APHC010602012026

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

FRIDAY, THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 10150/2026

Between:

1. THIRUPATHI CHINNATHAMBI, S/O CHINNATHAMBI, AGED 21 YEARS,D.N0.16B, SERAMANDHAI VILLAGE, NACHAMALAI POST, PALAMAARTHUR PANCHAYATHI, JAMUNAMARTHUR TALUK,THIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU STATE.
2. KARTHICK CHINNARAJ, , S/O CHINNARAJ, AGED 29 YEARS, D.NO.28,NACHAMALAI VILLAGE CUM POST. PALAMAARTHURPANCHAYATHI ,JAMUNAMARTHUR TALUK, THIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU STATE.
3. AJITHKUMAR KRISHNAN, S/O. KRISHNAN, AGED 18 YEARS 04 MONTHS, D.NO.01, POST OFFICE STREET, NACHAMALAI VILLAGE CUM POST, PALAMAARTHUR PANCHAYATHI, JAMUNAMARTHUR TALUK, THIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU STATE.

...PETITIONER/ACCUSED(S)

AND

THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REPRESENTED BY ITS PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH, THROUGH THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, RSASTF P.S, TIRUPATI, TIRUPATI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

...RESPONDENT/COMPLAINANT

Counsel for the Petitioner/accused(S):

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 petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 3 on bail in Crime No.29 of 2026 of RSASTF Police Station, Tirupati District, registered against the Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 3 for the offence punishable under Sections 303(2) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity 'the BNS'), 49, 61(2) of 'the BNS' and Section 20(1)(d)(i)(a) read with 20(1)(c) ii, iii, iv, x, Section 36(a) read with 32A of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Amendment Act, 2016

2. Mr.L.Srinivasu, learned counsel for the petitioners, submits that the petitioners are innocent of the alleged offence and have been falsely implicated in the present case. They have not committed any offence. They are sole earning members of the family. They are law-abiding citizens. They have got fixed abode. The petitioners undertake 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 Rohit, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor, vehemently opposes 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 likelihood of their 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 petitioners and the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor. Perused the record.

5. As seen from the record, the petitioners are arraigned as Accused Nos.1 to 3. Altogether, there are four accused in this case. The three petitioners were arrested on the spot, while Accused No.4 is absconding. No adverse antecedents have been reported against the petitioners. The petitioners are permanent residents of Tamil Nadu and have fixed residences. The petitioners were arrested on 07.10.2026 and have been in judicial custody for the past 47 days only. It is alleged that 30 red sanders logs, weighing about 181 kgs and valued at Rs.1,50,000/- in the open market, were being transported. So far, only six witnesses have been examined, and the investigation is at a crucial stage.

6. Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case, the nature and gravity of the allegations levelled against the petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 3 and in view of the pendency of the investigation, the request for enlarging the petitioners on bail is not found convincing and reasonable. 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: 20.11.2026
RSI

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THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

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RSI