APHC010625822026

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

TUESDAY, THE 24th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 34328/2026

Between:

1. POKURU SUJATHA, W/O.SUBHRAMANYARN, AGED ABOUT 52 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR SARPANCH, RIO. MANGAMPETA, AGRAHARAM, R.R.CENTER-2, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

2. DEVARA VENKATA SUBBAMMA, W/O.D.VENKATA SUBBAIAH, AGED ABOUT 48 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.1) RIO. MANGAMPETA, AGRAHARAM, R.R.CENTER-2, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

3. SEELAM SOBHA RANI, W/O.SALEEM RANI, AGED ABOUT 33. YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.2) R/O. NEW MANGAMPETA, R.R.CENTER-2, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

4. BATHALA THULASI, C/O. BATHALA HARI, AGED ABOUT 32 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.3) R/O. MANGAMPETA, AGRAHARAM, R.R.CENTER-2, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

5. ANDE SRAVYA, C/O. ANDE VENKATESU, AGED ABOUT 25 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.4) R/O. MANGAMPETA, AGRAHARAM, R.R.CENTER-2, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

6. BOGGULU BHULAKSHMI, W/O. MANDAKALLUD.VENKATA SUBBAIAH, AGED ABOUT 43 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.5) RIO.

MANGAMPETA, R.R.CENTER-6, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105

7. GONJIPALLI SUBBANARASIMHULU, S/O.G.VENKATA SUBBAIAH, AGED ABOUT 40 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.6) R/O. MANGAMPETA, R.R.CENTER-2, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

8. SHAIK MUNNI, W/O. RAFI SHAIK, AGED ABOUT 36 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.7) R/O. MANGAMPETA, AGRAHARAM, R.R.CENTER-2, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

9. KATIKA THRIVENI, W/O. KATIKA VIJAY KUMAR, AGED ABOUT 30 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.8) R/O. MANGAMPETA, R.R.CENTER-1, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

10. LAVALURI ESWARAMMA, W/O.LAVALURI OBAIAH, AGED ABOUT 65 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO. 9) RIO. NEW MANGAMPETA, R.R.CENTER-2, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

11. GUJJALA KALYAN KUMAR, S/O.GUJJALA RAMUDU, AGED ABOUT 35 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.10) R/O. MANGAMPETA, R.R.CENTER-1, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

12. CHALLA SRIKANTH, S/O.D.VENKATA SUBBAIAH, AGED ABOUT 29 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.11) R/O. MANGAMPETA, R.R.CENTER-2, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

13. KOWLURU AMARESHWAR REDDY, S/O. SUBRAMANYAM REDDY, AGED ABOUT 35 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.12) RIO. AYYAPU REDDY PALLI, MANGAMPETA, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

14. KOWLURU RAMANA REDDY, S/O. KRISHNA REDDY, AGED ABOUT 45 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.13) R/O. KAPPALLI, R.R.CENTER-2, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

15. SUREPALLI SIDDAIAH, S/O. GANAIAH, AGED ABOUT 43 YEARS, CONTESTING CANDIDATE FOR WARD MEMBER, (WARD NO.14) RIO. ARUNDANTHIWADA, MANGAMPETA, OBULAVARIPALLE MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516105.

...PETITIONER(S)

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, PANCHAYATHI RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI, GUNTUR DISTRICT-522237.
2. THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE ELECTION OFFICER, REP. BY IT'S SECRETARY, OFFICE AT 1ST FLOOR, NEW HODS BUILDING, M.G.ROAD, VIJAYAWADA - 520010.
3. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, TIRUPATI, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-517501.
4. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, TIRUPATI, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-517501.
5. THE CIRCLE INSPECTOR OF POLICE, RAILWAY KODUR POLICE STATION, RAILWAY KODUR MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516101
6. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, OBULAVARIPALLI POLICE STATION, OBULAVARIPALLI MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT-516108.
7. THE ELECTION OFFICER/RETURNING OFFICER, MPTC/ZPTC ELECTION-2026, MANGAMPETA GRAM PANCHAYAT, OBULAVARIPALLI MANDAL,TIRUPATI DISTRICT- 516105.
8. THE MANGAMPETA GRAM PANCHAYAT, REP. BY ITS PANCHAYT SECRETARY, MANGAMPETA VILLAGE, OBULAVARIPALLI MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT- 516105.

...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 to issue a Direction more particularly one in the nature of a Writ of

Mandamus declaring the high handed and illegal action of the Respondents No.6 and 7 police in summoning the petitioners, who are validly nominated candidates for the offices of Sarpanch, Ward Members and polling Agents of Mangampet Gram Panchayat, Obulavaripalli Mandal, Tirupati District, to the police station and pressuring and coercing them to make distance for elections under threat of false criminal cases, as illegal, arbitrary, mala fide, unconstitutional and violative of Articles 14, 21, 243-D and 243-K of the Constitution of India and the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, and consequently direct (a) Respondents 2 to 6 to immediately consider and act upon the by petitioners representation dated.19.11.2026 restraining the Respondents No.6 and 7 police from summoning the petitioners, their proposers or polling agents to the police station or threatening them to withdraw their nominations, (b) The respondents to provide adequate armed police protection and escort to the petitioners during their election campaign, on the day of poll scheduled on 26.11.2026 and until the declaration of results, and (c) The respondents to deploy Special Forces, armed police pickets, an independent Micro-Observer, and continuous videography and live webcasting inside and outside all 14 polling stations from the commencement of poll until the declaration of results, (d) 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 Respondents No.2 to 6 to forthwith consider the petitioners representation dated.19.11.2026 and pass such other order or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case. pending disposal of the above writ petition and to pass

Counsel for the Petitioner(S):

1. MAHESWARI ARIKA

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR PANCHAYAT RAJ RURAL DEV
2. SASANKA BHUVANAGIRI (SC FOR NON SERVICES ZPPS MPPS GP FOR RAYALASEEMA SPSR NELLORE PRAKASAM)
3. GP FOR HOME
4. GP FOR REVENUE

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 34328/2026

ORDER:-

Heard Ms. Maheswari Arika, learned counsel for the petitioners; learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home Sri N. Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the State Election Commission; and learned Assistant Government Pleader for Revenue, appearing for the respondents.

2. The instant Writ Petition is filed seeking the following relief:

> *"……to issue a Direction more particularly one in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus declaring the high handed and illegal action of the Respondents No.6 and 7 police in summoning the petitioners, who are validly nominated candidates for the offices of Sarpanch, Ward Members and polling Agents of Mangampet Gram Panchayat, Obulavaripalli Mandal, Tirupati District, to the police station and pressuring and coercing them to make distance for elections under threat of false criminal cases, as illegal, arbitrary, mala fide, unconstitutional and violative of Articles 14, 21, 243-D and 243-K of the Constitution of India and the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, and consequently direct*
>
> *(a) Respondents 2 to 6 to immediately consider and act upon the by petitioners representation dated.19.11.2026 restraining the Respondents No.6 and 7 police from summoning the petitioners, their proposers or polling agents to the police station or threatening them to withdraw their nominations,*
>
> *(b) The respondents to provide adequate armed police protection and escort to the petitioners during their election campaign, on the day of poll scheduled on 26.11.2026 and until the declaration of results, and*
>
> *(c) The respondents to deploy Special Forces, armed police pickets, an independent Micro-Observer, and continuous videography and live webcasting inside and*

outside all 14 polling stations from the commencement of poll until the declaration of results,

(d) And pass……."

3. Today, when the matter is taken up for consideration, learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home has placed before the Court a copy of the written instructions received from the Sub-Inspector of Police, Obulavaripalli Police Station, Tirupati. A perusal of the same reflects as follows:

"6. Police arrangements and preventive measures

Mangampeta Gram Panchayat has been identified as a hypersensitive village from the election security point of view. Accordingly, necessary preventive measures and adequate Police arrangements are being taken to ensure the conduct of peaceful and free elections.

On 22.11.2026, the Inspector of Police, Kodur Rural Circle, along with the undersigned, convened a meeting with contesting candidates and their representatives of Obulavaripalli Mandal to discuss election-related security arrangements and to maintain peace and public order. The petitioners did not attend the said meeting.

Necessary Police personnel will be deployed at the polling stations/booths of Mangampeta Gram Panchayat in accordance with the prescribed hypersensitive-village security procedure and instructions of the competent authorities.

7. Security to candidates and election arrangements

The assessment of individual threat perception and provision of security to candidates will be undertaken by the

competent Police authorities in coordination with the District Election Authority and the State Election Commission, wherever required.

Deployment of Special Forces, appointment of Micro-Observers, videography and webcasting at polling stations are matters falling within the jurisdiction of the State Election Commission and the District Election Authority. The Police department will extend full cooperation and implement the instructions issued by the competent authorities.

8. Police neutrality

The Obulavaripalli Police are discharging their duties in a fair, impartial and politically neutral manner. All contesting candidates are being treated equally, irrespective of their political affiliations. The sole objective of the Police is to maintain law and order and ensure peaceful conduct of the ensuing Gram Panchayat elections."

4. Sri N.Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the State Election Commission, has placed before the Court a copy of the Circular/instruction dated 01.11.2026 & 13.11.2026, issued by the State Election Commission. He submits that the said circular/instructions would also cover the grievance of the petitioner in the writ petition.

5. In light of the above, this Court is of the view that no further directions can be issued to the respondent authorities to provide personal protection in the said regard. However, the respondents are at liberty to make appropriate arrangements in accordance with the prevailing situations wherever necessary.

6. Needless to observe that in light of the Circular/instruction dated 01.11.2026 & 13.11.2026 issued by the SEC, the respondent authorities are directed to abide by the Circular/instruction dated 01.11.2026 & 13.11.2026.

7. With the above observations, the writ petition is disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs.

As a sequel, interlocutory applications pending, if any, shall stand closed.

JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

Date: 24.11.2026
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THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

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