



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 30TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C.M. POONACHA

CIVIL CONTEMPT PETITION NO. 1066 OF 2025

BETWEEN:

1. MUNIRAJU S
SON OF SEERAPPA
AGED ABOUT 67 YEARS
RESIDING AT MANDIBELE VILLAGE
VIJAYAPURA HOBLI DEVANAHALLI TALUK
BENGALURU - 562 135

...COMPLAINANT

(BY SRI ABHINAY Y.T., ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. N NAGARAJU
AGED ABOUT 42 YEARS
WORKING AS RANGE FOREST OFFICER
(DEVANAHALLI RANGE)
SAVUKANAHALLI GATE
DEVANAHALLI - DODDABALLAPURA ROAD
BANGALORE 561 203

.....ACCUSED

2. STATE OF KARNATAKA
REPRESENTED BY
PRL. SECRETARY, FOREST DEPARTMENT
BENGALURU 560 001

...PRO FORMA RESPONDENT

(BY SRI S.H. RAGHAVENDRA, AGA)



THIS CCC IS FILED UNDER SECTION 11 AND 12 OF CONTEMPT OF COURTS ACT, 1971, PRAYING TO PUNISH THE NECESSARY ACCUSED FOR THE WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCE OF THE INTERIM ORDER DATED 29.04.2025 PASSED IN W.P.NO.10945/2025 BY THIS HONBLE COURT.

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR ORDERS, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE
and
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C.M. POONACHA

ORAL ORDER

(PER: HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE)

1. The complainant has filed the present complaint alleging wilful disobedience of the interim order dated 29.04.2025 passed by the learned Single Judge of this Court in W.P.No.10945/2025 (GM-FOR).

2. Plain reading of the said order indicates that the Court had directed *status quo* in respect of the subject property, as obtaining on the said date.



3. The complainant alleges that the said order has been violated and the officials of the accused have entered the subject land and carried out certain activities. Photographs have been produced which are annexed as Annexure-B1 to B6 which indicates the number of forest officials on the said land.

4. The accused have filed an affidavit stating that they have not violated the *status quo* order. The accused have also annexed the photographs which reflect that proceedings were conducted on the spot on 21.02.2025. Therefore, the said photographs do suggest that the forest officials had taken over possession of the subject land. The said photographs also show that the land in question is barren. The photographs as produced by the accused are not disputed.

5. The complainant has filed the rejoinder stating that the photographs in question as produced by the accused were taken on 21.02.2025 and they are also in conformity with the photographs taken by the complainant. The complainant alleges that the forest officials have planted saplings on the subject land after the order of *status quo* was passed.



6. The accused have made counter allegations to the effect that the complainant is attempting to take over possession of the land and have also produced photographs showing the complainant removing certain saplings. The complainant has also attempted to plant trees on the subject land.

7. It does appear from the record that the accused has taken over possession of the subject land and therefore, we are unable to accept that *status quo* order as to the possession and title of the property has been disturbed by the accused.

8. In view of the above, the complaint is accordingly closed.

**Sd/-
(VIBHU BAKHRU)
CHIEF JUSTICE**

**Sd/-
(C.M. POONACHA)
JUDGE**

KPS