APHC010624002026

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: 34167/2026

Between:

1. P. MOHAMMAD MANSOOR,, S/O P. KALAM AGED ABOUT 29 YEARS, R/O MADURVILLAGE, CHAPADU MANDAL, YSR KADAPA DISTRICT-516484.
2. P. GURU DEVI,, W/O P. LAKSHMI REDDY, AGED ABOUT 51 YEARS, R/O AYYAVARI PALLI VILLAGE, CHAPADU MANDAL, YSR KADAPA DISTRICT-516356.
3. U. JAYA SUBBA REDDY,, S/O U. CHINNA SUBBI REDDY, AGED ABOUT 67 YEARS, R/O RAJUVARIPETA VILLAGE, CHAPADU MANDAL, YSR KADAPA DISTRICT-516355.
4. G. NIRIKSHANA,, W/O G. PREMAKUMAR, AGED ABOUT 43 YEARS, R/O ALLADUPALLI VILLAGE, CHAPADU MANDAL, YSR KADAPA DISTRICT-516356

...PETITIONER(S)

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT BUILDINGS, AMARAVATHI, GUNTUR DISTRICT- 522237.
2. THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, REP. BY ITS SECRETARY, 1ST FLOOR, NEW HODS BUILDING, OPP. INDIRA GANDHI MUNICIPAL STADIUM, M.G. ROAD, VIJAYAWADA, NTR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH- 520001.
3. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, ANDHRA PRADESH, POLICE HEADQUARTERS, MANGALAGIRI, GUNTUR DISTRICT,

ANDHRA PRADESH- 522503.

4. THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, KURNOOL RANGE, KURNOOL, KURNOOL DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH- 518001.

5. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, YSR KADAPA, KADAPA DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH- 516001.

6. THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, MYDUKUR SUB-DIVISION, MYDUKUR, YSRKADAPADISTRICT,ANDHRAPRADESH- 516390.

7. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, KADAPA, YSR KADAPA DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH- 516001.

...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 any appropriate Writ, Order or direction, more particularly in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus, declaring the inaction of the Respondents in considering the representation of the Petitioners dated 20-11-2026 as being arbitrary, illegal and unconstitutional and violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India, and consequently direct the Respondents to forthwith consider and take appropriate action on the representation of the Petitioners dated 20-11-2026 by providing protection to the petitioners at the time of filing of the nominations including their travel for the purpose of filing nominations in terms of the observations made by the Honble Supreme Court in SLP No. 37476 of 2026 dated 27.10.2026 in the elections to the Madur Gram panchat, Ayyavari palli. Gram panchayat, Rajuvaripeta Gram panchayat, and Alladupalli, Grama panchayat, situate in Chapadu Mandal, YSR Kadapa District wherein the petitioners are contesting

IA NO: 1 OF 2026

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 to forthwith consider and take appropriate action on the representation of the Petitioners dated 20 11-2026 by providing protection to the petitioners at the time of filing of the nominations including their travel for the purpose of filing nominations in terms of the observations made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP No.

37476 of 2026 dated 27.10.2026 in the elections to the Madur Gram panchat, Ayyavari palli, Gram panchayat, Rajuvaripeta Gram panchayat, and Alladupalli, Grama panchayat, situate in Chapadu Mandal, YSR Kadapa District wherein the petitioners are contesting, pending disposal of the above Writ Petition before this Hon'ble Court

Counsel for the Petitioner(S):

1. VARADAM SAI LIKHITH

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR HOME
2. GP FOR REVENUE

The Court made the following:

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 34167/2026

ORDER:

Heard Sri Varadam Sai Likhith, learned counsel for the petitioners; the learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home appearing for respondent Nos.3 to 6; Sri N. Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the State Election Commission appearing for respondent No.2.

2**.** Challenging the action of the respondents in not considering the petitioner's representation dated 20.11.2026 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/Ward Members 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 20.11.2026 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 appearing for respondent No.2, 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. When the matter has been taken up for consideration, the learned Government Pleader for Home appearing for respondents, has placed before the Court a copy of the instructions received in the case. The said instructions are taken on record. A perusal of the same reflects that it is submitted that the nominations process for III Phase Gram Panchayat elections is started from today i.e., on 21.11.2026 to 23.11.2026. As on today, it is difficult to provide protection to the petitioner to file her nominations. Hence, if the petitioner gives any representation in Chapadu Police Station, required protection will be provided to the petitioner on 22.11.2026 and 23.11.2026 at the time of the convenience of the petitioners.

6. Considered the submissions.

7. The petitioners are four (4) 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 respondent No.5, either through e-mail or physically, 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.

8. 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 10.00 am and 03.00 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 to the petitioners on the date chosen by the petitioners, between 10.00 am and 03.00 pm, so as to enable them to submit the nomination papers without hindrance. The said arrangement would apply only for the purpose of submission of nominations and for only one day.

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
MVK

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 34167/2026

Date:21.11.2026

MVK