APHC010550472026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI **[3521]**
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

TUESDAY, THE 27th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NOs: 9197 and 9264 of 2026

1.CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 9197/2026

Between:

1. SIVA, S/O KANNIYAPPAN, AGED ABOUT 31 YEARS, D.NO.179, METTU STREET, KANLYAMBADI TOWN, VELLORE TALUK AND DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU STATE.
2. AYYAPPAN PERIYAPPAN, S/O PERFYAPPAN, AGED ABOUT 39 YEARS, D.NO.773/3, DANDUMARIYAMMANKOVII STREET, KONETTAM PETTAI, KOLATHUR POST PANCHAYAT, PALLI PATTU TALUK, TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU STATE.
3. SADHASIVAM PATTU, S/O PATTU, AGED ABOUT 24 YEARS, D.N0.3/24/A1, PATTIKOLLAI VILLAGE, PALAMPATTU POST AND PANCHAYAT, ANAIKATTU TALUK, VELLORE DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU STATE.

...PETITIONER/ACCUSED(S)

AND

THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, represented by its Public Prosecutor, High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati, through the Station House Officer, RSASTF Police Station, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh.

...RESPONDENT/COMPLAINANT

Counsel for the Petitioner/accused(S):

SRINIVASU L

Counsel for the Respondent/complainant:

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

2.CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 9264/2026

Between:

MUNIRATHNAM SASIDAR, S/O. MUNIRATHNAM, AGED ABOUT 53 YEARS, R/O. D.NO.3-2-45/2, RAMAKRISHNAPURAM, NAIDUPETATOWN AND MANDAL, TIRUPATI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

...PETITIONER/ACCUSED

AND

THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, Represented by its PublicProsecutor,High Court of Andhra Pradesh,Amaravati,throughthe Station House Officer, RSASTF Police Station, Tirupati.

...RESPONDENT/COMPLAINANT

Counsel for the Petitioner/accused:

SRINIVASU L

Counsel for the Respondent/complainant:

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

The Court made the following:

COMMON ORDER:

These two Criminal Petitions are heard together and are being disposed of by this common order, as they arise out of the same crime, though the petitioners are different.

2. These two Criminal Petitions have been filed under Sections 480 and 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity 'the BNSS'), seeking to enlarge the Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 4 on bail in Crime No.25 of 2026 of RSASTF Police Station, Tirupati District, registered for the alleged offences punishable under Sections 303(2) read with 3(5) of the Baratiya

Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity 'the BNS'), Section 49, 61(2) of 'the BNS' Section 20(1)(d) (i) (a) read with 20(1)(c) ii, iii, iv, x, 36(a) read with 32A, 29(4)(a) (i) of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Amendment Act, 2016.

3. Mr.Srinivasu L., the learned Counsel for the Petitioners submits that the Petitioners are innocent of the alleged offence. They have been falsely implicated by the police. It is further submitted that the Petitioners are the sole earning members of the family and, therefore, their incarceration would cause undue hardship to their dependents. They are law-abiding citizens. The Petitioners undertake to strictly adhere to any conditions that may be imposed by this Court. Hence, it is urged to allow the Petitions.

4. *Per contra*, Mr.A.Sai Rohith, the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor vehemently opposed the grant of bail to the Petitioners, submitting that the investigation is still underway and several material witnesses remain to be examined. It is contended that if the Petitioners are released on bail at this stage, there is a strong likelihood that they may abscond, thereby hampering the ongoing investigation and evading the process of law and urged to dismiss the Petitions.

5. Heard the learned counsel for the Petitioners and the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor. Perused the record.

6. On perusal of the record, the petitioners are arraigned as Accused Nos. 1 to 4. The petitioners were arrested on 05.09.2026 and have been in judicial custody for the past 52 days. Pursuant to the recording of the police proceedings, the FIR was registered. So far, six witnesses have been

examined. The allegation against the petitioners is that they were found in possession and transportation of fifteen logs of red sanders weighing about 412 kgs, valued at Rs.16,48,000/- in the open market. A material portion of the investigation is completed. Important witnesses and official witnesses have been examined.

7. The petitioners are the permanent residents of the State of Tamil Nadu and have got fixed abode. If the petitioners are enlarged on bail subject to stringent conditions, there is no likelihood of their absconding, threatening the witnesses, tampering with the evidence or hampering the further course of investigation. There are no adverse antecedents reported against the petitioners.

8. Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case, the nature and gravity of the allegations levelled against the petitioners, the period of incarceration undergone by them and the stage of investigation, this Court is inclined to enlarge the Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 4 on bail, subject to certain stringent conditions.

9. In the result, these two Criminal Petitions are allowed with the following stringent conditions:

> i. The Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 4 shall be enlarged on bail subject to their executing a bond for a sum of Rs.1,00,000/-(Rupees One lakh only) each with two sureties each for the like sum each to the satisfaction of the learned Judicial Magistrate of First Class-Cum-

Special Court for Trial of Cases relating to red sanders smuggling, Tirupati.

ii. The Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 4 shall appear before the Station House Officer concerned, on every Saturday in between 10:00 am and 05:00 pm, till filing of the charge sheet.

iii. The Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 4 shall not leave the limits of the District without prior permission from the Station House Officer concerned.

iv. The Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 4 shall not commit or indulge in commission of any offence while on bail.

v. The Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 4 shall cooperate with the Investigating Officer in further investigation of the case and shall make themselves available for interrogation by the Investigating Officer as and when required.

vi. The Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 4 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/her from disclosing such facts to the Court.

vii. The Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 4 shall surrender their passports, if any, to the Investigating Officer. If they

claim that they do not have passports, they shall submit affidavits to that effect to the Investigating Officer.

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DR. Y. LAKSHMANA RAO, J

Date: 27.10.2026
RSI

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NOs: 9197 and 9264 of 2026

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