

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

**CIVIL APPEAL NO(S). _____ OF 2026
(ARISING OUT OF SLP(C) NO(S) _____ OF 2026
@Diary No(s).24335/2019)**

RAMESH SINGH (DEAD) & ORS. ... APPELLANT(S)

Versus

SRINIVAS REDDY & ORS. ... RESPONDENT(S)

WITH

**CIVIL APPEAL NO(S). _____ OF 2026
(ARISING OUT OF SLP(C) NO(S) _____ OF 2026
(@DIARY NO. 37541/2018)**

**CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL)NO. 844/2021
IN SLP(C) NO. 2370/2020**

O R D E R

1. Permission to file special leave petition(s) is allowed.
2. Delay condoned.
3. Application(s) for substitution is/are allowed after condoning the delay and setting aside abatement, if any.
4. Application(s) for intervention/impleadment is/are allowed.

5. Leave granted.

6. The appellant(s) is/are aggrieved by certain observations made by the High Court while disposing of the contempt petitions, particularly those contained in paragraph 64 of the impugned order.

7. Paragraph 64 is reproduced hereinbelow :(Page 18)

"64. The present District Collector, Ranga Reddy District, shall complete the process of determination of market value of the property of the petitioner as on 01-10-2004, after giving notice to petitioner's counsel/petitioner, consider the material produced by the petitioner, and determine the compensation payable to the petitioner as per the decision in Mekala Pandu (1 supra) and as per the law declared by various Courts in relation to acquisition of land under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, and pay the same to petitioner within eight weeks."

8. The substantive judgment, alleged non-compliance of which give rise to the contempt proceedings, was passed on 20th September, 2004.

9. The operative portion of the said judgment is reproduced hereinbelow : (Pages 102-103)

"When the matters were heard, the learned standing counsel for APIIC Sri R.Subba Rao brought to the notice of this Court that in all the matters possession was taken by the Revenue Department after depositing the exgratia amount with the Deputy Collector/Mandal Revenue Officer of Serilingampally Mandal and that when the amount at the rate of Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees two lakhs only) per acre was sent by way of cheque to the assignees, they refused to accept the cheque, and therefore. the amount is with the Mandal Revenue Officer, Serilingampally Mandal. There is a dispute, however, with regard to the possession of the land. Having regard to the fact that this Court, while passing interim orders, gave liberty to the respondents to take possession of the land after depositing exgratia amount and possession was taken by the Revenue officials under the cover of Pachnama, there is no strong reason to disbelieve the version of the respondents.

In L.A.O. v. M.Pandu (supra), the Full Bench of this Court considered the question whether the assignees are entitled to payment of compensation and other benefits payable under the provisions of Land Acquisition Act, 1894 when the assigned lands are resumed by the Government for public purpose. Answering the question in the affirmative, this Court laid down as under.

In the circumstances, we hold that the assignees of the Government lands are entitled to payment of compensation equivalent to the full market value of the land and other

benefits on par with full owners of the land even in cases where the assigned lands are taken possession of by the State in accordance with the terms of grant or patta, though such resumption is for a public purpose. We further hold that even in cases where the State does not invoke the covenant of the grant or patta to resume the land for such public purpose and resorts to acquisition of the land under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, the assignees shall be entitled to compensation as owners of the land and for all other consequential benefits under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. No condition incorporated in patta/deed of assignment shall operate as a clog putting any restriction on the right of the assignee to claim full compensation as owner of the land.

Initially, all the writ petitions were filed challenging the action of the respondents in resuming the land without paying compensation under the Executive orders. Even after amendment in some of the writ petitions, the petitioners are interested only to receive the compensation/exgratia equivalent to full market value as held by the Full Bench of this Court. Therefore, whether the possession is taken or not insignificant, as the respondents do not deny the legal position enunciated by the Court in *L.A.O. v. M.Pandu* (supra).

In view of the settled legal position, all the writ petitions are disposed of directing respondents 1 and 2, and the Government of Andhra Pradesh to pay the compensation to all

the petitioners equivalent to full market value of the land and other benefits on par with full owners of the land. It is brought to the notice of this Court by Sri Ch.Siddaiah, learned counsel for the petitioners in some of the writ petitions, that the Government had acquired the land of the owners sometime last year. If that be so, the Government may also take into consideration the compensation fixed by the Land Acquisition Officer in those acquisition proceedings. Respondents shall take appropriate action for payment of market value to the petitioners, within a period of four months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. The interim orders passed shall stand vacated. It shall be open to the Government to deal with the amount deposited by the APIIC appropriately. No costs."

10. The grievance of the appellant(s) is that the Writ Court did not prescribe any cut-off date for determining the market value, nor did it confine the relief to compensation in respect of the land alone but has specifically provided that all benefits, at par with those granted to the full owners, be extended to the assignee(s)[the appellant(s)] without any distinction.

11. However, while dealing with the contempt proceedings, the High Court confined the determination of the market value as on 1st

October, 2004 and restricted the relief only to the determination of the compensation payable to the appellant(s).

12. It is well settled that a Contempt Court cannot go behind the substantive judgment, nor can it modify the same.

13. Accordingly, we set aside the observations contained in paragraph 64 of the impugned judgment/order to the extent that they restrict the determination of the market value as on 1st October, 2004 and limit the relief to payment of compensation alone. The appellant(s) shall be entitled to all the benefits as contained in the judgment dated 20th September, 2004.

14. The respondents shall ensure full compliance with the judgment dated 20th September, 2004 within a period of two months, failing which the appellant(s) shall be at liberty to apply for appropriate orders by approaching this Court by way of an appropriate application in this disposed of appeal itself.

15. The appeals are, accordingly, disposed of.

16. In view of the order passed in the appeals above mentioned, the contempt petition shall stand disposed of.

17. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

..... .J.
[VIKRAM NATH]

..... .J.
[SANDEEP MEHTA]

NEW DELHI;
JULY 28, 2026.

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) Diary No(s). 24335/2019
[Arising out of impugned final order dated 23-10-2018 in CCN No. 527/2015 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for The State of Telangana and The State of Andhra Pradesh]

RAMESH SINGH (DEAD) & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

SRINIVAS REDDY & ORS.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 155940/2025 - APPLICATION FOR SUBSTITUTION
IA No. 165232/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 131311/2019 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING
IA No. 176484/2025 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING SUBSTITUTION
APPLN.
IA No. 131313/2019 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN REFILING / CURING THE
DEFECTS
IA No. 131314/2019 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED
JUDGMENT
IA No. 165018/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

WITH

Diary No(s). 37541/2018 (XII-A)

FOR CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING ON IA 22413/2020
FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT ON IA
22415/2020
FOR PERMISSION TO FILE PETITION (SLP/TP/WP/..) ON IA 22416/2020
FOR CONDONATION OF DELAY IN REFILING / CURING THE DEFECTS ON IA
22417/2020
IA No. 155948/2025 - APPLICATION FOR SUBSTITUTION
IA No. 22413/2020 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING
IA No. 176500/2025 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING SUBSTITUTION
APPLN.
IA No. 22417/2020 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN REFILING / CURING THE
DEFECTS
IA No. 22415/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED
JUDGMENT
IA No. 22416/2020 - PERMISSION TO FILE PETITION (SLP/TP/WP/..)

CONMT.PET.(C) No. 844/2021 in SLP(C) No. 2370/2020 (XII-A)

Date : 28-07-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKRAM NATH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP MEHTA

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Varinder Kumar Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Varinder Kumar Sharma, AOR

For Respondent(s) :Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mr. Ravi Shankar Jandhyala, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Pradeep Sahu, Adv.
Mr. Sravan Kumar Karanam, AOR
Mr. Kishlay Bihan, Adv.
Mr. Kumar Abhishek, Adv.
Ms. M. Harshini, Adv.
Ms. Hemadri Sharma, Adv.
Ms. G. Sushmitha, Adv.
Mr. Anirudh Singh, Adv.
Mr. P. Venkatraju, Adv.

Mr. S.. Udaya Kumar Sagar, AOR

Mr. Varun Thakur, Adv.
Mr. K. Venkata Rao, Adv.
Mr. Ramkaran, Adv.
Mr. Deepak Goel, Adv.
Tanuj Bagga Sharma, Adv.
Dr. Mk Ravi, Adv.
Mrs. Shraddha Saran, Adv.
Mr. Sp Singh, Adv.
Mr. Hanmat Lodhi, Adv.
M/S. Varun Thakur & Associates, AOR

Mr. Abhishek Agarwal, AOR
Mr. Atul Sharma, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

Permission to file special leave
petition(s) is allowed.

Delay condoned.

Application(s) for substitution is/are
allowed after condoning the delay and setting

aside abatement, if any.

Application(s) for intervention/
impleadment is/are allowed.

Leave granted.

The appeals and contempt petition are,
disposed of in terms of the signed order.

Pending application(s), if any, shall
stand disposed of.

(SONIA BHASIN)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR-CUM-PS

(Signed order is placed on the file)

(RANJANA SHAILEY)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR