CGHC010377892026 2026:CGHC:45126

NAFR

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

MCRC No. 9323 of 2026

1 - Maniram S/o Ratiram Baiga Aged About 40 Years R/o Village- Deharipathra, Police Station- Pandatarai, Tahsil- Bodla, District- Kabirdham (C.G.)

2 - Ganpat S/o Birjhu Baiga Aged About 40 Years R/o Village- Deharipathra, Police Station- Pandatarai, Tahsil- Bodla, District- Kabirdham (C.G.)

... Applicants

Versus

State Of Chhattisgarh Through- Forest Range Officer, Forest Range Bodla, District- Kabirdham (C.G.)

... Respondent(s)

For Applicants	:	Mr. Chandrikaditya Pandey, Advocate
For Non-Applicant	:	Mr. Akash Agrawal, P.L.

Hon'ble Shri Justice Rakesh Mohan Pandey

Order on Board

26.10.2026

1. This is the first bail application filed under Section 483 of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for grant of regular bail to the applicants who have been arrested in connection with POR

No. 21942 of 2011 registered at Police Station & District: Bodla (C.G.) for the offence punishable under Sections 2 (16), 9, 39 (1) (3), 44, 50, 51 (1)(2) and 52 of Indian Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

2. The prosecution case, in brief, is that on June 29, 2026, at about 6:00 p.m., the Forest Range Assistant Officer, Forest Range, Kawardha, received information from an informant that Kamleshu Patel, a resident of Village Bhalpari, had illegally hunted a Chital deer, cooked its meat, and consumed it. Upon receiving the information, the Compound Guard, along with his superior officers, proceeded to Village Bhalpari, surrounded the house of the accused, Kamleshu Patel, and conducted a search. During the search, two axes, a nylon rope, a blood-stained bag, and meat concealed in a steel container were recovered from a dung heap situated behind the house. The meat was seized, and the accused, Kamleshu Patel, was questioned. During the questioning, the accused confessed to having hunted the Chital deer along with six other persons, namely, Shyamlal Patel, Sanat Patel, Maniram Baiga, Ganpat Baiga, Mangal Baiga, and Bisaru Baiga. He further stated that they had divided the meat among themselves and consumed it at their respective homes.

3. Learned counsel for the applicants submits that the allegation of hunting a deer, which is a scheduled wild animal, is primarily against Kamleshu. Out of the five accused persons, two have already been enlarged on bail by the learned Trial Court. The

charge-sheet has been filed, and the applicants have been in judicial custody since 30.06.2026. Therefore, learned counsel prays for the grant of bail to the applicants.

4. On the other hand, learned counsel for the State opposes the bail applications and submits that applicant No. 1 has one criminal antecedent relating to the theft of forest produce, whereas applicant No. 2 has no criminal antecedents. It is further argued that the present applicants, in association with the other accused persons, killed a deer and were caught red-handed with its meat. Therefore, they are not entitled to be released on regular bail in the present case.

5. I have heard learned counsel appearing for the parties and perused the case diary.

6. Having considered the fact that two co-accused persons, against whom similar allegations have been made, have already been enlarged on bail by the learned Trial Court; that the main allegation of hunting the deer is against Kamleshu; that the charge-sheet has already been filed; that the applicants have been in judicial custody since 30.06.2026; and that applicant No. 1 has one criminal antecedent relating to the theft of forest produce, I am inclined to allow the bail applications.

7. It is directed that in the event of the applicant executing a personal bond for a sum of **Rs. 50,000/-** to the satisfaction of the concerned trial Court, he shall be released on bail on the following conditions:-

(a) he shall make himself available for interrogation by the police officer as and when required;

(b)he 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 fact to the Court; and

(c) he shall not act in any manner which will be prejudicial to a fair and expeditious trial.

The observation made hereinabove is for the purpose of deciding this bail application only, the learned trial Court shall decide the case on its own merits.

Sd/-

(Rakesh Mohan Pandey)
JUDGE

Saurabh