

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE,  
AT CHENNAI**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 178 of 2025

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item published in Telangana Today dt.06.07.2025, titled "Hyderabad: Trees razed across 20 Acres at Rajendranagar, Students protest against deforestation"

...Applicant

-Vs-

Telangana Pollution Control Board and Others

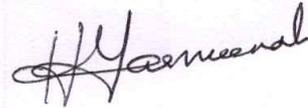
...Respondents

**AFFIDAVIT OF THE DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER, RANGAREDDY  
DISTRICT - R6**

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Place: Chennai

Date: 03.02.2026



Mrs. H. Yasmeen Ali,

Standing Counsel for 6<sup>th</sup> Respondent.

**AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT No.6**  
(DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER, RANGAREDDY DISTRICT)

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**  
**SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**  
**Original Application No.178 of 2025 (SZ)**  
(Earlier O.A. No.345 of 2025 (PB))

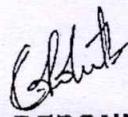
**AFFIDAVIT**

I, **Rohith Gopidi, IFS**, S/o Sri Hanmanth Gopidi, aged about 36 years, working as **District Forest Officer, Rangareddy District, Telangana State**, having my office at Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. I am the **District Forest Officer, Rangareddy District**, and I have been impleaded as **Respondent No.6** in the above Original Application pursuant to the orders of this Hon'ble Tribunal dated **02.12.2025**. I am competent and authorised to swear this affidavit and am well acquainted with the facts of the case.
2. This affidavit is filed in strict compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal contained in Para 5 of the order dated 02.12.2025, calling upon the Forest Department to clarify whether permission has been granted for felling of trees which are not exempted under the Telangana Water, Land and Trees Act, 2002 (WALTA Act) and to explain the status of such trees.
3. In compliance thereto, I respectfully submit that a detailed field inspection report has been received from the Forest Divisional Officer, Shamshabad, vide Rc.No.1074/2025/SB-5 dated 02.02.2026, based on a joint inspection conducted by the Forest Range Officer, Shamshabad along with departmental staff on 30.01.2026 at the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJ TSAU) Campus, Rajendranagar.
4. It is respectfully and categorically submitted that during the said inspection, no tree felling activity whatsoever was noticed at the site. All the 114 trees proposed for felling were found standing and existing on ground.
5. It is therefore clearly submitted and affirmed that no illegal felling or removal of any of the 114 trees has taken place at the PJ TSAU Campus, Rajendranagar, either prior to or after initiation of the present proceedings.
6. It is submitted that the Project Scientist (Agro) & Head, AICRP on Agro-Forestry, PJ TSAU, Rajendranagar, had submitted a proposal seeking permission for felling of 114 trees located in 4 blocks of the University campus for development of agro-forestry research models.

District Forest Officer,  
Rangareddy District,  
Hyderabad.

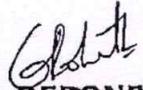
7. Out of the said 114 trees, enumeration report was submitted only for 80 trees, stated to be falling within the proposed development area, while the remaining 34 trees were not included in the enumeration list.
8. The proposal was placed before the Tree Protection Committee constituted under Section 6 of the WALTA Act, 2002, the committee was inspected the site and directed the Project Scientist (Agro) & Head, AICRP to submit a detailed layout map indicating the development area and exact location of trees. However, the required layout map has not been submitted till date.
9. It is respectfully submitted that as per Section 5 of the WALTA Act, 2002, no tree can be felled without prior permission of the competent authority, except for exempted categories of trees.
10. In the present case, no permission has been granted by the Forest Department for felling of any of the 114 trees, including the 80 enumerated trees, as the proposal is incomplete and pending submission of mandatory documents before the TPC.
11. It is therefore submitted that no permission for felling has been issued and no tree felling has been carried out, either legally or illegally, under the provisions of the WALTA Act, 2002.
12. The Forest Range Officer, Shamshabad has also submitted **enumeration lists and photographic evidence of the standing trees**, which form part of official records and substantiate that **all 114 trees are intact on ground**.
13. The Forest Department shall continue to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the WALTA Act, 2002, and shall process any proposal only in accordance with law and after due approval by the competent statutory authority.
14. I submit that the statements made above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and based on official records, and no material facts have been concealed.

  
DEPONENT Officer  
District Forest Officer  
Ranga Reddy

**VERIFICATION**

I, **Rohith Gopidi, IFS**, S/o Sri Hanmanth Gopidi, aged about 36 years, working as **District Forest Officer, Rangareddy District, Telangana State**, having my office at Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of paragraphs 1 to 14 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Verified at Hyderabad on this 03 day of February 2026.

  
District Forest Officer  
Ranga Reddy

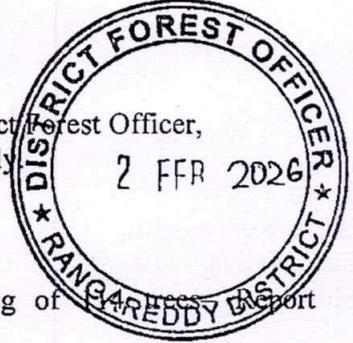
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ANNEXURE - I

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA  
FOREST DEPARTMENT

From,  
Sri R. Venkataiah, ACF.,  
Forest Divisional Officer,  
Shamshabad.

To,  
The District Forest Officer,  
Rangareddy.



Rc.No. 1074/2025/SB-5, Dt:02 /02/2026.

Sir,

Sub: TGFD - PJTAU-AICRP on Agro forestry - Felling of Submission - Regarding

- Ref:
1. Project Scientist (Agro) & Head, PJTSU, Rajendrangar, Lr.NO.05/PS/AF/EP & Sub. Trees/2025, Dt. 10.04.2025
  2. FDO, Sbad Rc. No.1074/2025/SB-5, Dt. 07.04.2025
  3. This Office Rc. No.211/SBR/2025, Dt. 01.05.2025
  4. DFO.Hyd.Rc.no.1202/2017/S7,Dt:15.09.2025.
  5. Hon'ble NGT (SZ),Chennai O.A.No.178of 2025 (SZ)
  6. FRO.Shamshabad.Rc.No.211/SBR/2025,DT:31.01.2026.

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In compliance to the reference 5<sup>th</sup> cited, it is submitted that vide reference 6<sup>th</sup> cited, the Forest Range Officer, Shamshabad reported that, he along with staff was inspected the trees existing PJTAU Campus at Rajendrangar on 30.01.2026, it is noticed that, no felling has been carried out, all (114) trees are existing at the site.

In this regard, it is submitted that, the Project Scientist (Agro.) & Head of AICRP on Agro forestry, PJTSAU, Rajendrangar, Ranga Reddy District vide reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited requested for felling of (114) trees existing (in different blocks) in the university in order to develop various sustainable and profitable agro forestry models, and stated that it will be useful for furthering research and also for various stake holders viz farmers, research scholars, students, industries, entrepreneurs etc.,

Further, it is submitted that, enumeration list for (80) trees are received from the Forest Range Officer, Shamshabad vide reference 3<sup>rd</sup> cited which are coming under the development area leaving the remaining (34) trees. The Tree Protection Committee inspected the site and instructed them to submit a layout map. But, still they are not submitted the layout map. Due to which, the permission for felling of (80) trees are still pending and remaining (34) trees are also existing at the site. The Forest Range Office, Shamshabad report with enumeration list and photographs of standing trees are submitted herewith for kind information.

This is submitted for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Encl:A/a

Your faithfully

Sd/-

Forest Divisional Officer,  
Shamshabad.

//T.C.B.O//

Administrative Officer

*[Handwritten signature]*

S 2

Government of Telangana  
Forest Department

From  
Sri P. Veeresham,  
Forest Range Officer,  
Shamshabad.

To  
The Forest Divisional Officer  
Shamshabad

Rc. No.211/SBR/2025, Dated:31/01/2026

Sir,

Sub: TGFD - PJTAU-AICRP on Agro forestry - Felling of 114 trees-  
Report Submission - Regarding.

Ref: 1. Project Scientist (Agro) & Head, PJTSU, Rajendrangar,  
Lr.NO.05/PS/AF/EP & Sub. Trees/2025, Dt. 19.03.2025  
2. FDO, Sbad Rc. No.1074/2025/SB-5, Dt. 07.04.2025  
3. This Office Rc. No.211/SBR/2025, Dt. 01.05.2025  
4. Oral instructions of FDO, Shamshabad, Dt. 30.01.2026  
5. Report of Dy. Range Officer, Shamshabd, Dt. 30.01.2026

-X-X-X-

With reference to the subject cited, it is submitted that, as per the instructions of Forest Divisional Officer, Shamshabad, I along with staff inspected the trees existing PJTAU Campus at Rajendrangar on 30.01.2026, it is noticed that, no felling has been carried out, all (114) trees are existing at the site.

In this regard, it is submitted that, the Project Scientist (Agro.) & Head of AICRP on Agro forestry, PJTSAU, Rajendrangar, Ranga Reddy District vide reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited requested for felling of (114) trees existing in the university in order to develop various sustainable and profitable agro forestry models. Out of (114) trees, only (80) trees are coming under the development area.

Hence, the enumeration has been done for (80) trees which are coming under the development area leaving the remaining (34) trees and submitted the enumeration list fo (80) trees vide this office reference 3<sup>rd</sup> cited. The Tree Protection Committee also inspected the site and instructed them to submit a layout map. But, still they are not submitted the layout map. Due to which, the permission for felling of (80) trees are still pending and remaining (34) trees are also existing at the site.

This is submitted for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,  
Sd/-

Encl: 1. Photographs of standing trees.  
2. List of (114) Trees

Forest Range Officer  
Shamshabad

## List of Standing trees existing at PJTAU Campus, Rajendrangan

Sl. No.	Tree No.	Local name	length of tree (m)	Girth (cm)	Remarks
<b>Block-1 (Near Botanical Garden)</b>					
1	1	Peltophorum	3.30	240	
2	2	Peltophorum	3.10	131	
3	3	Peltophorum	4.20	234	
4	4	Peltophorum	2.00	87	
5	5	Peltophorum	4.30	118	
6	6	Peltophorum	2.50	68	
7	7	Peltophorum	4.00	145	
8	8	Peltophorum	3.60	142	
9	9	Peltophorum	4.10	170	
10	10	Peltophorum	2.50	104	
11	11	Peltophorum	4.30	180	
12	12	Peltophorum	4.00	137	
<b>Block-2 (Near Custard Apple Plantation)</b>					
13	1	Gulmohor	1.60	69	
14	2	Gulmohor	1.65	70	
15	3	Gulmohor	2.30	50	
16	4	Gulmohor	2.80	55	
17	5	Gulmohor	2.60	45	
18	6	Gulmohor	2.20	52	
19	7	Gulmohor	2.30	52	
20	8	Gulmohor	2.20	87	
<b>Block-3 (In front of Agro Forestry Office)</b>					
21	1	Dirshanam	3.80	170	
22	2	Dirshanam	2.60	51	
23	3	Dirshanam	2.70	47	
24	4	Dirshanam	1.50	31	
25	5	Dirshanam	2.40	57	
26	6	Dirshanam	3.20	107	
27	7	Dirshanam	2.80	51	
28	8	Dirshanam	3.60	68	
29	9	Dirshanam	3.70	83	
30	10	Dirshanam	3.20	77	
31	11	Dirshanam	3.50	56	
32	12	Dirshanam	3.10	127	
<b>Block-4 (Near Custard Apple Plantation)</b>					
33	1	Sima tangedu.	3.30	74	
34	2	Sima tangedu.	3.80	63	
35	3	Sima tangedu.	3.50	52	
36	4	Sima tangedu.	3.00	43	
37	5	Sima tangedu.	2.80	89	
38	6	Sima tangedu.	2.60	47	
39	7	Sima tangedu.	2.70	68	

Sl. No.	Tree No.	Local name	length of timber (m)	Girth (cm)	Remarks
<b>Block-5 (Near ABDP)</b>					
40	1	Kanuga	2.60	73	
41	2	Kanuga	2.50	63	
42	3	Kanuga	2.30	100	
43	4	Kanuga	2.00	49	
44	5	Kanuga	3.30	75	
45	6	Kanuga	3.20	66	
46	7	Kanuga	2.60	48	
47	8	Kanuga	2.80	58	
48	9	Kanuga	2.30	40	
49	10	Kanuga	2.20	75	
50	11	Kanuga	2.90	35	
51	12	Kanuga	2.60	70	
52	13	Kanuga	2.40	49	
53	14	Kanuga	2.60	76	
54	15	Kanuga	2.60	50	
55	16	Kanuga	2.60	39	
56	17	Kanuga	2.30	52	
57	18	Kanuga	2.10	58	
58	19	Kanuga	2.80	49	
59	20	Kanuga	2.30	70	
60	21	Kanuga	2.70	57	
61	22	Kanuga	2.50	33	
62	23	Kanuga	2.20	96	
63	24	Kanuga	2.40	69	
64	25	Kanuga	2.10	55	
65	26	Kanuga	2.60	60	
66	27	Kanuga	2.30	59	
67	28	Kanuga	2.40	82	
68	29	Kanuga	2.20	83	
69	30	Kanuga	2.80	35	
70	31	Kanuga	2.90	59	
71	32	Kanuga	2.60	58	
<b>Block-6 (In front of Agro Forestry Office)</b>					
72	1	Chinna are	2.40	46	
73	2	Chinna are	1.50	30	
74	3	Chinna are	1.50	37	
75	4	Chinna are	1.20	20	
76	5	Chinna are	1.50	27	
77	6	Chinna are	1.30	26	
78	7	Chinna are	1.20	18	
<b>Block-6 In front of Agro Forestry Office(1) and Botanical Garden (1)</b>					
79	1	Nalla thumma	1.60	28	
80	2	Nalla thumma	2.30	47	

## Enumeration of Balance (34) Trees

in front of Agro Forestry Office					
81	1	Peltophorum	5.00	86	
82	2	Peltophorum	5.00	78	
83	3	Peltophorum	5.00	123	
84	4	Peltophorum	5.00	201	
84	5	Peltophorum	5.00	125	
86	6	Peltophorum	5.00	132	
87	7	Peltophorum	5.00	124	
88	8	Peltophorum	5.00	132	
89	9	Peltophorum	5.00	122	
90	10	Peltophorum	5.00	132	

Botonoical Garden					
91	11	Regu	2	103	
92	12	Regu	2	17	
93	13	Regu	2	32	

Internation Hostel					
94	14	Tabubea	4.0	45	
95	15	Tabubea	4.0	90	
96	16	Tabubea	4.0	90	
97	17	Tabubea	4.0	72	
98	18	Tabubea	3.00	68	
99	19	Tabubea	3.00	56	
100	20	Tabubea	3.00	58	
101	21	Tabubea	3.00	62	
102	22	Tabubea	3.00	35	
103	23	Tabubea	3.00	46	
104	24	Tabubea	3.00	48	
105	25	Tabubea	3.00	49	
106	26	Tabubea	3.00	56	
107	27	Tabubea	3.00	57	
108	28	Tabubea	3.00	58	
109	29	Tabubea	3.00	55	
110	30	Tabubea	3.00	54	
111	31	Tabubea	3.00	56	
112	32	Tabubea	3.00	57	
113	33	Tabubea	3.00	59	
114	34	Tabubea	3.00	65	