



CRL.OP(MD). No.4109 of 2025

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 05.03.2025

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE R.SAKTHIVEL

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Manoj @ Manojkumar

... Petitioner / Accused No.2

Vs.

The State of Tamil Nadu rep by
The Inspector of Police,
Pattukottai Taluk Police Station,
Thanjavur District.
(Crime No.52 of 2025)

... Respondent / Complainant

PRAYER :- The Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 praying to grant pre-arrest bail to the petitioner in Crime No.52 of 2025 on the file of the respondent-police.

For Petitioner : Mr.M.Pitchai Muthu,
Advocate
For Respondent : Mr.S.S.Manoj,
Government Advocate
(Criminal Side)

ORDER : The Court made the following order :-

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed by the petitioner on 03.03.2025 under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, praying to grant an order of pre-arrest bail.



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2. The petitioner apprehends arrest at the hands of the respondent-police for the offences punishable under Sections 303(2) of BNS, 2023 read with 21(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, in Crime No.52 of 2025 on the file of the respondent-police.

3. The case of the prosecution is that on 20.02.2025, when the respondent-police were on patrol duty, they found that the petitioner along with other accused person was illegally excavating and transporting 1/4 unit of *river sand* by using a TATA 407 vehicle bearing Reg.No.TN-75-B-2418. Thereafter, the respondent-police secured the vehicle but the accused persons escaped from the scene of occurrence. Hence, the case .

4. Mr.M.Pitchai Muthu, the learned counsel for the petitioner, submits that the petitioner is an innocent person and he has not committed any offence as alleged by the prosecution. He further submits that the petitioner is only the driver of the vehicle. He however submits that the petitioner is ready to abide by any conditions to be imposed by this Court. Accordingly, he prays to grant an order of pre-arrest bail to the petitioner.

5. *Per contra*, Mr.S.S.Manoj, the learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) appearing for the respondent police, submits that there are totally two accused persons in this case, and the petitioner as been arrayed as A2. He further submits that



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there are 3 previous cases against the petitioner. He further submits that the investigation of the case is still pending and therefore, at this stage, if the pre-arrest bail is granted to the petitioner, he may abscond, commit similar offence and cause threat to the witnesses. Accordingly, he prays to dismiss this Criminal Original Petition.

6. Heard on both sides. This Court has perused the records.

7. The petitioner has permanent residence and deep roots in the society. Hence, there is less possibility of absconding. Considering the same and also considering the facts and circumstances of the case, the nature of the offence, the quantity of *river sand* allegedly excavated and transported by the accused persons and taking note of the previous cases against the petitioner and with a view to give one more opportunity to the petitioner to reform himself, this Court is inclined to grant pre-arrest bail to the petitioner. Accordingly, pre-arrest bail is granted to the petitioner subject to the following conditions:

(i) The petitioner shall be released on pre-arrest bail in the event of his arrest or in the event of his surrender before the learned Judicial Magistrate, Pattukottai, Thanjavur District, within a period of 15 days from the date on which the order copy is made ready, on executing a bond for a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) along with two sureties each for a like sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten



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Thousand only) to the satisfaction of the learned Judicial Magistrate, Pattukottai, Thanjavur District.

(ii) The sureties shall affix their photographs and left thumb impression in the Application for Suretyship [Judicial Form No.46 annexed to 'The Criminal Rules of Practice, 2019']. The learned Judicial Magistrate shall obtain a copy of any one of identity proofs to ensure their identity.

(iii) The petitioner shall appear and sign before the respondent-police daily at 10.00 a.m. until further orders.

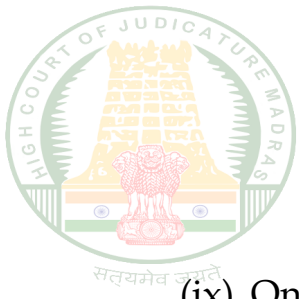
(iv) The petitioner shall make himself available for interrogation by a police officer as and when required.

(v) The petitioner shall not, directly or indirectly, make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer.

(vi) The petitioner shall also not, directly or indirectly, cause any threat to the defacto complainant and witnesses and shall not tamper the evidence.

(vii) The petitioner shall not leave India without the previous permission of the Court.

(viii) The petitioner shall furnish his residential address and mobile number to the concerned Magistrate.



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(ix) On breach of any of the aforementioned conditions, the learned Judicial Magistrate or Trial Court, as the case may be, is entitled to pass appropriate orders against the petitioner in accordance with law as if the aforementioned conditions are imposed by him as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *P.K. Shaji vs. State of Kerala [(2005) 13 SCC 283]*.

8. Accordingly, this Criminal Original Petition is allowed subject to the conditions stated *supra*.

sd/-
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/03/2025

Sub-Assistant Registrar (C.S. I / II / III / IV)
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai - 625 023.

PAL
TO

- 1 THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE
PATTUKOTTAI, THANJAVUR DISTRICT.
- 2 DO THROUGH THE CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE
THANJAVUR DISTRICT AT KUMBAKONAM.
- 3 THE INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
PATTUKOTTAI TALUK POLICE STATION,
THANJAVUR DISTRICT.
- 4 THE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT, MADURAI.



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ORDER

IN

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Date :05/03/2025

SS/SKN/SAR- /14/03/2025/ 6P/5C

Madurai Bench of Madras High Court is issuing certified copies in this format from 17/07/2023