HC-KAR

NC: 2026:KHC:65466
CRL.P No. 13273 of 2026

CNR: KAHC010595552026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 24TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 13273 OF 2026

BETWEEN:

SRI. PUNEETH J
S/O. JAYANNA,
AGED ABOUT 20 YEARS,
RESIDING AT SOMANIKOPPA,
KOTE GANGURU, SHIVAMOGGA,
KARNATAKA - 577 204.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI. JAYARAJ D.S, ADVOCATE)

AND:

THE STATE OF KARNATAKA
REPRESENTED BY
HOLEHONNUR POLICE STATION
REPRESENTED BY ITS
STATE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
DR. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI,
BENGALURU - 560 001.

...RESPONDENT

(BY SRI. RAHUL RAI K, HCGP FOR R1;
NOTICE TO R2 IS HELD SUFFICIENT, VIDE ORDER DATED 24.04.2026)

THIS CRL.P IS FILED U/S 438 OF CR.PC (FILED U/S 482 BNSS) PRAYING TO SET ASIDE THE IMPUGNED ORDER DATED 13.08.2026 PASSED BY THE HONBLE COURT OF ADDL.DIST

Digitally signed by NANDINI D
Location: HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

AND SESSIONS JUDGE FTSC-1 (POCSO) SHIVAMOGGA IN REJECTING THE PETITION IN CRL.MISC.NO.762/2026 PREFERRED BY THE PETITIONER SEEKING ANTICIPATORY BAIL UNDER SEC.482 OF BNSS 2023 VIDE ANNEXURE-A AND CONSEQUENTLY DIRECT THE RESPONDENT POLICE TO ENLARGE THE ACCUSED- PETITIONER THEREBY GRANTING ANTICIPATORY BAIL IN THE EVENT OF HIS ARREST IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIR REGISTERED IN CR.NO.25/2026 FOR THE OFFENCE P/U/S 75(1), 78(1), 352, 351(2) OF BNS 2023 AND SEC.8, 12 OF POCSO ACT 2012 WHICH IS CHARGE SHEET BEARING NO.52/2026 AND COGNIZANCE BEING TAKEN BY THE HONBLE COURT OF ADDL.DIST. AND SESSIONS JUDGE FTSC-1 (POCSO) SHIVAMOGGA IN SPL.C.NO.133/2026 AS A CONSEQUENCE TO THE COMPLAINT LODGED BY THE COMPLAINANT.

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR ORDERS, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

ORAL ORDER

Accused in Spl.case No.133/2026 pending before the Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, FTSC-I, Shivamogga arising out of crime No.25/2026 registered by Holehonnur Police Station, Shivamogga for offences punishable under Sections 75(1), 78(1) 352, 351(2) of BNS, 2023 and Sections 8 and 12 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 is before this Court in this petition

filed under Section 482 of BNSS, 2023 seeking anticipatory bail.

2. Heard the learned counsel for the parties.

3. FIR in crime No.25/2026 was registered by Holehonnur Police Station, Shivamogga for the aforesaid offences against the petitioner herein based on the first information dated 24.01.2026 received from respondent No.2, who is the father of the victim girl aged 17 years. Apprehending arrest in the case petitioner had approached the Jurisdictional Sessions Court in Criminal Misc. No.762/2026 which was rejected on 13.08.2026. Therefore, he is before this Court.

4. In the first information dated 24.01.2026 submitted by the father of the victim girl it is stated that the victim girl is pursuing her studies in a college and on 24.01.2026 at about 1.30 p.m., when the victim girl was returning from her college petitioner who approached her allegedly asked her to love him, caught hold of her hand

and pulled the same. When some other boys who were present there questioned the petitioner, he allegedly abused them. It is under these circumstances, FIR was registered against the petitioner for the aforesaid offences.

5. Investigation of the case is now completed and charge sheet is filed against the petitioner for the aforesaid allegations.

6. Petitioner aged 20 years has no other criminal antecedents. Considering the nature of allegations found against the petitioner and also the maximum punishment provided for the alleged offences, the following:-

ORDER

The criminal petition is allowed. The respondent - Police or any other police in the State of Karnataka are directed to release the petitioner in the event of his arrest in Crime No. 25/2026 registered by Holehonnur Police Station, Shivamogga for the offences punishable under

Sections 75(1), 78(1) 352, 351(2) of BNS, 2023 and Sections 8 and 12 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, subject to the following conditions:

i) The Petitioner shall appear before the Investigating Officer within 15 days from the date of receipt of the copy of this order and shall execute a personal bond for a sum of Rs.1,00,000/- with two sureties for the likesum to the satisfaction of the investigating officer.

ii) Petitioner shall regularly appear before the Trial Court without fail unless exempted by the Trial Court for valid reasons.

iii) Petitioner shall not tamper with the prosecution witnesses and he shall co-operate with the police for investigation and appear before them whenever called upon.

iv) The petitioner shall not involve in similar offences in future.

Sd/-
(S VISHWAJITH SHETTY)
JUDGE

VS
List No.: 1 Sl No.: 35