APHC010617422026

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

WEDNESDAY, THE 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 33791 OF 2026

Between:

1. KETHVATH KOTI BAI, W/O. KASI YA, AGED 60 YEARS, R/O. KOTHAPULLAREDDYPURAM VILLAGE, KALLAKUNTA (KANDLAKUNTA), VELDURTHI MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH.

...PETITIONER

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REPRESENTED BY ITS PRINCIPAI SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI, ANDHRA PRADESH - 522238
2. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, ANDHRA PRADESH, MANGALAGIRI, ANDHRA PRADESH - 522503
3. THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, VIJAYAWADA, ANDHRA PRADESH - 520001
4. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 508208
5. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PILADESH - 508208
6. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, VELDURTHI POLICE STATION, PAINADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH -522613
7. THE MANDAL PARISHAD DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, VELDURTHI MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT ANDHRA PRADESH -522613

8. THE DISTRICT PANCHAYAT OFFICER, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 508208
9. THE RETURNING OFFICER HOLDING CONCERN JURISDICTION, SARPANCH ELECTIONS, KOTHAPULLAREDDYPURAM GRAM PANCHAYAT, VELDURTHI MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 522613
10. KOTHAPULLAREDDYPURAM GRMA PANCHAYAT, REP. BY ITS SECRETARY, KOTHAPULLAREDDYPURAM VILLAGE, VELDURTHI MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 522613

...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, directing the respondents to provide adequate police escort and protection to the petitioner for proceeding from her residence to the nomination centre and filing her nomination for the post of Sarpanch of Kothapullareddypuram Gram Panchayat, Veldurthi Mandal, Palnadu District, without any threat, intimidation or obstruction to ensure necessary police protection during the election process and to implement the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP (C) No.37476 of 2026, dated 21.10.2026, and the Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission in Order No.1470/SEC-F1/2026, dated 31.10.2026, insofar as they apply to the petitioners election, and pass

Counsel for the Petitioner:

1. GUNDALA SIVA PRASADA REDDY

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR PANCHAYAT RAJ RURAL DEV
2. GP FOR HOME
3. GP FOR REVENUE

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

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The Court made the following Order:

Heard Sri Gundala Siva Prasada Reddy, learned counsel for the petitioner, learned Assistant Government Pleader for Panchayat Raj & Rural Development and Sri N.Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for State Election Commission appearing for the respondents.

2. The petitioner contends that he is intending to contest the schedule election to the office of Sarpanch of the Kothapullareddypuram Gram Panchayat, which have been scheduled in the 3rd phase of the election notification. The schedule dates for filing of the nominations are between 21.11.2026 to 23.11.2026 and the poll date has been fixed on 02.12.2026. Apprehending threat from his opponents, the petitioner filed the representation before the respondents on 18.11.2026, seeking police protection.

3. It is contended that a request for police security was made to ensure the safe and peaceful filing of the nominations. In view of the continuous threats and physical attacks allegedly being made against the petitioner during the election process and as the said representation was not considered, the instant Writ Petition is filed.

4. Today, when the matter is taken up for consideration, the learned Standing Counsel appearing for respondent No.3, has placed before the Court a copy of the Circular/instructions dated 13.11.2026 issued by the State Election Commission and contends that the same would address the

grievance of the petitioner. The Circular/instructions are taken on record. For better apprehension, the relevant clauses are reproduced hereunder:

> *"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.*
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> *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.*
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> *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 respondent authorities to consider the representation of the petitioner dated 18.11.2026 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 direction, the Writ Petition is disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs.

As a sequel, all pending miscellaneous applications shall stand closed.

JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

Dated: 19.11.2026
BSK

42

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 33791 OF 2026

Dated: 19.11.2026
BSK

HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH :: AMARAVATI

MAIN CASE: WRIT PETITION NO: 33791 OF 2026

PROCEEDING SHEET

Sl. No.	DATE	ORDER	OFFICE NOTE
01.	19.11.2026	**KM,J** The Writ Petition is disposed of. (Vide Separate Order) **KM, J** BSK	