APHC010619932026

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

TUESDAY, THE 24th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 33933 OF 2026

Between:

1. NAMALA SRIVALLI, W/O. SURYA NARAYANA MURTHY, AGED ABOUT 47 YEARS, FEMALE, R/O D.NO. 2-22, NAMALA VANI STREET, JONNADA VILLAGE, ALAMURU MANDAL, DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR KONASEEMA DISTRICT-533 233.

...PETITIONER

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, A.P. SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI, GUNTUR DISTRICT, 522238
2. THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER, 1ST FLOOR, NEW HODS BUILDING, OPP. INDIRA GANDHI MUNICIPAL STADIUM, M.G. ROAD, VIJAYAWADA-520 010.
3. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR KONASEEMA DISTRICT, AMALAPURA 533201
4. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR KONASEEMA DISTRICT, AMALAPURAM 533201
5. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, ALAMURU POLICE STATION, ALAMURU MANDAL DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR KONASEEMA DISTRICT 533233
6. THE RETURNING OFFICER, JONNADA GRAM PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS, ALAMURU MANDAL, DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR KONASEEMA DISTRICT 533233

...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 and acting upon the petitioner's representation dated 15.11.2026 thereby taking preventive measures for smooth conducting of the elections and also to curb the illegal practices during the voting process as illegal, irregular, arbitrary and violation of the Election Code of Conduct, violation of provisions of Sections 211, 217, 219, 225-A and 232-A of the A.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 read with Rules 48 and 80 of the A.P. Panchayat Raj (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2006 and also offends Articles 14, 21 and 243-K of the Constitution of India, and consequently direct the respondents to conduct the elections to be held on 29.11.2026 to the Jonnada Grama Panchayat, Alamuru Mandal, for the posts of Sarpanch and Ward Members in a free and fair manner by duly following the Election Code of Conduct

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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 direct the respondents to (i) arrange mobile phone deposit counters at all polling stations of Jonnada Gram Panchayat and not permit mobile phones inside; (ii) provide CCTV / web-casting coverage of all the said polling stations; (iii) deploy adequate police force and strictly enforce the 100-metre restriction under Section 219 of the A.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1994; (iv) strictly enforce Section 225-A of the Act regarding liquor; (v) permit only one companion per blind or infirm voter as per Rules 48 and 80 of the A.P. Panchayat Raj (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2006; and (vi) appoint an Observer / microobservers for Jonnada Gram Panchayat, for the poll to be held on 29.11.2026, pending disposal of the main Writ Petition

Counsel for the Petitioner:

1. MANGENA SREE RAMA RAO

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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ORDER:

Heard Sri Mangena Sree Rama Rao, learned counsel for the petitioner, learned Assistant Government Pleader for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home and Sri N.Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for State Election Commission appearing for the respondents.

2. The grievance of the petitioner in the instant writ petition is against the inaction of the respondents in not considering the representation dated 15.11.2026 of the petitioner for taking preventive measures for smooth conducting of the elections and also requested for making arrangements to deposit mobile phones at the entrance of polling stations and prohibit carrying of mobiles inside the polling booth.

3. In this regard, the learned counsel for the petitioner places relies on the Circular/instructions dated 23.05.2025 issued by the Election Commission of India, wherein it has been stated that the Commission has decided to allow voters to deposit their mobile phones at designated facilities outside the polling stations. It is further stipulated that voters shall be allowed to carry their mobile phones up to the 100 meter perimeter of the polling station, subject to the condition that the mobile phones shall be switched off. The said instructions also provide for the establishment of mobile phone deposit facilities outside the polling stations.

4. Sri N.Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the State Election Commission, has placed before this Court a copy of the Circulars/instructions dated 26.03.2026 issued by the SEC in this regard. A perusal of the same reflects as follows:

> *“…….that no person shall be allowed to either carry or use cellular phones, cordless phones, wireless sets, etc., in the 100 meter perimeter of the polling stations described as the "Polling Station Neighbourhood" and within the polling stations. Similarly, no person shall be allowed to carry or use such instruments in the area within and around the counting centre or within the area cordoned off by the security forces to regulate the entry of persons to such counting halls and centres.”*

5. Learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home has placed before the Court a copy of the written instructions received from the 4th respondent. The same is taken on record. A perusal of the same reflects as follows:

> *“10. It is submitted that for the Jonnada Gram Panchayat in AlamuruMandal, polling is being conducted across 14 Polling Stations situated at 7 locations, where a total of 4,963 voters will exercise their right to vote across these 14 polling stations in Jonnada village. The State Election Commission has categorized all 14 polling stations at the 7 locations in Jonnada as 'Normal'. Therefore, two police personnel are being deployed for bandobast at each normal location. In addition to the static deployment, one Route Mobile Party, one Striking Force, and one Special Striking Force will continuously patrol and cover all the said polling locations. Furthermore, the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Kothapeta Sub-Division, Kothapeta, along with their respective forces, will also visit and supervise the polling stations to ensure peaceful conduct of the elections.”*

6. Having regard to the above, the grievance of the petitioner stands addressed by the Circulars/instructions dated 23.05.2025 and 26.03.2026. Needless to observe that the election authorities shall duly abide by the said Circulars/instructions dated 23.05.2025 and 26.03.2026.

7. With the above observations, the writ petition is disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs.

As a sequel, miscellaneous petitions pending, if any, shall stand closed.

JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

Dated 24.11.2026
BSK

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HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH :: AMARAVATI

MAIN CASE: WRIT PETITION NO: 33933 OF 2026

PROCEEDING SHEET

Sl. No.	DATE	ORDER	OFFICE NOTE
03.	24.11.2026	**KM,J** The Writ Petition is disposed of. (Vide Separate Order) **KM, J** BSK	