

**HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI**

**MAIN CASE No.: W.P.Nos.8694, 2357 and 3596 of 2026 and  
29747 of 2025**

**PROCEEDING SHEET**

| Sl.<br>No | DATE       | ORDER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | OFFICE<br>NOTE |
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| 01.       | 02.04.2026 | <p><b><u>DR, J</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>I.A.Nos.4 and 5 of 2026</u></b><br/>in<br/><b><u>W.P.No.2357 of 2026</u></b></p> <p>I.A.No.4 of 2026 is filed seeking to implead the proposed respondents as respondent Nos.6 and 7 in the main writ petition.</p> <p>I.A.No.5 of 2026 is filed seeking to implead the proposed respondent as respondent No.8 in the main writ petition.</p> <p>For the reasons stated in the affidavits filed in support of the applications, both the implead applications are allowed.</p> <p>Registry is directed to amend the cause title accordingly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>I.A.Nos.3 and 4 of 2026</u></b><br/>in<br/><b><u>W.P.No.3596 of 2026</u></b></p> <p>I.A.No.3 of 2026 is filed seeking to implead the proposed respondents as respondent Nos.6 and 7 in the main writ petition.</p> <p>I.A.No.4 of 2026 is filed seeking to implead the proposed respondent as respondent No.8 in the main writ petition.</p> <p>For the reasons stated in the affidavits</p> | (contd..)      |

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|  | <p>filed in support of the applications, both the implead applications are allowed.</p> <p>Registry is directed to amend the cause title accordingly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>I.A.No.2 of 2025</u></b><br/><b>in</b><br/><b><u>W.P.No.29747 of 2025</u></b></p> <p>This application is filed seeking to implead the proposed respondents as respondent Nos.6 and 7 in the main writ petition.</p> <p>For the reasons stated in the affidavit filed in support of the application, the implead application is allowed.</p> <p>Registry is directed to amend the cause title accordingly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>I.A.No.1 of 2026</u></b><br/><b>in</b><br/><b><u>W.P.No.29747 of 2025</u></b></p> <p>Amendment application is allowed.</p> <p>Registry is directed to carry out the amendment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>W.P.Nos.8694, 2357 and 3596 of 2026 and 29747 of 2025</u></b></p> <p>The writ petitions are filed assailing the communication of the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent dated 16.09.2025, wherein the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent in concurrence with the recommendations made by the selection committee on 18.08.2025 directed respondent Nos.3 to 5 to review and send a fresh selection committee list for the years 2020 to 2023.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sri Gudapati Venkateswara Rao,<br/>Sri N.Subba Rao, learned Senior Counsels and</p> | (contd..) |
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|  | <p>Sri P.V.Ramana, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioners submitted that the impugned communication is contrary to the regulations. The 1<sup>st</sup> respondent has no power to return the entire panel. They have also relied on the judgment passed by the Hon'ble Apex Court in <b><i>P.Maruthi Prasada Rao v. The State of Andhra Pradesh</i></b> (2025 INSC 1019), more particularly paragraph No.21, wherein it was held that Forest Range Officers are also eligible for empanelment and only direction given for filling up vacancies in the IFOS was to initiate the process afresh. But, surprisingly, the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent in the impugned communication has not considered the selection committee panel which was already sent on 18.08.2025. If at all as directed by the Hon'ble Apex Court, if any fresh panels are prepared, the State should also consider claims of the Forest Range Officers. Hence, the impugned communication is contrary to the directions issued by the Hon'ble Apex Court and also to Regulation 10 of the Indian Forest Service (Appointment by Promotion) Regulations, 1966.</p> <p><i>Per contra</i>, learned counsels appearing on behalf of impleaded respondent Nos.6 to 8 submitted that impleaded respondent Nos.6 to 8 have been contesting the matter since 2013. However, their claims were negated by the Tribunal in the earlier litigation. But, by virtue of the interim orders granted by the Hon'ble Apex Court, they are entitled for inclusion of their posts</p> | (contd..) |
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|  |  | <p>from 2020 panel onwards. Further, they have also raised an objection with regard to the maintainability of the writ petitions. It is contended that if the petitioners have any grievance, they ought to have approached the Central Administrative Tribunal and they are not entitled to file the writ petitions straightaway in the High Court, which is contrary to the principles laid down in <b><i>L.Chandra Kumar v. Union of India</i></b> ((1997) 3 SCC 261).</p> <p>Sri T.Niranjan, learned Central Government Standing Counsel for Union of India appearing for the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent, requested time to file counter.</p> <p>Learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that by virtue of the impugned communication, now the State is preparing fresh panels.</p> <p>Considering the said submissions and as the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent has not yet filed any counter, there shall be a direction to the respondents to maintain <i>status quo</i> for a period of four (4) weeks.</p> <p>List the matters after three (3) weeks for filing counter.</p> <div style="text-align: right;"> <hr/> <b>DR, J</b> </div> <p>lvd</p> |  |
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