APHC010621732026

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

FRIDAY, THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 34027/2026

Between:

1. PEDAVALLI RAJ KUMAR,, S/O. SARATH MOHAN RAO, AGED ABOUT 50 YEARS, R/O. D.NO.1-12, KAVURU, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH.
2. PEDAVALLI SARATH MOHAN,, D/O P RAJ KUMAR, AGED ABOUT 22 YEARS, RIO. D.NO.1-12, KAVURU, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH.
3. KODE SHANUMUKHA CHAITRAGNA,, D/O RAMESH BABU, AGED ABOUT 24 YEARS, RIO. D.NO.1-10, KAVURU, PALNADU DISTRICT ANDHRA PRADESH.

...PETITIONER(S)

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT BUILDINGS, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI, GUNTUR DISTRICT.522 238.
2. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE DGP, ANDHRA PRADESH POLICE HEADQUARTERS, MANGALAGIRI, GUNTUR DISTRICT.522 503.
3. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, PALNADU DISTRICT.522601
4. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER SHO, CHILAKALURIPETA RURAL POLICE STATION, PALNADU DISTRICT.522616
5. THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER, VIJAYAWADA, ANDHRA

PRADESH.522010.

...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 an order, direction or writ, more particularly one in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus, declaring the inaction of the Respondents in providing police protection to the Petitioners, despite their oral representations as illegal, arbitrary and violative of Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India, consequently, to direct the Respondents, particularly Respondent Nos. 2, 3 and 4, to forthwith provide adequate armed police protection/Personal Security Officer (PSO) to the Petitioners to file nominations and move freely and conduct his election campaign for the Lingamguntla Sarpanch Elections till the completion of the election process

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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 may be pleased to direct the Respondents, particularly Respondent Nos. 2, 3 and 4, to forthwith provide adequate armed police protection/Personal Security Officer (PSO) to the Petitioners, to enable them file nominations, conduct their election campaign for the Lingamguntla Sarpanch Elections, with polling on 02-12-2026, without any threat, intimidation or obstruction, and pass such other orders as are necessary in the interests of justice.

Counsel for the Petitioner(S):

1. V SURYA KIRAN KUMAR

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR HOME

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

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ORDER:-

Heard Sri V Surya Kiran Kumar, learned counsel for the petitioners; the learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home appearing for respondent Nos.1 to 4; Sri N. Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the State Election Commission appearing for respondent No.5.

2**.** It is contended that the petitioners are intending to contest to the office of Sarpanch, Lingamguntla Gram Panchayat, which have been scheduled in the 3rd phase of the elections. In the said regard, the election notification issued on 19.11.2026, the petitioners are intending to submit their nominations. The petitioners contends that there is every perception that the political opponents would target him to prevent filing of nominations and as he was also an elected candidate to the office of Sarpanch. The opposite candidates are taking every possible steps to defeat the elections in fulfilling their endeavours they would cause any impediment to the petitioners in submitting the nomination forms. Thus, seeks protection from the alleged physical threat perceived by them. In the said regard, he contends that a representation has also been submitted to the 4th respondent.

4. When the matter has been taken up for consideration, the learned Standing Counsel appearing for respondent No.5, 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.*
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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. Considered the submissions.

6. having regard to the contentions advanced, this Court deems it appropriate to direct the 3rd respondent to issue necessary instructions to the 4th respondent-SHO, Chilakaluripeta Rural to provide police security to the

petitioners so as to enable them to submit their nomination forms which shall be between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm of the date chosen only.

8. Respondent No.4 shall make necessary arrangements forthwith to provide police protection to the petitioners on the date chosen by the petitioners, between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm, so as to enable them to submit the nomination papers smoothly. The said arrangement of protection 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.

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JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

Date: 20.11.2026
MVK

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 34027/2026

Date:20.11.2026

MVK