APHC010625902026

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

WEDNESDAY, THE 25th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

WRIT PETITION NO: 34350/2026

Between:

1. PALLENNAGARI MADHUSUDANA REDDY, S/O. VENKATA RAMANAPPA, AGED ABOUT 48 YEARS, OCC BUSINESS RIO. D.NO.4-107, PALLENNAGARIPALLI VILLAGE, NAGASAMUDRANN GRAM PANCHAYAT, CHENNEKOTHAPALLI MANDAL, SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH- 515101.

...PETITIONER

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI, GUNTUR DISTRICT 522238.
2. THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, REP. BY ITS SECRETARY, 1ST FLOOR, NEW HODS BUILDING, M.G. ROAD, VIJAYAWADA - 520010.
3. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT, COLLECTORATE, PUTTAPARTHI, ANDHRA PRADESH 515134.
4. THE DISTRICT PANCHAYAT OFFICER, SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT, PUTTAPARTHI, A.P. - 515134.
5. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE DGP, A.P. POLICE STATE HEAD QUARTERS, MANGALAGIRI, GUNTUR DISTRICT 522503.

6. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT, PUTTAPARTHI, ANDHRA PRADESH 515134.

7. THE RETURNING OFFICER, NAGASAMUDRAM GRAM PANCHAYAT (SARPANCH) ELECTIONS, 2026, CHENNEKOTHAPALLI MANDAL, SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT,ANDHRA PRADESH -515101.

8. THE TAHSILDAR AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT ELECTION AUTHORITY, CHENNEKOTHAPALLI MANDAL, SRI SATHYA SAI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 515101.

...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 Writ, Order or Direction, particularly one in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus declaring that the inaction of the Respondents 2 to 8 herein in considering the Petitioner's representations dated 18.11.2026 for providing adequate safety measures, namely closing of the northern gate of the polling station at Z.P.H.S. School, Nagasamudram, facing the residence of a leader of the party presently in power, and regulating the entry and exit of the voters through the two eastern gates, or in the alternative making such other arrangement as will ensure that the voters are not required to pass through or in front of the said residence and to arrange for CCTV / webcasting / videography coverage of the polling and counting at the polling stations of Nagasamudram Gram Panchayat, Chennekothapalli Mandal, Sri Sathya Sai District, during the Gram Panchayat (Sarpanch) elections scheduled for 26.11.2026, as wholly arbitrary, illegal and contrary to the instructions issued by the 2nd Respondent for the Elections to Gram Panchayats - 2026 and provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, besides being violative of Articles 14, 19(1)(a), 21 of the Constitution of India, 1950 and consequently to direct the Respondents 2 to 8 to provide such arrangements and precautions, to preserve the recordings in safe custody by considering the Petitioner's representations dt.18.11.2026, 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 the Respondents 2 to 8 herein to forthwith close the

northern gate of the polling station at Z.P.H.S. School, Nagasamudram, and permit the entry and exit of the voters only through the two eastern gates, or in the alternative make such other arrangement as will ensure that the voters are not required to pass through or in front of the residence facing the northern gate of the polling station at Z.P.H.S. School, Nagasamudram and to install CCTV cameras and undertake live webcasting / videography at all polling stations of Nagasamudram Gram Panchayat, Chennekothapalli Mandal, Sri Sathya Sai District, A.P covering the entire poll proceedings on 26.11.2026 and the counting of votes thereafter and pass

Counsel for the Petitioner:

1. CKR ASSOCIATES

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR PANCHAYAT RAJ RURAL DEV
2. GP FOR HOME
3. GP FOR REVENUE

The Court made the following:

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

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ORDER:-

Heard Sri N. Sai Phanindra Kumar, learned counsel for the petitioner, learned Government Pleader for Home appearing for respondent Nos.5 & 6 and Sri N. Ashwani Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the State Election Commission appearing for the respondent No.2.

2. The grievance of the petitioner in the instant writ petition is against the action of the respondents in not considering the petitioner's representations dated 18.11.2026, seeking the provision of adequate measures, namely, closure of the gate on the northern side of the polling station at Z.P.H.S. School, Nagasamudram, facing the residence of a leader of the party presently in power, and regulation of the entry and exit of voters through the two eastern gates, or, in the alternative, making such other arrangements as would ensure that the voters are not required to pass through or in front of the said residence, and arranging for CCTV/webcasting/videography coverage of the polling and counting at the polling stations of Nagasamudram Gram Panchayat, Chennekothapalli Mandal, Sri Sathya Sai District, during the Gram Panchayat (Sarpanch) elections scheduled for 26.11.2026.

3. The petitioner submits that there are two other gates opening on the eastern side of the polling centre. In the light of the same, he contends

that the opening of a gate directly opposite the residence of the leader of the ruling party is likely to cause prejudice to the other contesting candidates. Therefore seeks appropriate directions for closure of the said gate on the polling date, or in the alternative, seeks suitable measures to conceal or screen the residence of the said political leader to prevent undue advantage to the said political leader

4. Having regard to the same, the election authorities are directed to make necessary arrangements forthwith to ensure that the subject gate on the northern side is closed. If the same is not feasible, the election authorities shall make suitable arrangements for camouflaging or screening the building of the said political leader, on the northern side of the polling centre, and the respondents are further directed to abide by the Circular instructions of State Election Commission dated 31.10.2026, 01.11.2026 and 13.11.2026 with reference to CCTV/Videography etc.

5. With the above direction, 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: 25.11.2026
MVK

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE KIRANMAYEE MANDAVA

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MVK