APHC010578702026

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

FRIDAY, THE 6th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 9723/2026

Between:

RAMESH, S/O. KASI, AGED ABOUT 33 YEARS, R/O.SERA MARATHUR,KOVILUR, TIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU.

...PETITIONER/ACCUSED

AND

THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REPRESENTED BY ITS PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH, AMARAVATI, THROUGHTHE FOREST RANGE OFFICER, SVNP, BALAPALLI RANGE ANNAMAYYA T DIVISION, ANDHRA PRADESH.

...RESPONDENT/COMPLAINANT

Counsel for the Petitioner/accused:

SRINIVASU L

Counsel for the Respondent/complainant:

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

The Court made the following:

ORDER:

The Criminal Petition has been filed under Sections 480 and 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity, 'the BNSS'), seeking to enlarge the petitioner/accused on bail in OR.No.25/2026-27 of 2026 of FRO, SVNP Balapalli Range, Annamayya District, registered against the petitioner/accused for the offence punishable under Sections 303(2), 61(2) and 49 read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity 'the BNS'), Section 20(1)(c), ii, iii, iv, vi, x read with 20(1)(d)(i)(a) of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Act, 1967, Rule 3(1)(2) of the Andhra Pradesh Sander Wood and Red Sander Wood Transit Rules, 1969, Rule 3 of the Andhra Pradesh Sander Wood and Red Sander Wood Possession Rules 1989 read with Section 68(4) of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Act, 1967.

2. Mr.L.Srinivasu, learned counsel for the petitioner, submits that the petitioner is innocent of the alleged offences and has been falsely implicated in the present case. He has not committed any offence. He is sole earning member of the family. He is a law-abiding citizen. He has got fixed abode. The petitioner undertakes to abide by any conditions that may be imposed by this Court while granting bail. Hence, learned counsel urges that the petition may be allowed.

3. *Per contra*, Mr. A. Sai Rohith, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor, vehemently opposes the grant of bail to the petitioner, submitting that the

investigation is still underway and several material witnesses remain to be examined. It is contended that if the petitioner is released on bail at this stage, there is a likelihood of his absconding, thereby hampering the ongoing investigation and evading the process of law. In view of the foregoing submissions, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor urges that the petition be dismissed.

4. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor. Perused the record.

5. As seen from the record, the petitioner was arrested on 15.09.2026 and has been in judicial custody for the past 53 days. So far, only three witnesses have been examined. The petitioner is the sole accused. The allegation against the petitioner is that he was found in possession of and transporting 15 red sanders logs weighing about 300 kgs and valued at approximately Rs.1,54,000/- in the open market. Of course, there are no adverse antecedents reported against the petitioner. However, the investigation is still at a progressive stage, and the material part of the investigation is yet to be completed.

6. Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case, the nature and gravity of the allegations levelled against the petitioner/Accused, and the stage of investigation, this Court is not inclined to grant bail to the petitioner at this stage. Hence, this Court finds no merit in the Criminal Petition, and the same is liable to be dismissed.

7. In the result, the Criminal Petition is dismissed.

As a sequel, Miscellaneous petitions, if any pending, shall stand closed.

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DR. Y. LAKSHMANA RAO, J

Date: 06.11.2026
RSI

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THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 9723 of 2026

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RSI