

APN NATION

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Tribals hack forest ranger to death in AP

Nizamabad, in south-western Andhra Pradesh, police said the villagers in the tribal area attacked the staff when they went to arrest those who had illegally occupied forest land and started tilling it with tractors. Gangaiah had gone to the village around Saturday midnight along with a nine-member team, including five beat officers. They were acting on information

that mechanized tilling of forest land was taking place illegally at K K Tanna (tribal village) under Nallavelli gram panchayat in Nizamabad.

Tragically, the forest staff's vehicle got stuck in mud outside the village. The tribals surrounded their vehicle and threw chilli powder into their eyes before attacking them with boulders and axes. Gangaiah,

who was attached to the Dichpally forest range, was surrounded and set upon. He lost a lot of blood due to his wounds and died on the spot. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Forest department sources said some villagers had plans to eliminate Gangaiah and lured him to the spot by giving fake information about tilling of forest land and smuggling of teakwood.