

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL)..... Diary No(s). 22538/2026

NALLA SURESH REDDY

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 154715/2026 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN REFILEING/CURING THE DEFECTS

Date : 27-05-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLIFor Petitioner(s) :Mr. Amit Rawal, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Devadatt Kamat, Sr. Adv.
Dr. P George Giri, Adv.
Dr. Jasmin Kurian Giri, Adv.
Mr. Harsh Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Hruday Bajentri, Adv.
Mr. Vikram Singh Arya, Adv.
Ms. Swati, Adv.
Mr. Prince Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Nikhil Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Ankita Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Rajendra Pal Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Piyush Sharma, Adv.
Mr. K Sree Krishna, Adv.
Ms. Barnali Basak, Adv.
Mr. Satish Kumar, AOR

For Respondent(s) :

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. Delay condoned.
2. The instant writ petition, under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, has been filed purportedly in public interest. The petitioner claims himself to be a Businessman & Philanthropist, though no such details have been provided in the

writ petition.

3. Be that as it may, the prayer in the instant petition revolves around the systemic enhancement of electoral transparency by mandating the time-stamping of votes on Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips. The petitioner contends that while Rule 49M of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, specifically mandates that VVPAT slips display the candidate's serial number, name and symbol, it notably omits the exact time of the votes recorded. This omission, according to the petitioner, creates a significant audit gap.

4. The petitioner has, thus, argued that while addressing timing-based complaints, such as late hour voting surges, turnout revisions or booth-level discrepancies, the physical paper trail itself remains silent on the exact time at which the vote was cast, rendering its evidentiary value weak. The petitioner has also cited, on an illustrative basis, certain instances where large-scale last-minute voter turnout occurred in some of the States in the previous elections.

5. It is in this backdrop that the petitioner has sought a direction to the Election Commission of India to suitably modify the existing VVPAT-related guidelines, manuals, instructions and Standard Operating Procedure by mandatorily incorporating a provision for printing the exact time of recording of each vote on the corresponding VVPAT slip. The petitioner also seeks a direction that the exact time-stamping on VVPAT be implemented in a manner that preserves complete secrecy of voting and shall not include the voter's name, EPIC number, electoral roll number, form 17A serial

number or any other identifying particulars of the voter. The petitioner then seeks another direction to ensure that all VVPAT slips, including time-stamped VVPAT slips once implemented, are preserved for a minimum period prescribed under Rule 94 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 and beyond such period where any complaint, request for modification, election petition or any other court proceedings have been initiated.

6. Having heard the learned Senior Counsel for the petitioner, it seems that the issue raised by the petitioner is in furtherance of the fairness and transparency of the election process. However, whether the prayers made by the petitioner are feasible or not is essentially a technical or policy issue that falls within the domain of the Election Commission of India.

7. Consequently, we dispose of this petition, without expressing any opinion at this stage, with a direction to the Registry to forward a copy of the entire paper-book to the Election Commission of India, which shall be treated as a representation on behalf of the petitioner and the same may be considered in accordance with law.

8. All pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR