APHC010621042026

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

SATURDAY, THE 21st DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

**PRESENT**

**THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA**

**WRIT PETITION NO: 33999 OF 2026**

**Between:**

1. MUDDA THIRAPATHAIAH, S/0 MUDDA PRASAD AGE 36 OCC AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (HANDWRITTEN NOTE SARPANCH) 5- 22, SC CENTER, PATHA GANESHUNI PADU, V KONANKI, PO PIDUGURALLA, SUB DISTRICT PIDUGURALLA, DISTRICT GUNTUR,

2. MUDDA SUNDARAMMA, .W/O MUDDA THIRAPATHAIAH AGE 32 OCCUPATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (HANDWRITTEN NOTE SARPANCH) 5-22, SC CENTER, PATHA GANESHUNI PADU, KONANKI, PIDUGURALLA, GUNTUR,

3. MUDDA SUDHAKAR, S/0 MUDDA GARATAIAHAGE37 OCCUPATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (HANDWRITTEN NOTE SARPANCH)FULL ADDRESS 9-3-3, PATHAGANESUNIPADU, VTC KONANKI, PO PIDUGURALLA, SUB DISTRICT PIDUGURALLA, DISTRICT GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH -522413

4. SATYALA SURESH, S/O SATYALA BHASKAR RAO AGE 36 OCCUPATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE 1ST WARD UR), 5-10/4, SC COLONY, PATHAGANESHUNIPADU, KONANKI, PIDUGURALLA, GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH -522413

5. BADDIPUDI LMMANEYELU, S/O BADDIPUDI AADAM AGE 70 OCCUPATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE 1ST WARD), FULL ADDRESS 5-21, SC COLONY, PATHAGANESUNIPADU, KONANKI, PIDUGURALLA,

GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH -522413

6. BADDIPUDI KOTESWARAMMA,, . W/O BADDIPUDI IMMANIYELU AGE 33 OCCUPATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE 2ND WARD UR (W))FULL ADDRESS 5-21, SC COLONY, PATHAGANESUNIPADU, KONANKI, GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH -522413

7. BADDIPUDI YESAMMA,, C/O BADDIPUDI CHANDU AGE 25, OCCUPATION / DESIGNATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE 2ND WARD) FULL ADDRESS 5-21, SC COLONY, PATHAGANESUNIPADU VILLAGE, PIDUGURALLA MANDAL, KONANKI, GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH -522413

8. YENDURI PRASANTHI, RELATION W/O YENDURI SAIMANIRAJU AGE 29, OCCUPATION / DESIGNATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE 3RD WARD SC (W)) FULL ADDRESS 5-27/10, PATHAGANESUNIPADU VILLAGE, PIDUGURALLA MANDAL, KONANKI, GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH -522413

9. PEDAMANU SARAMMA,, RELATION W/O PEDAMANU VENKATESWARLU AGE 35, OCCUPATION / DESIGNATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE 3RD WARD) FULL ADDRESS 5-101, PATHAGANESUNIPADU, KONANKI, PO PIDUGURALLA, DISTRICT GUNTUR,

10. JILUGU SRAVANI, RELATION W/O JILUGU SAIDAIAH AGE 36 OCCUPATION / DESIGNATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE 4TH WARD OR (W) FULL ADDRESS 5-63-3, PATHA GANESHUNI PADU, KONANKI, PIDUGURALLA, GUNTUR,

11. SHAIK NAGULU, RELATION S/O SHAIK CHINNA RAMJAN AGE 40 OCCUPATION / DESIGNATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE 5TH WARD UR) FULL ADDRESS 3-12, PATHAGANESHUNIPADU, KONANKI, GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH - 522413

12. MUDDA SARALA, RELATION W/O MUDDA SUDHAKAR, AGE 34 OCCUPATION / DESIGNATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE 6TH WARD SC (W))FULL ADDRESS 9-3-3, SC COLONY, PATHAGANESHUNIPADU,

KONANKI, PIDUGURALLA, GUNTUR,

13. MEKALA PAKEERAIAH, RELATION S/O MEKALA VENKATAESWRALU AGE 44, OCCUPATION / DESIGNATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE UR)FULL ADDRESS 6-16, RAMALAYAM GUDI BAZAR, PATHA GANESHUNI PADU, KONANKI, PIDUGURALLA, GUNTUR,

14. DARAVATH RAMADEVI,, . W/O DARAVATH VENKATESWRULU NAIK, AGE 51 OCCUPATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE 8TH WARD ST), FULL ADDRESS 6-50/23C, PATHA GANESHUNI PADU, KONANKI, PIDUGURALLA, GUNTUR,

15. TETANILA NAGESWARA RAO, S/O TETANILA RANNAYYA AGE 41 OCCUPATION / DESIGNATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE 9TH WARD BC) FULL ADDRESS 6-24, HIGH SCHOOL BAZAR, PATHAGANESUNIPADU, KONANKI, PIDUGURALLA, GUNTUR,

16. MUDDA SAGAR BABU, S/O MUDDA GARATAIAH, AGE 31 OCCUPATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE (NOTE SC)FULL ADDRESS 5-5/5, SC COLONY, PATHAGANESUNIPADU, KONANKI, PIDUGURALLA, GUNTUR,

17. PEDAMANU VENKATESWARLU, S/O PEDAMANU VENKAIAH AGE 41 OCCUPATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE FULL ADDRESS 5-101, PATHAGANESUNIPADU, KONANKI, GUNTUR,

18. BHIMINENI PARAMESWARI,, W/O VENKATA RAO,AGE 63 OCCUPATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE FULL ADDRESS 2-47/1, MAIN BAZAR, SANDEPUDI, GUNTUR.

19. BHIMINENI BHAGYALAKSHMI,, W/O VENKATA RAO,AGE 63 OCCUPATION AGRICULTURE / CONTESTING SARPANCH CANDIDATE FULL ADDRESS 2-47/1, MAIN BAZAR, SANDEPUDI, GUNTUR

**...PETITIONER(S)**

**AND**

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT BUILDINGS, VELAGAPUDI, GUNTUR DISTRICT, 522328.
2. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE DGP, . STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, POLICE HEADQUARTERS, MANGALAGIRI, GUNTUR DISTRICT,522501.
3. THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS SECRETARY, 1ST FLOOR, NEW HODS BUILDING, VIJAYAWADA, 520501.
4. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, PALNADU DISTRICT, COLLECTORATE, NARSARAOPETA, 522405.
5. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, PALNADU DISTRICT, NARSARAOPETA, 522405

**...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 a WRIT OF MANDAMUS, declaring the inaction of Respondents 1 to 4 in considering the Petitioner's representation dated 19.11.2026 and failing to provide adequate police protection to the Petitioners contesting candidate for the Office of Sarpanch,for respective Gram Panchayat,Palnadu Districtthroughout the Gram Panchayat election process commencing from the date of filing nomination on 21.11.2026 till the completion of polling and counting of votes on 03.12.2026, as illegal, arbitrary, unconstitutional, abdication of statutory duty, and violative of Articles 14, 19(1)(a), and 21 of the Constitution of India as well as the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 and consequently direct Respondents 1 to 4 to provide immediate, effective, police protection / security cover to the Petitioner and ensure free, fair, and peaceful participation from 21.11.2026 to 03.12.2026 as per the Apex Court Directions in SLP (c) 37476/2026 dated 27.10.2026

**Counsel for the Petitioner(S):**

1. ANURADHA GURRAM

**Counsel for the Respondent(S):**

1. GP FOR HOME
2. GP FOR REVENUE

**THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA**

**WRIT PETITION NO: 33999 OF 2026**

**ORDER**:-

Heard Sri Anuradha Gurram, learned counsel for the petitioners, learned Government Pleader for Home and Sri N.Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for State Election Commission appearing for the respondents.

2**.** Challenging the action of the respondents in not considering the petitioner's representation dated 19.11.2026 for providing police protection to the petitioners in view of the alleged threats and apprehension of physical attacks, to enable them to file their nominations for the office of Sarpanch in the ensuing Gram Panchayat elections, the present writ petition has been filed.

3. The petitioners hail from different villages. It is contended that they are intending to contest to the office of Sarpanch/Ward Members, of the respective Gram Panhcayat from which they hail, as independent candidates in the scheduled Gram Panchayat elections. It is alleged that they are facing threats and political interference and are being prevented from filing their nominations. In the said regard although they submitted representations dated 19.11.2026 to respondents seeking police protection, no action has been taken. Hence, the present writ petition is filed seeking a direction to provide adequate police protection to enable them to file their nominations and contest the elections.

4. When the matter has been taken up for consideration, the learned Standing Counsel for State Election Commission, has placed before the Court a copy of the Circular/instructions dated 13.11.2026 issued by the State Election Commission and submits that the Clause No.3 of the Circular would address the grievance of the petitioners. The said Circular order is taken on record. For better appreciation, the relevant portion of the same is extracted 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.*
>
> *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.*
>
> *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. Considered the submissions.

6. The petitioners are nineteen in number, hail from different villages and have sought police protection to facilitate their submission of nominations before the designated nomination centres. In view of the fact that the petitioners reside at different places, it would be appropriate to direct them to submit a proper application to the 5th respondent, furnishing particulars of the proposed date and time, along with a common assembly point from which they intend to proceed to the designated nomination centre. Such an arrangement would enable the police authorities to make necessary security arrangements in an organized and coordinated manner, such as providing police personnel and transport arrangements, which would avoid confusion in picking up the candidates, as all of them are from different Gram Panchayats.

7. Having regard to the same, the petitioners are granted liberty to submit a fresh representation before respondent No.5, forthwith, indicating a common assembly point, from where they intend to proceed to the designated nomination centre, the date and time period between which they would require police protection for submission of the nomination papers, which shall be between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm of the date chosen only. Upon receipt of such representation, respondent No.5 shall forthwith issue necessary instructions to the Station House Officer concerned, to make appropriate arrangements to provide protection.

8. The Station House Officer shall make necessary arrangements forthwith to provide police protection to the petitioners on the date chosen by the petitioners, between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm, so as to enable them to

submit the nomination papers smoothly. The said arrangement would apply only to the submission of nominations and for one day only.

9. 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.

**JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA**

Date: 21.11.2026
BSK

# 14

**THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA**

**WRIT PETITION NO: 33999 OF 2026**

Date: 21.11.2026

BSK

**HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH :: AMARAVATI**

**MAIN CASE: WRIT PETITION NO: 33999 OF 2026**

**PROCEEDING SHEET**

| Sl. No. | DATE | ORDER | OFFICE NOTE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 02. | 21.11.2026 | **KM,J**<br><br>The Writ Petition is disposed of.<br><br>(Vide Separate Order)<br><br>**KM, J**<br><br>BSK | |