APHC010624102026

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: 34174/2026

Between:

1. MUNNA LINGAIAH, S/O CHANDRAIAH, AGED ABOUT 45 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURALIST, R/O JETTIPALEM VILLAGE, RENTACHINTALA MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P-522421.
2. SANNEBOYINA RAJYALAKSHMI,, W/O VENKATESWARLU, AGED ABOUT 41 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURALIST, R/O CHINAGARLAPADU VILLAGE, KAREMPUDI MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P-522437.
3. BAIREDDY LAKSHMI RAMAYA,, W/O BASIVIREDDY, AGED ABOUT 33 YEARS, OCC HOUSE WIFE, R/O GADEVARIPALLE VILLAGE, KAREMPUDI MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.R-522614.
4. KORRAKUTI ANJANEYULU,, S/O VENKATESWARLU, AGED ABOUT 36 YEARS, OCC AGRICULTURALIST, R/O LNAPARAJUPALLE VILLAGE, KAREMPUDI MANDAL, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P-522614.

...PETITIONER(S)

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT, A.P. SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI, GUNTUR DISTRICT, A. P-522237.
2. THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER, 1ST FLOOR, NEW HODS BUILDING, OPP. INDIRA GANDHI MUNICIPAL STADIUM, M.G. ROAD, VIJAYAWADA, A.P-520010.

3. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER, PALNADU DISTRICT, NARASARAOPET, A.P-522601.
4. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, PALNADU DISTRICT, NARASARAOPET, A.P-522601.
5. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, RENTACHINTALA POLICE STATION, RENTACHINTALA, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P-522421.
6. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, KAREMPUDI POLICE STATION, KAREMPUDI, PALNADU DISTRICT, A.P-522614.

...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 Respondent Nos. 2 to 6 in not considering the representation of the Petitioners dated 20.11.2026 and in not providing police protection to the Petitioners to file their nominations for the office of Sarpanch of their respective Gram Panchayats in Rentachintala and Karempudi Mandals, Palnadu District, as illegal, arbitrary and violative of Articles 14, 21 and 243K of the Constitution of India, and consequently direct the Respondent Nos. 3 to 6 to provide adequate police protection to the Petitioners from their respective residences to the nomination centres and back on the day of filing their nominations between 21.11.2026 and 23.11.2026, and also during the stages of scrutiny and withdrawal of nominations on 24.11.2026 and up to 27.11.2026, and to ensure that the Petitioners are not obstructed, intimidated or threatened in any manner in the course 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 direct the Respondent Nos. 3 to 6 to provide adequate police protection to the Petitioners from their respective residences to the nomination centres and back on the day of filing their nominations between 21.11.2026 and 23.11.2026 for the office of Sarpanch of their respective Gram Panchayats in Rentachintala and Karempudi Mandals, Palnadu District, and also during the stages of scrutiny and withdrawal of nominations on 24.11.2026 and up to 27.11.2026, pending disposal of the above Writ Petition

Counsel for the Petitioner(S):

1. RAVULA JISHITHA REDDY

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR HOME
2. GP FOR REVENUE

The Court made the following:

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

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ORDER:

Heard Sri Ravula Jishitha Reddy, learned counsel for the petitioners; the learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home appearing for respondent Nos.1, 4, 5 & 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.*
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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 five (05) 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

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