



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
DATED THIS THE 27TH DAY OF APRIL, 2026
BEFORE
THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN SHANKAR MAGADUM
WRIT PETITION NO. 13520 OF 2026 (GM-RES)

BETWEEN:

1. SRI N RAMU
S/O NAGARAJU,
AGED ABOUT 23 YEARS,
R/AT NORTH BANK GRAMA (P)
CHIKKANAYAKANAHALLI HOBLI,
KRISHNARAJA PURA TALUK,
MANDYA (D) - 571 432.

...PETITIONER

(BY SMT. SARITHA A L, ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. STATE OF KARNATAKA
REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES,
M S BUILDING,
BENGALURU - 560 001.
2. THE DIRECTOR,
DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES,
3RD FLOOR, PODIUM BLOCK,
VISVESWARAYA CENTRE,
BENGALURU - 560 001.
3. THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF FISHERIES, MINI VIDHANA SOUDHA,
NO.301-02, 3RD FLOOR,



NAGAMANGALA
MANDYA (D) - 571 432.

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI. ADITYA DIWAKAR, AGA)

THIS W.P. IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 AND 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA PRAYING TO ISSUE WRIT OF CERTIORARI OR ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE WRIT OR ORDER QUASHING THE IMPUGNED NOTICE NO.HAGUPA/01/2026-27 DATED 06.04.2026 ISSUED BY THE 3RD RESPONDENT VIDE ANNEXURE-D AND ETC.,

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN SHANKAR MAGADUM

ORAL ORDER

The petitioner, in the captioned petition, is assailing the impugned demand notice dated 06.04.2026 issued by respondent No.3 as per Annexure-D. Consequently, mandamus is sought to direct the respondents not to insist the petitioner to deposit the lease amount of the 2nd year lease period.

2. Heard learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and learned AGA appearing for the respondents.



3. The facts, in brief, leading to the filing of the present writ petition are that, pursuant to the e-tender notification dated 23.06.2024 issued by the respondent-authorities in respect of 'Raghuramapur Kere', the petitioner participated in the tender process and emerged as the highest bidder. Consequently, leasehold rights in respect of the said tank were granted in favour of the petitioner for a period spanning from the year 2025-26 to 2029-30. It is the specific assertion of the petitioner that, in compliance with the tender conditions, he has deposited the initial bid amount and other requisite charges within the stipulated time for the first year of lease.

4. The grievance of the petitioner arises on account of issuance of a demand notice by the respondents calling upon him to remit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for the second year, namely 2026-27. The petitioner contends that he has not yet harvested the fish stock from the tank and, therefore, is not in a position to mobilize sufficient funds to comply with the said demand at this juncture.



Placing reliance on Annexure-B, he seeks deferment of the demand.

5. It is further contended that the first year of lease commenced from 01.07.2025 and is to conclude on 30.06.2026. In that view of the matter, the petitioner seeks indulgence of this Court to defer the impugned demand notice till the culmination of the first lease year, i.e., up to 30.06.2026, so as to enable him to harvest the fish and arrange the necessary funds.

6. Having heard the learned counsel for the parties and on perusal of the material on record, this Court is of the considered view that the request made by the petitioner for deferment of the demand till 30.06.2026 appears to be just and reasonable in the facts and circumstances of the case. The nature of the activity undertaken by the petitioner, being fisheries, is inherently dependent on seasonal cycles, and the harvesting is stated to commence only towards the end of the lease year. If a



limited indulgence is granted, no serious prejudice would be caused to the respondent-State. On the contrary, denial of such relief would visit the petitioner with undue hardship.

7. In that view of the matter, this Court deems it appropriate to grant limited relief to the petitioner by keeping the impugned demand in abeyance till 30.06.2026, subject to compliance within the extended time.

ORDER

(i) The writ petition stands disposed of.

(ii) The demand notice issued by the respondents calling upon the petitioner to deposit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for the year 2026-27 shall remain in abeyance till 30.06.2026.

(iii) The petitioner shall deposit the said amount on or before 30.06.2026, failing which it is open to the respondents



to proceed in accordance with law and in
terms of the tender conditions.

(iv) No order as to costs.

Sd/-
(SACHIN SHANKAR MAGADUM)
JUDGE