APHC010624082026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI **[0]**
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

SATURDAY, THE 21st DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 34172/2026

Between:

1. ANAM VENKATAPPA REDDY, S/O ANAM, AGED ABOUT 55 YEARS, OCC. AGRICULTURIST, R/O PATHA AMBAPURAM VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

2. KUNDETI SAMBAIAH,, S/O KUNDETI VENKAIAH, AGED ABOUT 54 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O D.NO.4/114, BUDAVADA VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

3. RAMISHETTI SADASIVARAO,, S/O VENKATESWARLU, AGED ABOUT 35 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O D.NO.4-121/3, BUDAVADA VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

4. BATHULA YASODA,, W/O THIMMARAJU, AGED ABOUT 63 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O D.NO.5-151, CHERLAGUDIPADU VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

5. POTU MANGAMMA,, W/O SIVAIAH, AGED ABOUT 48 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O D.NO.4-237, CHERLAGUDIPADU VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

6. YADIA SALMAN,, S/O YADIA CHINNA GURAVAIAH, AGED ABOUT 47 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O H.NO.5-97, S.G. COLONY, NEAR SCHOOL, DAIDA VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESHR 522415.

7. PERUPOGU SANTOSHA RAO,, S/O KOTAIAH, AGED ABOUT 49 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O D.NO.5-38-B, S.C. COLONY, DAIDA VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

8. V KOMATI BALARDSAMMA,, W/6 RAMANARAD, AGED ABOUT 55 YEARS, OCC .AGRICULTURIST, R/O D.NO. 1-143, GANGAVARAM 'VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

9. BONDALAPATI PADMA,, W/O BRAHMESWARAO, AGED ABOUT 30 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O GANGAVARAM VILLAGE, GURAZALA. MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

10. CHEEMALADINNE AMARAIAAH,, S/O SUBBARAO. AGED ABOUT 47 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O D.NO.2-11, GOGULAPADU VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

11. MALLA VENKATA CHALAMAIAH,, S/O CHALAMAIAH, AGED ABOUT 45 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O GOGULAPADU VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415

12. CHALLA PRAVALLIKA,, W/O KONDAMEEDI SRINIVASARAD, AGED .ABOUT 30 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O D.NO.1-4L/A, KRISHNA NAGAR COLONY, GOTTIMUKKALA VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

13. KATA LAKSHMI,, W/O KOTIREDDY, AGED ABOUT 41 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O D.NO.2-273, KOTHA AMBAPURAM VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

14. VENNA ANASURYAMMA,, AGED ABOUT 60 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O KOTHA AMBAPURAM VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

15. SIDDARAPU NAGA PHANI,, S/O KRISHNA, AGED ABOUT 24 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O D.NO.4-237, MADUGULA VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA

PRADESH-522415.

16. SHAIK HUSSAIN, BI, W/O MASTHAN VALI, AGED ABOUT 60 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O D.NO. 1-196/1, PALLEGUNTA VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

17. MATURI SAIDAMMA,, W/O MARTYADASU, AGED ABOUT 43 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O D.NO.7-273, HARIJAWADA, PULIPADU VILLAGE GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

18. DASARI PEDA LAKSHMAIAH,, S/O VENGAIAH, AGED ABOUT 44 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST. R/O TELUKUTIA VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

19. CHALIA RAGHAVA REDDY,, S/O CHALLA, AGED ABOUT 30 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURIST, R/O TELUKUTIA VILLAGE, GURAZALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-522415.

...PETITIONER(S)

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 STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS SECRETARY, 1ST FLOOR, NEW HODS BUILDING, M.G. ROAD, VIJAYAWADA, NTR DISTRICT, A.P-520010.

3. THE DISTRICT COLLECTORAND DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, . PALNADU DISTRICT, NARASARAPPET, A.P-522601.

4. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, PALNADU DISTRICT, NARASARAOPET, A.P-522601.

5. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, GURAZALA POLICE STATION, GURAZALA PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P-522415.

...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 Writ of Mandamus, declaring the inaction of the Respondents in not considering the representation dated 20.11.2026 submitted by the Petitioners seeking police protection, as illegal, arbitrary and violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India, and consequently direct the Respondents to provide adequate police protection to the Petitioners to enable them to travel to and file their nominatiojis before the Stage-l Returning Officers at the'Head Quarters fixed under Proceeding Rc.No.Election/GP-2026/RO-l/1522/2026-D, dated 18.11.2026 of the Revenue Divisional Officer and Deputy District Election Authority, Gurazala Division, for the office of Sarpanch of their respective Gram Panchayats in Gurazala Mandal, Palnadu District, and to participate in the election process without any hindrance

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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 No.4 and 5 to provide adequate police protection to the Petitioners while travelling to and at the Head Quarters of the StageI Returning Officers at the time of filing their nominations for the office of Sarpanch of their respective Gram Panchayats in Gurazala Mandal, Palnadu District, pending disposal of the above Writ Petition

Counsel for the Petitioner(S):

1. RAMALAKSHMANA REDDY SANEPALLI

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: 34172/2026

ORDER:

Heard Sri Ramalakshmana Reddy Sanepalli, learned counsel for the petitioners; the learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home appearing for respondent Nos.1, 4 & 5; 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.*
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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. The petitioners are nineteen (19) 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.4, 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.

7. Having regard to the same, the petitioners are granted liberty to submit a fresh representation before respondent No.4, 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 02.00 pm of the date chosen only. Upon receipt of such representation, respondent No.4 shall forthwith issue necessary instructions to respondent No.5, the Station House Officer concerned, to make appropriate arrangements to provide protection.

8. Respondent No.5 shall make necessary arrangements forthwith to provide police protection to the petitioners on the date chosen by the petitioners, between 11.00 am and 02.00 pm, so as to enable them to submit the nomination papers without hindrance. The said arrangement would apply only for the purpose of the 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

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