUKUNTAPALLE KADIRI RURAL SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT 515541
3. MOODE SHANTHAMMA BAI, W/O MOODE GOPAL NAIK AGED ABOUT 55 YEARS OCCUPATION MPTC RESIDING AT D.NO.3/162 KUMMARA VANDLA PALLI KADIRI SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT 515591
4. BELLAPU RAGHAVENDRA, S/O BELLAPU VENKATA SHIVAIAH AGED ABOUT 34 YEARS OCCUPATION AGRICULTURE RESIDING AT D.NO.1-100 KONDAMANAYANIPALEM KADIRI MANDAL SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT 515591
5. TIPPANENI PEDDAREDDAPPA, S/O T. RAMACHANDRAPPA AGED ABOUT 67 YEARS OCCUPATION MPTC RESIDING AT D.NO.10/38 DINNAMIDI PALLE KADIRI BRAHMANAPALLE SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT 515591

...PETITIONER(S)

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY HOME DEPARTMENT SECRETARIAT BUILDINGS VELAGAPUDI VILLAGE AMARAVATI 522238
2. THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, REP BY ITS SECRETARY VIJAYAWADA NTR DISTRICT 520010

3. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT PUTTAPARTHI 515134
4. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, AP POLICE HEADQUARTERS MANGALAGIRI GUNTUR DISTRICT 522503
5. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT PUTTAPARTHI 515134
6. THE SUB DIVISIONAL POLICE OFFICER, KADIRI SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT 515134
7. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, KADIRI RURAL POLICE STATION KADIRI SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT 515134
8. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, KADIRI URBAN POLICE STATION KADIRI SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT 515134
9. THE PRESIDING OFFICER, ELECTION OF PRESIDENT MANDAL PRAJA PARISHAD KADIRI SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT 515134

...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 a writ more particularly in the form of Writ of Mandamus declaring the inaction of the respondents 2, 3 and 5 in not taking effective steps in reference to the representations of the petitioners dated 13.11.2026 and 17.11.2026 made seeking police protection to the petitioners and their family members and the free and fair conduct of the election of the President of the Mandal Praja Parishad, Kadiri, scheduled on 19.11.2026, as illegal, arbitrary and violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India and contrary to the constitutional mandate of free and fair elections under Article 243K of the Constitution of India, and consequently direct the respondents 4 to 8 to provide adequate police protection to the petitioners and their fami),/ members until the completion of the election of the President of the Mandal Praja Parishad, Kadiri, Sri Sathya Sal District, to provide police escort to the petitioners from their residences to the Mandal Praja Parishad office, Kadiri and back on the date of election, and to arrange adequate police bandobast at the Mandal Praja Parishad office, Kadiri, and further direct the respondents 2, 3 and 9 to conduct the said election in a free and fair manner strictly in accordance with Section 153 of the A.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 and Rules 8 to 12 of the Rules of 2006, by permitting entry into the meeting hall only to those entitled by law, by video recording the entire proceedings including the show of hands and preserving the CCTV footage, by conducting the draw of lots under Rule 10(6), if any, openly in the presence of all the members and on video, by recording written reasons for any adjournment under Rule 8(3) and

announcing the next date forthwith, furnishing a copy of the record of proceedings under Rule 12 to th() members, and direct the 2nd respondent to nominate an Observer ur de - Section 232A of the Act, and to take immediate action against any perscm threatening, inducing or pressuring the petitioners, and to pass

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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 pleased to direct the respondents 4 to 8 to forthwith provide adequate police protection to the petitioners and their family members until the completion of the election of the President of the Mandal Praja Parishad, Kadiri, scheduled on 19.11.2026, including police escort to the petitioners from their residences to the Mandal Praja Parishad office, Kadiri and back on the date of election, and direct the respondents 2, 3 and 9 to video record the entire proceedings of the said election, and pass

Counsel for the Petitioner(S):

1. VMR LEGAL

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR HOME
2. GP FOR REVENUE

The Court made the following:

ORDER:-

Heard M/s. VMR Legal LLP, learned counsel for the petitioners, learned Government Pleader for Home appearing for the respondent Nos.1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and Sri N.Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel appearing for the respondent Nos.2, 3 and 9.

2. The grievance of the petitioners in the instant writ petition is against the action of the respondent Nos.2, 3 and 5 in not taking effective steps in reference to the representations of the petitioners dated 13.11.2026 and 17.11.2026, seeking police protection to the petitioners and their family members and the free and fair conduct of the election of the President of the Mandal Praja Parishad, Kadiri, scheduled on 19.11.2026.

3. It is contended that pursuant to the election Notification dated 19.10.2026 for conduct of election to the office of Member, MPTC and ZPTCs, the petitioners have contested as candidates from the YSRCP Party and were declared elected. The 1st respondent issued Notification for conduct of election to the office of Member, President & Vice-President of MPPs and ZPPs. The nomination schedule for the said election commences on 19.11.2026 at 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

4. It is contended that the subject elections are indirect elections and all the elected MPTCs will have to travel to the venue of the Special Meeting to elect the Member(s), President, Vice-President, respectively.

Apprehending obstructions by opponents to reach the designated place, the petitioners made a representation dated 13.11.2026 to the 2nd respondent. It is contended that as no orders have been passed on the said representation, the petitioner further submitted a representation dated 17.11.2026 through e-mail to the 2nd respondent.

5. Learned Standing Counsel appearing for the 1st respondent - SEC would submit that the SEC has issued instructions/directions in the said regard vide Circular dated 10.11.2026, that would address the grievance of the petitioners.

6. Considered the submissions.

7. For better appreciation, the relevant portion of the Circular dated 10.11.2026 is reproduced hereunder:

> ***"XI. SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS:***
>
> *It is the endeavour of the State Election Commission to create an environment conducive for free and fair elections where elected Members of MPPs and ZPPs can exercise their electoral right freely without being subjected to any Intimidation, threat or illegal confinement by vested interests for political gains.*
>
> *The Commission, therefore, directs the Collectors & District Election Authorities and Superintendents of Police / Commissioners of Police to take the following measures.*
>
> *1) The Collectors & District Election Authorities along with Superintendents of Police /Commissioners of Police shall finalize*

stringent bandobust arrangements to ensure that supporters of candidates, crowds and anti-social elements do not gain entry into the venue of the special meeting to create trouble. Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 shall be imposed on the day of election and even on the day preceding the day of election, if necessary. Section 163 of BNSS, wherever imposed, should be observed rigorously.

2)The area in the vicinity of the venue of Special Meeting in all the MPPs and ZPPs should be cordoned off with barricading.

3) If any elected member of MPP or ZPP makes a request for providing security, he should be provided with the same immediately after assessing the threat perception."

8. The learned counsel for the petitioners prays for a direction to the respondent authorities to provide police protection to all the elected members of the MPTC from the YSRCP. Since consideration of the representation is pending, the respondent authorities are directed to look into the grievance raised by the petitioner and pass appropriate orders in terms of the Circular instructions of SEC.

9. Having regard to the above, the 2nd & 5th respondents are directed to pass appropriate orders on the representation dated 13.11.2026 filed by the petitioners, forthwith.

10. 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.

JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

Dated: 18.11.2026

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THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO:33648 of 2026

Dated: 18.11.2026
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