

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH
AT CHENNAI**

OA No 78 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

**NEWS ITEM IN THE HINDU NEWSPAPER CHENNAI EDITION DATED 15TH
APRIL 2025 TITLED □SIX POLICE TEAMS FORMED TO PROBE CRACKER
UNIT EXPLOSION IN A.P' S ANAKAPALLI DISTRICT**

..... Applicant

Vs

**THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AND
OTHERS**

.... Respondents

REPORT FILED BY THE FACTORIES 4TH RESPONDENT

DATE - 13.07.2025



**M/s MADHURI DONTI REDDY
ADVOCATE**

**STANDING COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH AT CHENNAI

Original Application No. 78 of 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

**NEWS ITEM IN THE HINDU NEWSPAPER CHENNAI EDITION DATED 15TH
APRIL 2025 TITLED □SIX POLICE TEAMS FORMED TO PROBE CRACKER
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..... APPLICANT

VERSUS

**THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AND
OTHERS**

..... RESPONDENTS

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It is certified that all the documents contained in the above annexure are true copies.

Date: 13.07.2025

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN
ZONE, CHENNAI

O.A. No. 78 of 2025 (SZ)

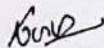
IN THE MATTER OF: **Suo motu** proceedings based on the news item titled "Six police teams formed to probe cracker unit explosion in Anakapalli District, Andhra Pradesh" published in The Hindu, Chennai Edition, dated 15.04.2025.

...Applicant

Versus

1. **The Secretary to Government of Andhra Pradesh Department of Industries & Commerce** Room No. 102, Ground floor, Block 2, AP. Secretariat, Velagapudi, Guntur District - 522237 Andhra Pradesh. Email: prisecy inds@ap.gov.in
2. **The Member Secretary Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board** D.No. 33-26-14 D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital, Puspa Hotel Centre, Chalamari Street, Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada - 520010 Email: membersecy@appcb.gov.in
3. **The Chairman Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority** D.N.21/2B, Pathuru Cross Road Centre, Kunchanpalli PO, Tadepalli Mandal, Guntur District Andhra Pradesh - 522501 Email: ed-apsdma@ap.gov.in
4. **The Chief Inspector of Factories** 3rd Floor, D. No. 16-72/1 Adjacent to Andhra Hospital Gollapudi Vijayawada-521225 Andhra Pradesh Email: dfap2020@gmail.com
5. **The District Collector and District Magistrate Anakapalli District** Sankaran, Andhra Pradesh - 531001 Email: collector-ankp@ap.gov.in


....Respondents


Director of Factories
Andhra Pradesh Vijayawada

COUNTER FILED BY THE FACTORIES DEPARTMENT 4TH RESPONDENT

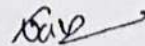
I, **D. Chandrasekhar Varma**, S/o D. Suryanarayana Raju, aged about 61 years, currently working as **Director of Factories**, Government of Andhra Pradesh, having office at D.No. 16-71/1, 3rd Floor, Andhra Hospital Extension Building, Gollapudi, Vijayawada, NTR District, Andhra Pradesh – 521225, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. It is submitted that I am the deponent herein and the Director of Factories, Government of Andhra Pradesh. I am well acquainted with the facts of the case and competent to swear to this affidavit.
2. It is submitted that the present affidavit is filed in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai, in O.A. No. 78 of 2025 (SZ), vide order dated 25.04.2025, based on the suo motu proceedings initiated on the basis of a news article published in *The Hindu* dated 15.04.2025 titled "**Six police teams formed to probe cracker unit explosion in Anakapalli District, Andhra Pradesh.**"
3. It is submitted that upon receipt of the said direction, the Factories Department conducted an internal fact-finding and field-level verification into the incident.
4. It is respectfully submitted that the fireworks unit, namely M/s. Sri Vijaya Laxmi Ganesh Fire Works, located at Kotaurutla, Kailasapatnam, Anakapalli District, is not covered under the Factories Act, 1948 as there was no conclusive evidence of:
 - Employment of twenty or more workers with power, or
 - Forty or more workers without power


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Accordingly, the unit falls under the purview of the Shops and Establishments Act, not the Factories Act, 1948.

5. It is submitted that on the instructions of the Director of Factories, the Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, Vizianagaram who is having jurisdiction over the area of the unit visited the accident site on 13.04.2025 at about 8:00 PM and made the enquiry about the accident. He reported the following observations of his inquiry:
- a. The explosion occurred on 13.04.2025 at approximately 12:45 PM.
 - b. No representatives of the management were present at the time of inspection.
 - c. The manufacturing sheds had collapsed completely. As per local sources, bodies of deceased workers were found scattered up to a distance of 300 meters from the site.
 - d. It is prima facie believed that the explosion took place during the manufacturing of firecrackers.
 - e. A spark due to friction while handling explosive material is suspected to have triggered the blast.
 - f. Electrical wiring was present within the sheds in which finished products and raw materials were stored together, which may have aggravated the explosion.
 - g. The premises also contained husk material that caught fire and were located dangerously close to HT electrical lines.
 - h. A fire hydrant and sprinkler system were reportedly installed at the premises, but their operational effectiveness is unverified.



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6. It is submitted that the Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, Vizianagaram further reported that as per records available and local enquiry, the unit details are as follows:

- o **Name of the Unit:** M/s. Sri Vijaya Laxmi Ganesh Fire Works
- o **Location:** Kotaurutla, Kailasapatnam, Anakapalli District
- o **Nature of Activity:** Manufacturing of fireworks
- o **Occupier:** Sri Appikonda Pallayya, S/o Nooka Raju
- o **Owner:** Sri Janakiram

7. It is submitted that the management of the said unit had obtained the following authorisations:

i. Explosives Licence No. 02/2012 issued by the Revenue Divisional Officer, Anakapalli on 19.09.2024, valid up to 30.11.2026.

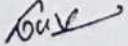
ii. Labour Licence No. AP-16-19-016-02229996 issued by the Labour Department on 23.09.2023, valid up to 31.03.2026, permitting employment of 25 workers.

8. It is submitted that according to preliminary details, **16 workers** were working in the unit on the day of the incident. Out of them:

- o **8 workers died** on the spot due to the explosion.
- o 8 workers sustained grievous injuries and admitted in hospitals for treatment, of whom **2 were in critical condition** at the time of reporting.

1. List of Deceased Workers:

- 1) Smt. Dadi Ramalakshmi, 35 years, Female, BC-D
- 2) Smt. Puram Papa, 40 years, Female, SC


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- 3) Sri Gampina Venubabu, 34 years, Male, Padmasali
- 4) Sri Sangarathi Govindu, 40 years, Male, OC (Kapu)
- 5) Sri Sangarathi Babu Rao, 55 years, Male, OC (Kapu)
- 6) Sri Appikonda Yellayya, 50 years, Male, OC (Kapu)
- 7) Smt. Devara Nirmala, 38 years, Female
- 8) Sri Hemanth, 20 years, Male

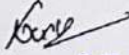
2. Of the injured, 6 workers were shifted to King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam, and 2 were admitted to Area Hospital, Narsipatnam.

9. It is submitted that the Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, Vizianagaram has also reported the Compensation particulars. The following are the details.

- a) That an ex-gratia amount of ₹15 lakhs has reportedly been declared by the State Government to the next of kin of each deceased worker.
- b) Further details regarding compensation for the injured are not available.

10. I further respectfully submit that as the unit was not covered under the Factories Act, 1948, and there is no jurisdiction over the said unit activity to the Factories Department, no action has been taken by the Factories Department.

In the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to dismiss the above OA No. 78 of 2025 and pass such further or other orders, as this Hon'ble Tribunal maybe deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case and thus render justice.


Director of Factories
Andhra Pradesh Vijayawada

Solemnly and sincerely affirmed
at Vijayawada, On this the 11 th day
of July, 2025 and signed his name
in my presence.

Sub Director of Factories
Andhra Pradesh Vijayawada
Before ME

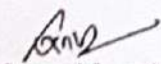


Advocate

VERIFICATION

I, D. Chandrasekhar Varma, the deponent above named, do hereby verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on this 11th day of July, 2025.


(D. Chandrasekhar Varma)
Director of Factories
Government of Andhra Pradesh
Director of Factories
Andhra Pradesh Vijayawada

ENQUIRY REPORT ON FIRE ACCIDENT OCCURRED IN M/S.SRI VIJAYA LAKSHMI GANESH FIRE WORKS, KAILASAPATNAM, KOTAURUTLA MANDAL, ANAKAPALLI DISTRICT.

On 13.04.2025 at 3.35 PM the Director of Factories ,AP, Vijayawada asked me to enquire whether any accident occurred in Anakapalli district. During enquiry from Police department and fire department officials, it came to my notice that fire accident occurred in fire crackers unit on 13.04.2025 at 12.30 PM .Myself rushed to the accident location at 8 PM and found that no management representatives present in the location .The sheds in the premises are found collapsed .It is known that the bodies of workers are found scattered 300mts away from incident spot .

Observations : (i)As per the information given by the local people, the explosion has been occurred in the process of manufacturing the fire crackers.

(ii)It is suspected that friction generated a spark while loading explosive material that spread and led to blast .

(iii) The huge stock of fire crackers and raw materials might be in the sheds and manufacturing is also being done in the same sheds .the electrical wires are also found in the sheds .

(iv)The husk in the premises also caught fire .HT lines are found passing along the cracker unit .

(v)Fire hydrant line and water sprinkler system is also provided in the premises .

Details of establishment :- M/s.Sri Vijaya Lakshmi Ganesh Fire Works

Address :- Kotaurutla Kailasapatnam, Anakapalli District

Authorized Licenses :- (i) License No. 02/2012, dated 19-09-2024 issued by RDO valid till 30-11-2026.

(ii) Labour License - License No:-AP-16-19-016-02229996

Date of Regn :- 23/9/2023

Valid upto :- 31/3/2026

No. Of workers:- 25

Total fee paid:- Rs.3,000/-

Manufacturing activity :- Manufacturing of fire works

Name of the Occupier :- Appikonda Pallayya , S/o.Nooka Raju

Actual Owner – Mr Janakiram

It is known that 16 workers are found working in the unit on 13.04.2025 and 8 workers met with fatal accident and 8 workers received grievous burn injuries in the incident .

Details of the workmen (who met with fatal accident) :-

- 1) Name of the deceased workmen:- Smt Dadi Ramalakshmi,
W/o.Venkata Swami
Age : 35 years, Female, BC-D, Gavara
Residential Address:- Rajupeta, Kotaurutla, Anakapalli District.
- 2) Name of the deceased workmen:- Smt Puram Papa, W/o.Appa rao
Age : 40 years, Female, SC.
Residential Address:- kailasapatnam, Kotaurutla, Anakapalli District.
- 3) Name of the deceased workmen: Sri Gampina Venubabu,
S/o.Demullu
Age : 34 years, Male, Padmasali,
Residential Address:- Kailasapatnam, Kotaurutla, Anakapalli District.
- 4) Name of the deceased workmen: Sri Sangarathi Govindu,
S/o.Satyanarayana
Age : 40 years, Male, OC(Kapu)
Residential Address:- Kailasapatnam, Kotaurutla, Anakapalli District.
- 5) Name of the deceased workmen: Sri Sangarathi Babu Rao,
S/o.Gedayya

Age : 55 years, male , OC-Kapu

Residential Address:- Chowduvada, Kotaurutla, Anakapalli District.

6) Name of the deceased workmen: Sri Appikonda Yellayya,
S/o.Nookaraju alias Thatababu

Age : 50 years, Male , OC, Kapu

Residential Address:- Rajupeta, Kotaurutla, Anakapalli District.

7) Name of the deceased workmen: Smt Devara Nirmala, W/oV.V
Satyanarayana

Age : 38 years, Female,

Residential Address:- Vetlapalem, Anakapalli District.

8) Name of the deceased workmen:- Sri Hemanth

Age : 20 years , male

Residential Address:- Bheemunipatnam

6 injured workers were shifted to King George Hospital for better treatment.
2 workers were admitted in Area Hospital, Narsipatnam and are undergoing
treatment, the details are as follows:-

1) Name of the injured worker:- Sri S. Srinu, S/o.Suri Narayana, Male

Age : 33, Male, Resident of Kailasapatnam, Kotaurutla, Anakapalli
District

2) Name of the injured worker:- Sri Gumpena Suribabu, S/o.Appalaraju,
Male

Age :- 45 years, Resident of Kailasapatnam, Kotaurutla, Anakapalli
District.

Out of 8 injured workers ,two are found in critical condition .

It is submitted that the unit does not come under purview of
Factories Act as there is no proof of employment to cover under the Act .No
machinery was found used in the activity of manufacturing fire crackers .

The unit is covered under Shops and establishment Act . Rs 15 Lakhs each is declared as exgratia to the family members of deceased workers .

This is submitted for kind information .

[Handwritten Signature] 14/4/25
Dy Chief Inspector of Factories
Vizianagaram

PHOTOGRAPHS







