APHC010596902024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI **[3396]**
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

WEDNESDAY, THE 4th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA

WRIT PETITION NO: 31186/2024

Between:

1. MADATHALA VENKATESWARA REDDY, S/O. NARAYANA REDDY, AGED ABOUT 47 YEARS, OCC BUSINESS, R/O. DOOR NO.7-14, MITTAMEDA PALLI, SIRIGIDIPADU GUNTUR DISTRICT.

...PETITIONER

AND

1. THE STATE OF AP, REP., BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, FOREST DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT BUILDING, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI.
2. THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, GUNTUR, GUNTUR DISTRICT.
3. THE FOREST RANGE OFFICER, MACHERLA, GUNTUR DISTRICT.
4. THE FOREST SECTION OFFICER, MACHERLA SECTION, MACHERLA, GUNTUR DISTRICT.
5. THE FOREST BEAT OFFICER, MACHERLA, GUNTUR DISTRICT. R5 IS SUO-MOTO IMPLEADED AS PER ORDER OF THE COURT DATED 01.05.2025.

...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 topleased to issue an appropriate Writ, Order or direction one in the nature of Writ of Certiorari declaring seizure of the Trolley Vehicle No.AP-07-8766 and Proclain Vehicle (Chain, JCB) with Engine/Chassis No.95471157-PUNJD 15 AAR 3435322 in connection with the Crime in DOR No.02/2020-2021, dated 26.04.2020 by the respondents No.2 to 4 and keeping them in

their illegal custody as arbitrary, illegal, contrary to the provisions of AP Forest Act, 1967 and the well-established the legal principles apart from being violative of the fundamental rights guaranteed to the petitioner under Articles 14,19 and 21 of the Constitution of India and consequently quash the proceedings in Crime in DOR No.02/2020-2021 and pass

IA NO: 1 OF 2024

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 No.2 to 4 to handed over the interim custody of the Trolley Vehicle No.AP-07-8766 and Proclain Vehicle (Chain, JCB) with Engine/Chassis No.95471157- PUNJD 15 AAR 3435322, pending disposal of the above Writ Petition and pass

IA NO: 1 OF 2025

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 restore the WP No. 31186 of 2024 to its file by setting aside the order of dismissal for non-prosecution, dated 29.01.2025 and pass

IA NO: 2 OF 2025

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 may be pleased to grant leave to the petitioner herein / Respondent No.3 in the WP No.31186 of 2024 to file counter affidavit and pass

Counsel for the Petitioner:

1. V R REDDY KOVVURI

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR FORESTS

The Court made the following Order:

Heard Sri. N. Rupesh Kumar Reddy, learned Counsel appearing for the petitioner and Ms. Kothaveera Naga Pallavi, the learned Assistant Government Pleader for Forest appearing for the respondents.

2. The present Writ Petition is filed seeking a direction to the respondent authorities for release of the JCB vehicle which was seized by the Forest Authorities.

3. The learned Counsel for the petitioner would submit that by virtue of the order passed by the Coordinate Bench of this Court, the subject vehicle has already been released. He, therefore, submits that the Writ Petition may be disposed of by confirming the custody of the vehicle with the petitioner pending disposal of the crime.

4. The Learned Assistant Government Pleader for Forest submits that this Court may pass appropriate orders in terms of the orders passed by this Court. He further submits that the vehicle has been released within one week.

5. Considering the submissions made, the Writ Petition is disposed of, confirming the interim custody of the subject vehicle with the petitioner pending disposal of the crime. It is made clear that the petitioner is at liberty to work out his remedies regarding the crime registered by the Forest authorities, in accordance with law. There shall be no order as to costs.

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DR. VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA,J

04.11.2026
RJS/SZT

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA

WRIT PETITION NO: 31186/2024

Dt: 04.11.2026

RJS/SZT