



Crl.O.P.No. 20987 of 2022

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**G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN, J.**

The petitioners, who apprehend arrest at the hands of the respondent police for the alleged offences punishable under Section 379 of IPC in Crime No. 356 of 2022, on the file of the respondent police, seek anticipatory bail.

2. It is the case of the prosecution that the petitioners are alleged to have transported  $\frac{1}{4}$  unit of river sand in bullock cart illegally. Hence, the complaint.

3. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioners would submit that the petitioners have not committed any offence as alleged by the prosecution and they have been falsely implicated in this case. Hence, he prays to grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioners.

4.The learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondent submitted that the quantity of sand involved is  $\frac{1}{4}$  unit of river sand.

5. In view of the rehabilitation undertaken under the Tamil Nadu District Mineral Foundation Rules, 2017, and in order to curb the illegal sand mining activities, this Court is of the opinion that the



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petitioners shall jointly deposit a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) as non refundable deposit to the credit of COVID-19 SALEM DISTRICT; SB.A/c No : 190601000434; IFSC code : ICIC0006119; The Personal Assistant (General) to the Collector, Collectorate, Room No.117, First Floor, Salem-636 001, Ph.No.9445008148, without prejudice to his rights and contentions before the trial Court.

6.Merely, because the petitioners have deposited the said amount, it would not amount to admission of their guilt. Therefore, it is open to the trial Court to deal with the case independently.

7. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case that sand involved is river sand and the property had been recovered, this Court is inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioners with certain conditions.

8. Accordingly, the petitioners shall jointly deposit a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) as non refundable deposit to the credit of COVID-19 SALEM DISTRICT; SB.A/c No : 190601000434; IFSC code : ICIC0006119; The Personal Assistant



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(General) to the Collector, Collectorate, Room No.117, First Floor, Salem-636 001, Ph.No.9445008148 and on such deposit the petitioners are ordered to be released on bail in the event of arrest or on their appearance, within a period of fifteen days from the date on which the order copy is made ready, before the learned Judicial Magistrate No.I, Ulundurpet, on condition that each of the petitioners shall execute a separate bond for a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only) with two sureties each for a like sum to the satisfaction of the respondent police or the police officer who intends to arrest or to the satisfaction of the learned Magistrate concerned, failing which, the petition for anticipatory bail shall stand dismissed and on further condition that:

[a] the petitioners and the sureties shall affix their photographs and Left Thumb Impression in the surety bond and the Magistrate may obtain a copy of their Aadhar card or Bank pass Book to ensure their identity.

[b] the petitioners shall jointly deposit a sum of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) as non refundable deposit to the credit COVID-19 SALEM DISTRICT; SB.A/c No : 190601000434; IFSC code : ICIC0006119; The Personal Assistant (General) to the Collector, Collectorate, Room No.117, First Floor, Salem-636 001,



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[c] the petitioners shall report before the respondent police daily at 10.30 for a period of two weeks and thereafter as and when required for interrogation.

[d] the petitioners shall not tamper with evidence or witness either during investigation or trial.

[e] the petitioners shall not abscond either during investigation or trial.

[f] On breach of any of the aforesaid conditions, the learned Magistrate/Trial Court is entitled to take appropriate action against the petitioners in accordance with law as if the conditions have been imposed and the petitioners released on bail by the learned Magistrate/Trial Court himself as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **P.K.Shaji vs. State of Kerala [(2005)AIR SCW 5560]**.

[g] If the accused thereafter absconds, a fresh FIR can be registered under Section 229A IPC.

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