APHC010620312026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

FRIDAY, THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 33935 OF 2026

Between:

1. DASARI MOHAN BABU, S/o Dasari Hari Das, Aged about 46 years, Occ Business, Rio R/o 2-111 -a, Peruru Village, Ramagiri Mandal, Sri Sathya Sai District, Puttaparthy, Andhra Pradesh 515621.

...PETITIONER

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, Rep. by its Principal Secretary, Home Department, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi, Guntur District, A.P-522238.

2. The AP State Election Commission, Rep. by the Commissioner, 1st Floor, New HOD's Building, opp.Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium, M.G. Road, Vijayawada, NTR District, A.P-520010.

3. The District Collector and District Election Authority, Sri Sathya Sai District, Puttaparthy, A.P-515134.

4. The Returning Officer, Peruru Gram Panchayat, Ramagiri Mandal, Sri Sathya Sai District, A.P-515621.

5. The Superintendent of Police, Sri Sathya Sai District, Puttaparthy, A.P-515134.

...RESPONDENTs

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 inaction of the respondents, particularly the 2nd respondent, in not considering the petitioner's representation dated 12.11.2026 seeking arrangement of CCTV cameras and drone cameras for monitoring the polling process in Peruru Gram Panchayat, Ramagiri Mandal, Sri Sathya Sai District, as illegal, arbitrary and violative of Articles 14 and 21 read with Article 243K of the Constitution of India, and consequently direct the respondents to (a) make appropriate arrangements for installation and operation of CCTV cameras at all polling centres in Peruru Gram Panchayat and deployment of drone cameras in and around the polling centres, subject to applicable laws, permissions and the directions of the State Election Commission i.e., 2nd Respondent for monitoring and recording the polling proceedings scheduled to be held on 26.11.2026, without compromising the secrecy of voting (b) ensure that the entire footage recorded through such CCTV and drone cameras is securely preserved in its original and unaltered form, without tampering, deletion or overwriting, until the expiry of the statutory period for filing an election petition or, in the event of an election petition being filed, until its final disposal and (c) make the said footage available in accordance with law, whenever required by the competent authority or Court

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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, particularly respondents 2 to 5, to make appropriate arrangements for installation and operation of CCTV cameras at all polling centres in Peruru Gram Panchayat and deployment of drone cameras in and around the polling centres, subject to applicable laws, permissions and the directions of the State Election Commission i.e., 2nd Respondent for

monitoring and recording the polling proceedings scheduled to be held on 26.11.2026, without compromising the secrecy of voting, and further direct the respondents to securely preserve the entire footage recorded in its original and unaltered form, without tampering, deletion or overwriting, pending disposal of the above Writ Petition

Counsel for the Petitioner: KIRAN TIRUMALASETTI

Counsel for the Respondents: GP FOR HOME

Counsel for the Respondents: GP FOR REVENUE

The Court made the following Order:

Heard Sri Kiran Tirumalasetti, learned counsel for the petitioner, learned Government Pleader for Home appearing for the respondent Nos.1 & 5, Sri N. Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the State Election Commission appearing for the respondent No.2.

2. The grievance of the petitioner in the instant Writ Petition is against the action of the respondents in not considering the petitioner's representation dated 12-11-2026 seeking arrangement of CCTV cameras and drone cameras for monitoring the polling process in Peruru Gram Panchayat, Ramagiri Mandal, Sri Sathya Sai District. It is contended that the petitioner has submitted a representation dated 12-11-2026 and the same is not considered so far, however the scheduled polling date for the office of Sarpanch of Peruru Gram Panchayat is on 26-11-2026 seeking an appropriate direction, approached this Court by way of the instant Writ Petition.

3. The learned Standing Counsel, Sri N. Ashwani Kumar, appearing for State Election Commission, submits that the State Election Commission has

already issued a Circular dated 01.11.2026, instructing all the officers concerned to ensure compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to ensure that the poll process is conducted in a free, fair and impartial manner, without giving scope for any complaints. He has also placed on record a copy of the Circular/instructions dated 13.11.2026 issued by the State Election Commission, wherein it has been provided as under:

> *"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."*

4. Having regard to the same, learned Standing Counsel submits that the grievance of the petitioner is addressed.

5. Having regard to the contentions advanced, this Court deems it appropriate to dispose of the Writ Petition directing the respondent Election authorities to strictly act in terms of the Circulars/instructions dated 01-11-2026 and 13-11-2026.

6. With the above observation, 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: 20.11.2026
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THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

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Dated: 20.11.2026
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