APHC010621242026

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: 33995 OF 2026

Between:

1. Karnati Chandramohan Reddy, S/o. Karnati Narayana Reddy, Aged about 48 years, Occ Contesting candidate for Lakshmipet Gram Panchayat, Rio. D.No.1-93, Lakshmipeta village, Chapadu Mandal, Y.S.R District.

2. Mallela Venkata Subba Reddy, S/o. Mallela Veera Reddy, Aged about 66 years, Occ Contesting candidate for Lakshmipet Gram Panchayat, Rio. 1-94, Lakshmipeta, Chapadu Mandal, Y.S.R District.

3. Gangikunta Venkata Chandra, S/o. Ganjikunta Veeranna, Aged about 46 years, Occ Contesting candidate for Lakshmipet Gram Panchayat, Rio. D.No.3-154, Kothavaram Village, Chapadu Mandal, Y.S.R District.

4. Karnati Srividya, W/o. Karnati Chandramohan Reddy, Aged about 53 years, Occ Contesting candidate for Sarpanch, Lakshmipet, Grampanchayat, Chapadu Mandal, Rio. D.No.1-93, Lakshmipet, Chapadu Mandal, Y.S.R District.

...PETITIONERs

AND

1. The State of Andhra Pradesh, represented by its Principal Secretary, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, Secretariat Buildings, Velagapudi, Amaravati, Guntur District,522237.

2. The State Election Commission of Andhra Pradesh, represented by its State Election Commissioner, 1st Floor, New HOD's Building, M.G. Road, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh,520010.

3. The District Collector and District Election Authority, YSR Kadapa District,516001.

4. The Superintendent of Police, YSR Kadapa District,516001.

5. The District Panchayat Officer, YSR Kadapa District,516001.

6. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Mydhukur Revenue Division, YSR Kadapa District,516172.

7. The Mandal Parishad Development Officer, Chapadu Mandal, YSR Kadapa District,516356.

8. The Station House Officer, Chapadu Police Station, YSR Kadapa District,516356.

9. The Returning Officer/Election Officer, Lakshmipeta Gram Panchayat, Chapadu Mandal, YSR Kadapa District,516356.

...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 a Writ of Mandamus declaring the action of the respondents in shifting the nomination centre pertaining to Lakshmipeta Gram Panchayat Chapadu Mandal YSR Kadapa District to Chapadu Village approximately six kilometres away from Lakshmipeta Village without communicating any reasons or administrative justification and without considering the accessibility and convenience of intending candidates and their proposers as arbitrary unreasonable and contrary to the constitutional mandate under Article 243K of the Constitution of India and consequently direct the respondents to consider

and dispose of the representation dated 18112026 submitted by the petitioners and forwarded to the second respondentDistrict Collector cumDistrict Election Authority on 18.11.2026 by passing a reasoned order after examining the circumstances and administrative justification for shifting the nomination centre to examine the feasibility of restoring the earlier nomination centre arrangement followed for Lakshmipeta Gram Panchayat and if the shifting is found to be without sufficient administrative justification take appropriate corrective measures in accordance with law and the applicable election instructions to ensure that all intending candidates and their proposers from Lakshmipeta Gram Panchayat are afforded an effective and unobstructed opportunity to present their nomination papers in accordance with the applicable election schedule and rules to provide adequate police protection and bandobust on the route leading to the notified nomination centre and at the nomination centre so as to prevent obstruction intimidation or physical prevention of intending candidates and their proposers to conduct an appropriate enquiry into the circumstances leading to the shifting of the nomination centre and the allegations of influence by local political persons and take action in accordance with law if any irregularity is found and 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, particularly respondents 1 and 2, to forthwith consider the representation dated 18.11.2026 forwarded to the second respondent on 18.11.2026, and ensure adequate police protection and unobstructed access to the notified nomination centre for all intending candidates and their proposers of Lakshmipeta Gram Panchayat, without prejudice to their right to seek restoration of the earlier nomination centre arrangement, and pass

Counsel for the Petitioners: SHAIK SULTHAN

Counsel for the Respondents: GP FOR PANCHAYAT RAJ RURAL DEV

Counsel for the Respondents: GP FOR HOME

Counsel for the Respondents: GP FOR REVENUE

The Court made the following order:

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

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The Court made the following Order:

Heard the learned counsel for the petitioners, learned Government Pleader for Panchayat Raj appearing for the respondent Nos.1 & 5, Sri N. Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the State Election Commission appearing for the respondent Nos.2 & 9, learned Government Pleader for Home appearing for the respondent Nos.3 & 8 and Sri Sasanka Bhuvanagiri, learned Standing Counsel for the respondent No.7.

2. The prayer sought in the instant Writ Petition is against the action of the respondents in shifting the nomination centre pertaining to Lakshmipeta Gram Panchayat, Chapadu Mandal, YSR Kadapa District to Chapadu Village, approximately six kilometers away from Lakshmipeta Village, without communicating any reasons or administrative justification and without considering the accessibility and convenience of intending candidates and their proposers.

3. In the said regard, it appears that the petitioners have already made a representation on 18-11-2026.

4. Learned Standing Counsel appearing for the State Election Commission would submit that tomorrow i.e., 21-11-2026 is the specified date for receiving of the nominations and particular centers have already been informed. The said prayer of the petitioner for shifting of the nomination center, at this juncture, cannot be granted, having regard to the fact, Chapadu Village is the

adjacent Village of the subject Lakshmipeta Village which is around six kilometers away.

5. Having regard to the same, considering the short distance between the two Villages, Chapadu and Lakshmipeta, this Court is not inclined to issue any direction in this regard for changing the nomination centre. However the learned counsel for the petitioners' counsel urges for providing police protection to the petitioners having regard to the instances that have been taken place on the last scheduled MPTC and ZPTC elections. The respondent No.4 is therefore directed to issue necessary instructions to the respondent No.8 for providing police security on the date and time specified by the petitioners for submission of nominations. The petitioners shall inform well in advance the respondent No.4 and the respondent No.8 indicating the date and time for submission of their nominations. Upon such filing the respondent No.4 shall issue necessary instructions to the concerned Station House Officer – respondent No.8 for providing police security so as to enable the petitioners to submit their nominations.

6. 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.

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JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

Dated: 20.11.2026 MSI

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THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

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Dated: 20.11.2026
MSI