

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD**

FRIDAY, THE TWENTY FIRST DAY OF AUGUST
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

**:PRESENT:
THE HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE SUREPALLI NANDA**

CONTEMPT CASE NO: 3243 OF 2026

Between:

Karam Veerabhadram, S/o. Venkulu

Petitioner

AND

1. Smt. G.Anusha, The Forest Range Officer / Forest Ranger, Annapureddypalli Mandal, Bhadradri Kothagudem District, Telangana.
2. Sri Reddy Nagaraju, Forest Section Officer, Annapureddypalli Village and Mandal, Bhadradri Kothagudem District.

.....Respondents

WHEREAS the petitioner has presented the Contempt Case under Sections 10 to 12 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, through his Counsel Sri P.Siva Narayana, praying the High Court to punish the respondents for willfully disobeying the orders passed in W.P.No.18196 of 2026, Dt.19.06.2026;

Counsel for the Petitioner : SRI P.SIVA NARAYANA

Counsel for Respondents : GOVT. PLEADER FOR FOREST

WHEREAS the said case coming on for hearing, and whereas the High Court, upon perusing the affidavit filed therein, and the earlier order dated 24-07-2026, made the following;

ORDER:

This Contempt Case is filed alleging willful disobedience of the order passed by this Court in W.P.No.18196 of 2016, dated 19.06.2026.

On 19.06.2026, this Court passed the following order:

“Notice before Admission.

Learned Government Pleader for Forest takes notice on behalf of respondent Nos.1 and 2 and waives further notice and seeks time to file counter affidavit.

This Writ Petition is filed seeking the following relief:

“...issue *Writ of Mandamus* or any other appropriate Writ, Order or Direction to Quash all 30 charge sheets;

Sl. No	Charge Sheet Number	POR Numbers and Crime Number	Station
1.	C.C.No.1755 of 2021	29 of 2021	PS Annapureddypalli
2.	CC.No.1522 of 2025	No.46/07/2017	FRO Chandrugunda range
3.	C.C.No.209 of 2025	No.27/115/2016	FRO Chandrugunda range
4.	C.C.No.2280 of 2024	27/115/2016	FRO Chandrugunda range
5.	CC.No.744 of 2024	33/07/2017	FRO Chandrugunda range
6.	CC.No.746 of 2024	30/115/2016	FRO Chandrugunda range
7.	CC.No.1181 of 2025	40/115/2016	FRO Chandrugunda range
8.	CC.No.741 of 2024	32/115/2016	FRO Chandrugunda range
9.	CC.No.182/2025	39//115/2016	FRO Chandrugunda range
10.	CC.No.2339 of 2023	Cr.No.103/2023	PS Annapureddypalli
11.	CC.No.44 of 2023	22/115/2016	FRO Chandrugunda range
12.	CC.No.1517 of 2025	35/07/2017	FRO Chandrugunda range
13.	CC.No.212 of 2025	28/115/2016	FRO Chandrugunda range
14.	CC.No.181 of 2025	38/115/2016	FRO Chandrugunda range
15.	CC.No.625 of 2024	Cr.128 of 2023	PS Annapureddypalli
16.	CC.No.213 of 2025	524 of 2025	FRO Chandrugunda range
17.	CC.No.183 of 2025	1184 of 2025	FRO Chandrugunda range
18.	CC.No.90 of 2024		PS Annapureddypalli
19.	CC.No.208 of 2025	Cr.No.148 of 2025	PS Annapureddypalli

20.	CC.No.218 of 2020	Cr.No.11 of 2020	PS Annapureddypalli
21.	CC.No.1218 of 2020	Cr.No.43 of 2020	PS Annapureddypalli
22.	CC.No.206 of 2025	1508 of 2025	FRO Chandrugunda range
23.	CC.No.44 of 2023	Cr.No.87 of 2025	PS Annapureddypalli
24.	CC.No.2889 of 2022	Cr.No.84 of 2022	PS Annapureddypalli
25.	CC.No.745 of 2023	Cr.No.55 of 2023	PS Annapureddypalli
26.	CC.No.404 of 2023	Cr.11 of 2023	PS Annapureddypalli
27.	CC.No.552 of 2023	Cr.18/2023	PS Annapureddypalli
28.	CC.No.2342 of 2023	Cr.No.101 of 2023	PS Annapureddypalli
29.	CC.No.2340 of 2023	Cr.No.102 of 2023	PS Annapureddypalli
30.	CC.no.745 of 2024	29/115	PS Annapureddypalli

filed against the Petitioners/Accused by the Forest Ranger/Respondent No.2 being cases arising from their cultivation of ancestral RoFR lands and Direct the Respondents not to file any further charge sheets or criminal cases against the Petitioners in respect of their cultivation of forest lands which are the subject matter of RoFR claims pending before the competent authorities and pass such other relief...”

Learned counsel for petitioners submitted that petitioners are all Koya tribals and that they have been in possession of the subject land since long and have been cultivating the subject land and eking out their livelihood on products grown in the said land. It is further submitted that 30 criminal cases has been filed against petitioners on grounds not valid under law, as petitioners were tribals and that petitioners have the right to stay in the forest and cultivate the lands, commonly known as podu cultivation or slash and burn cultivation. It is

also submitted that around 62 families are eking out their livelihood on the products grown in the subject land.

On the other hand, learned Government Pleader for Forest appearing for respondent No.1 and 2, on instructions from the office of District Forest Officer, submitted that as on the cut of date i.e., 13.12.2005, families which are cultivating (podu cultivation) were given access to the lands in RoFR and that petitioners are claiming as if they are in possession of subject land from the cut of date i.e., 13.12.2005. It is further submitted that out of 94 hectares of land, 40 hectares which is in reserve forest area has been destroyed/damaged by petitioners and that it is the duty of District Forest Officer and staff to protect the forest. It is also submitted that petitioners cannot time and again enter into the forest area under the guise that they are in possession of subject land.

Learned counsel for petitioners invited the attention of this Court to contents at page No.233 of writ papers and tried to impress upon the Court that Grama Sabha has identified petitioners to have been in possession of the land for the last 30 years.

Learned Government Pleader for Forest submitted that petitioners' claims have been rejected at District level and that petitioners are not entitled to claim the subject land.

Be that as it may, the relief sought for in this writ petition is to direct the respondents not to file further charge sheets or criminal cases in respect of their cultivation of forest land, as RoFR claims are pending before the competent authority.

Learned Government Pleader for Forest submitted that he would seek instructions on whether the claims of petitioners are rejected by Sub-Divisional Committee or District Level Committee.

Status quo as on today be maintained, on condition that petitioners shall not enter into the reserve forest area.

In the meantime, respondent authorities shall file detailed counter affidavits.

It is made clear that officers are not precluded from registering cases against petitioners, if they try to enter the forest and damage the forest area.

Learned counsel for petitioners lastly submitted that petitioners are under stress as number of cases has been filed and charge sheets are coming up.

Till this case is heard, no such action shall be taken, pursuant to the cases filed against the petitioners.

Learned Government Pleader has brought to the notice of Court that a forest officer was attacked and killed by the tribals of Yerrabodu Village, which is closeby the subject plantation.

It is made clear that if petitioners behave unruly, the forest department officials shall not withhold themselves from taking appropriate action.

Status quo as on today be maintained, on condition that petitioners shall not enter into the reserve forest area.

Post the matter on 03.07.2026.”

On 24.07.2026, notice was ordered and the matter was posted to 21.08.2026.

Today when the matter is called, this Court queried the learned Assistant Government Pleader for Forests as to the status of the subject matter. Learned Assistant Government Pleader submitted that communications were sent to the office of the Forest Range Officer and the Forest Section Officer concerned, but instructions have not yet been received.

This is a Contempt Case, no instructions are on record, even after notice with a time of four weeks.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests is requested to enlighten this Court as to why respondent Nos.2 and 3 are not responding to the communications forwarded by the Chief Law Officers of the State from the High Court.

It would definitely amount to a contemptuous act, if instructions are not forwarded in spite of notice to the concerned offices.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, is requested to set the officers of Bhadravadi Kothagudem District in tune with the principles of good governance.

It is made clear that if no instructions are received in the subject matter before the next date of hearing i.e., on 25.08.2026 morning, the officers shall be held liable for their acts.

Post the matter on 25.08.2026.

//TRUE COPY//

Sd/- N.CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO
DEPUTY REGISTRAR


SECTION OFFICER

To

1. The District Forest Officer, Bhadradi Kothagudem District. (BY SPAD)
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad. (BY SPL. MESSENGER)
3. Smt G Anusha, Forest Range Officer / Forest Ranger Annapureddypalli Mandal, Bhadradi Kothagudem District, Telangana.
4. Sri Reddy Nagaraju, Forest Section Officer, Annapureddypalli Village And Mandal Bhadradi Kothagudem District. (Addressees 3 & 4 BY SPAD)
5. Two CCs to GP for Forests, High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad (OUT)
6. One CC to Sri P. Siva Narayana, Advocate (OPUC)
7. One Spare Copy

HIGH COURT

JAK,J

DATE: 21-08-2026

NOTE: POST ON 25-08-2026

ORDER

C.C. NO. 3243 OF 2026

DIRECTION

