



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI
(SPECIAL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)**

FRIDAY, THE 17th DAY OF JULY, 2026

:PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE Dr. JUSTICE VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA

WRIT PETITION NO: 16820 OF 2026

Between:

M/s Panyam Cements and Mineral Industries Limited, Having its registered Office at Cement Nagar Post, Bethamcherla Mandal, Nandyal District, AP - 518206 Represented by its Authorised Signatory Sri Chenna Reddy Sesha Reddy.

Petitioner

AND

1. The Union of India, Represented by its Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF and CC), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road Aliganj, New Delhi - 110 003.
2. The State of Andhra Pradesh, Represented by its Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce (Mines.III) Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati, Guntur District Andhra Pradesh-522238.
3. The State of Andhra Pradesh, Represented by its Principal Secretary, Environment, Forests, Science and Technology Department Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati-522238.
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, Vijayawada-520001, Andhra Pradesh.
5. The Conservator of Forests, Kurnool Circle, Kurnool-518001, Andhra Pradesh.

6. The Divisional Forest Officer, Nandyal Division, Nandyal District Andhra Pradesh-518501.
7. The Forest Range Officer (FAC), Panyam Range, Panyam, Nandyal District, Andhra Pradesh-518501.
8. The District Forest Officer, Kurnool (T) Division, Kurnool-518001
9. The Director of Mines and Geology, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada, NTR District, Andhra Pradesh-521456
10. The District Mines and Geology officer, Nandyal District-518501
11. The Assistant Director of Mines and Geology, Banganapalle, Kurnool District-518214.
12. The District Forest Officer, Nandyal Division, Nandyal District, Andhra Pradesh 518501.

(R12 impleaded as per Court's Order Dt. 02.07.2026 passed in I. A. No. 04 of 2026)

Respondent

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, is filed praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith, the High Court may be pleased to issue a writ, order or direction more particularly one in the nature of the Writ of Mandamus declaring (A) the action of the Respondent No.1 in not processing and disposing the Petitioner's application vide PARIVESH Proposal No. FP/AP/MIN/QRY/462712/2024 dated 14.02.2024 for the prior approval / forest clearance under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in respect of the 294.02 Acres of the Kugganipale beat and Konidedu beat in the Panyam Reserve Forest and (B) the action of the Respondents No. 6 to 8 herein in preventing and obstructing the Petitioner company to access, use, operate and maintain the existing infrastructure facilities situated in the 86.40 Acres in the Bugganipalli Beat of

the Panyam Reserve Forest, pending and subject to the final forest clearance purportedly pursuant to the Show Cause Notice Rc. No.91/2023-24/FRO(P) dated 09.03.2026 issued by the Respondent No.7 herein without considering the Petitioner's reply dated 23.03.2026 C) Further the Show Cause Notice(s) vide Notice Rc.No.4451/1996/S5, dated 11.05.2026, Rc.No.4451/1996/S5, dated 03.06.2026, Notice Rc.No.4451/1996/S5, dated 18.06.2026 and Notice Rc.No.4451/1996/S5(1), dated 18.06.2026 issued by the District Forest Officer, Nandyal as sheer arbitrary, unjust, irrational, without jurisdiction and contrary to the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 besides being violative of Articles 14, 19(1)g of the Constitution of India and consequently direct (i) the Respondent No.1 herein to forthwith process and dispose Petitioner's application vide PARIVESH Proposal No. FP/AP/MIN/QRY/462712/2024 dated 14.02.2024 within the time period, as this Honble Court may fix in the interests of justice (ii) direct the Respondents herein to permit the Petitioner company to access, use, operate and maintain the existing infrastructure facilities situated in the 86.40 Acres in the Bugganipalli Beat of the Panyam Reserve Forest and (iii) set aside the Show Cause Notice Rc. No.91/2023-24/FRO(P) dated 09.03.2026 issued by the Respondent No.7 herein and the Show Cause Notice(s) vide Notice Rc. No.4451/1996/S5, dated 11.05.2026, Rc.No.4451/1996/S5, dated 03.06.2026, Notice Rc.No.4451/1996/S5, dated 18.06.2026 and Notice Rc.No.4451/1996/S5(1), dated 18.06.2026 issued by the District Forest Officer, Nandyal;

(Prayer amended as per Court's Order Dt. 02.07.2026 passed in I.A.No.5 of 2026)

IA NO: 1 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC., is filed praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to direct the Respondent No.1 herein to forthwith process and dispose Petitioner's application vide PARIVESH Proposal No.

FP/AP/MIN/QRY/462712/2024 dated 14.02.2024 within the time period, as this Hon'ble Court may fix in the interests of justice;

IA NO: 2 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC., is filed praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to direct the Respondents No. 3 to 8 herein not to take any coercive steps against the Petitioner herein pursuant to the Show Cause Notice Rc.No.91/2023-24/FRO(P) dated 09.03.2026 issued by the Respondent No.7;

IA NO: 3 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC., is filed praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to direct the Respondents to permit the Petitioner to access, operate, maintain and secure the infrastructure facilities situated in the 86.40 Acres of the Bugganipalli Beat notwithstanding the pendency of the Petitioner's PARIVESH Proposal No. F P/AP/MIN/QRY/462712/2024 dated 14.02.2024 and the Show Cause Notice dated 09.03.2026;

IA NO: 6 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC., is filed praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to STAY all further proceedings pursuant to the Show Cause Notice(s) vide Notice Rc.No.4451/19966/S5, dated 11.05.2026, Rc.No. 4451/1996/S5, dated 03.06.2026, Notice Rc.No. 4451 /1996 /S5, dated 18.06.2026 and Notice Rc.No. 4451/1996/S5(I), dated 18.06.2026 issued by the District Forest Officer, Nandyal;

The petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Petition and the affidavit filed in support thereof and upon hearing the arguments of M/s. CKR ASSOCIATES Advocate for the Petitioner and of Sri. JUPUDI V K YAGNADUTT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COUNSEL), Advocate for the Respondent No.1 and of GP FOR MINES & INDUSTRIES, for the Respondent Nos.2 & 9 to 11 and of GP FOR ENVIRONMENT for the Respondent Nos.3 to 8;

The Court made the following ORDER:

Heard Sri O. Manohar Reddy Reddy, learned senior counsel representing the learned counsel for the petitioner and Sri S. Rayalu, learned Government Pleader for Forests and the Divisional Forest Officer, Nandyal, appeared through Video Conference.

Having heard the submission on both sides, it is apposite to direct the petitioner to take necessary steps forthwith for conducting DGPS survey and complete all formalities. Respondents 4 to 8 and 12 are also directed to cooperate and do the needful to complete the process within a period of thirty (30) days to enable the authorities for onward submission of the application to the Government of India for consideration.

List the matter on 14.08.2026.

SD/- N.SRINIVASA RAO
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//


SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF and CC), The Union of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road Aliganj, New Delhi - 110 003.
2. The Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce (Mines.III) Department, The State of Andhra Pradesh, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati, Guntur District Andhra Pradesh-522238.

3. The Principal Secretary, Environment, Forests, Science and Technology Department, The State of Andhra Pradesh, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati-522238. (2 & 3 by SPECIAL MESSENGER)
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, Vijayawada-520001, Andhra Pradesh.
5. The Conservator of Forests, Kurnool Circle, Kurnool-518001, Andhra Pradesh.
6. The Divisional Forest Officer, Nandyal Division, Nandyal District Andhra Pradesh-518501.
7. The Forest Range Officer (FAC), Panyam Range, Panyam, Nandyal District, Andhra Pradesh-518501.
8. The District Forest Officer, Kurnool (T) Division, Kurnool-518001
9. The Director of Mines and Geology, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada, NTR District, Andhra Pradesh-521456
10. The District Mines and Geology officer, Nandyal District-518501
11. The Assistant Director of Mines and Geology, Banganapalle, Kurnool District-518214.
12. The District Forest Officer, Nandyal Division, Nandyal District, Andhra Pradesh 518501. **(Addressee Nos. 1, 4 to 12 by SPEED POST)**
13. One CC to M/s. CKR ASSOCIATES, Advocate [OPUC]
14. One CC to Sri. JUPUDI V K YAGNADUTT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COUNSEL), Advocate [OPUC]
15. Two CCs to GP FOR GP FOR MINES & INDUSTRIES, High Court of Andhra Pradesh [OUT]
16. Two CCs to GP FOR GP FOR ENVIRONMENT, High Court of Andhra Pradesh [OUT]
17. One spare copy

JSS

HIGH COURT

Dr.VJP, J

DATED:17/07/2026

LIST THE MATTER ON 14.08.2026.



ORDER

WP.No.16820 of 2026

DIRECTION