APHC010332722026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI

Bench Sr.No:-41 [3584]

WP(PIL) NO: 157 of 2026

Pappala Venkata Ganesh ...Petitioner

Vs.

The State of Andhra Pradesh and others ...Respondents

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CORAM : THE CHIEF JUSTICE LISA GILL
SRI JUSTICE CHALLA GUNARANJAN

DATE : 11th November 2026

Present :

Advocate for Petitioner : Mr. Mangena Sree Rama Rao

Advocates for Respondents : Learned Government Pleader for Home,

Learned Government Pleader for Revenue,

Learned Government Pleader for Forests.

LISA GILL, CJ.

Prayer in this writ petition reads as under:-

> ***"pleased to issue a writ order or a direction more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus declaring the action of the respondents in not taking any action for cutting and taking of the age old trees in the vicinity and premises of the Mandal Parishad Primary (M.P.P) School in Pothanapudi Agraharam, Madugula Mandal, Anakapalli District without obtaining any proper permission from the authorities under relevant provisions of law and also not taking preventive measures for cutting and taking of the forest trees in the adjacent to forest area in and around Madugula Mandal as illegal, irregular, arbitrary and violation of the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Water Land And Trees Act - 2002 (APWALTA – 2002), the Andhra Pradesh Forest Act, 1967 and rules framed there under and also offends Articles 14, 21 and 51A(g) of Constitution of India and consequently direct the***

respondents to take appropriate action by conducting due enquiry over the illegal cutting and taking away of the trees in the premises of the Mandal Parishad Primary (M.P.P) School in Pothanapudi Agraharam, Madugula Mandal, Anakapalli District and pass such other order or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit proper in the circumstances of the case".

2. Learned counsel for petitioner refers to counter-affidavit filed by respondent No.6, wherein it is stated that, as per report of District Forest Officer (DFO), dated 25.03.2026, it has emerged that trees in question were indeed felled unauthorizedly, without obtaining requisite permission and in violation of provisions of Andhra Pradesh Water, Land and Trees Act, 2002 (for short, "APWALTA Act, 2002").

3. It is further stated that Mandal-Level WALTA committee, headed by Tahsildar, has identified suspected persons responsible for unauthorized felling of trees and necessary action under provisions of APWALTA Act, 2002 and Rules, for levy and recovery of prescribed penalty and other amounts, as applicable shall be taken. It is further informed that Cr.No.74/2026 U/s 329(3), 303(2) R/w 3(5) BNS. Sec 3 of PDPP Act 1984, & sec 35(3) of AP Water, Land and Trees Act 2002, has been registered and matter is under investigation.

4. Learned counsel for petitioner fairly submits that, in view of action taken by respondents, present proceedings may be closed, however, with a direction to respondents to ensure that proceedings initiated are taken to their logical conclusion.

5. Learned counsel for respondents submits that matter shall be pursued in all earnestness by authorities. It is also stated that necessary plantation for the said trees shall also be carried out.

6. Proceedings are accordingly closed. No costs.

Consequently, connected miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand disposed of.

LISA GILL, CJ

Date: 11.11.2026 **CHALLA GUNARANJAN, J**

Mrv

Whether the order is Speaking/Reasoned : Yes
Whether the order is Reportable : No

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HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE LISA GILL, CHIEF JUSTICE
&
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE CHALLA GUNARANJAN

W.P(PIL).No.157 of 2026

Dt: 11.11.2026

Mrv