HC-KAR

NC: 2026:KHC:62531-DB
WP No. 7719 of 2021

CNR: KAHC010164602021

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE K.S. HEMALEKHA

WRIT PETITION NO.7719 OF 2021 (GM-FOR)

BETWEEN:

A.G. YOGENDRA
S/O GOVINDA ACHAR,
RETIRED FORESTER,
AGED ABOUT 70 YEARS,
MIG 314, KHB COLONY,
VINOBNAGAR, SHIVAMOGGA-577204.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI. VEERENDRA R. PATIL, ADVOCATE)

AND:

Digitally signed by
MAHALAKSHMI B M
Location: High Court
of Karnataka

1. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
   MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FOREST,
   REGIONAL OFFICE (SOUTHERN ZONE)
   KENDRIYA SADAN, IV FLOOR,
   E & F WINGS, 17TH MAIN ROAD,
   2ND BLOCK, KORAMANGALA,
   BANGALORE-560034.

2. THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE
   GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
   VIDANA SOUDHA,
   BANGALORE-560001.

3. ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
   FOREST ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT,

ROOM NO.448, 4TH FLOOR,
GATE NO.2, M.S. BUILDING,
BANGALORE-560001.

4. THE REGISTRAR
KARNATAKA LOKAYUKTA,
M.S. BUILDING,
BANGALORE-560001.

5. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
OF SHIMOGA DISTRICT,
SHIVAMOGGA -577201.

6. DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
SAGAR DIVISION,
SAGAR TALUK,
SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT-577401.

7. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE,
PRUTHVI MANSION,
100 FEET ROAD,
VINOB NAGAR,
SHIVAMOGGA -577201.

8. MANJAPPA GOWDA
S/O RUDRAPPA GOWDA,
AGED ABOUT 68 YEARS,
80, MALANDUR VILLAGE,
ANANDPURA POST,
SAGAR TALUK,
SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT-577412.

9. MEENAKSHMMA
W/O MANJAPPA GOWDA,
AGED ABOUT 65 YEARS,
80, MALANDUR VILLAGE,
ANANDAPURA POST,
SAGAR TALUK,
SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT-577412.

10. GANAPATHI
S/O MANJAPPA GOWDA,
AGED ABOUT 40 YEARS,

80, MALANDUR VILLAGE,
ANANDPURA POST, SAGAR TALUK,
SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT-577412.

11. SHANMUKH .R.M
S/O MANJAPPA GOWDA,
AGED ABOUT 41 YEARS,
80, MALANDUR VILLAGE,
ANANDAPURA POST,
SAGAR TALUK,
SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT-577412.

…RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI. SHIVAKUMAR, CGC, FOR R-1;
SMT. NILOUFER AKBAR, AGA FOR R-2, R-3 & R-5 TO R-7;
SRI. VENKATESH ARBATTI, ADVOCATE FOR R-4;
SRI. P.P. HEGDE, SENIOR ADVOCATE FOR
SRI. VENKATESH SOMAREDDI, ADVOCATE FOR R-11;
SMT. SUKRUTA R., ADVOCATE FOR R-8 & R-9;
SRI. RAHUL SHETTIGAR, ADVOCATE FOR R-10)

THIS WRIT PETITION IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 AND 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA PRAYING TO A WRIT IN THE NATURE OF CERTIORARI QUASHING THE IMPUGNED ORDER DATED 20.10.2015 PASSED BY THE RESPONDENT NOS.5 TO 7 IN THE DISTRICT LEVEL COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF RESPONDENT NOS.8 TO 11 (SL.NO.574 TO 575 & 571 TO 572) WHICH IS PRODUCED AS ANNEXURE-M AND ETC.

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 MRS. JUSTICE K.S. HEMALEKHA

CNR: KAHC010164602021

ORAL ORDER

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

1. The petitioner has filed the present petition as a Public Interest Litigation [**PIL**], impugning the order dated 20.10.2015 [**the impugned order**] passed by the District Level Committee recognizing certain lands under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 [**the Act**]. The petitioner also seeks direction for implementation of the Upalokayuktha report under Section 12(1) of the Karnataka Lokayuktha Act, 1989 dated 28.02.2018 .

2. The petitioner claims that effectively the lands have been granted in violation of the various statutes.

3. We note that the questions involved in the present PIL are also subject matter of other proceedings. The order recognizing the rights under the said Act has since been revoked. The concerned respondents had filed writ petitions, which were allowed by the learned Single Judge. The said order has been impugned by the State in four appeals [W.A.Nos.1443/2026, 1398/2026, 1406/2026 and 1457/2026].

4. In view of the above, prayer sought in the present petition, insofar as it relates to the order dated 20.10.2015, would not survive. Insofar as the Upalokayuktha's report dated 28.02.2018 is concerned, the same is also the subject matter of the writ petitions filed by the concerned respondents.

5. In view of the above, the present writ petition is disposed of.

6. Pending interlocutory applications stand disposed of.

Sd/-
(VIBHU BAKHRU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

Sd/-
(K.S. HEMALEKHA)
JUDGE

AT
List No.: 2 Sl No.: 20.4