HC-KAR

CNR: KAHC010685762026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 5TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 15337 OF 2026

BETWEEN:

1. SRI KRISHNA
S/O PAPANNA
AGED ABOUT 50 YEARS
RESIDENG AT NO.3/65
VEPPANNAPALLI, ARIYANAPALLI
KRISHNAGIRI TALUK AND DISTRICT
TAMIL NADU - 635 121.

2. SRI ARMUGAM
S/O KRISHNAN
AGED 30 YEARS
RESIDING AT NO.223 ERULAR COLON
CHINNAMATARAPALLI
KRISHNAGIRI TALUK AND DISTRICT
TAMIL NADU - 635 121.

3. SRI BALAJI
S/O KRISHNAN
AGED ABOUT 20 YEARS
RESIDING AT NO.3/65 KIRAMMA KOVIL
ARIYANAPALLI VEPPANAPALLI
KRISHNAGIRI TALUK AND DISTRICT
TAMIL NADU - 635 121.

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Location: HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

4. SRI SHIVAKUMAR
S/O BASAVARAJU/BASAPPA
AGED 32 YEARS
R/O ERULAR COLONY
KONGANAPALLI CHINNAMATARAPALLI
KRISHNAGIRI TALUK AND DISTRICT
TAMIL NADU, TAMIL NADU - 635 121.

5. SRI SRIRAM
S/O MUNIYAPPAN
AGED 30 YEARS

RESIDENT OF ERULAR COLONY
ARIYANAPALLI VEPPANAPALLI
KRISHNAGIRI TALUK AND DISTRICT
TAMIL NADU - 635 121.

6. SRI MANJA
S/O MUNIYAPPA
AGED 33 YEARS
RESIDENT OF ERULAR COLONY
CHINNAMATARAPALLI, KRISHNAGIRI TALUK
AND DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU 635 121.

…PETITIONERS

(BY SRI V.K, SATHYA NARAYANA, ADV., FOR
SRI DAYANAND HIREMATH, ADV.)

AND:

THE STATE OF KARNATAKA
BY RANGE FOREST OFFICER TARIKERE
CHIKKAMAGALURU, REPRESENTED
BY THE SPP, HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
BANGALORE - 560 001.

…RESPONDENT

(BY SRI RAHUL RAI K, HCGP)

THIS CRL.P IS FILED U/S 439 CR.P.C (U/S 483 BNSS) PRAYING TO GRANT BAIL TO THE PETITIONER IN CRIME FOC.NO.18/2026 BY THE RANGE FOREST OFFICER, TARIKERE RANGE, TARIKERE, CHIKKAMAGALURU, FOR THE OFFENCES P/U/S 33,50,62,84,86,87 OF KARNATAKA FOREST ACT, 1963.

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 Nos.1 to 6 in FOC.No.18/2026-27 registered by Range Forest Officer, Tarikere Range, Tarikere, Chikkamagaluru District, for the offences punishable under Section 33, 50, 62, 84, 86 and 87 of Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 are before this Court in this petition filed under Section 483 of BNSS, 2023 seeking regular bail.

2. Heard the learned counsel for the parties.

3. FIR in FOC No.18/2026-27 was registered by Range Forest Officer, Tarikere Range, Tarikere, Chikkamagaluru District against the petitioners herein and another for the aforesaid offences. In the said case the petitioners were arrested on 22.08.2026 and remanded to judicial custody. Their bail application filed before the Jurisdictional Sessions Court in Crl.Misc.No.564/2026 was

rejected on 10.09.2026. Therefore, they are before this Court.

4. It is the case of the prosecution that on 21.08.2026, at about 11:00 p.m., first informant had received credible information to the effect that some persons were cutting and removing sandalwood trees from the reserve forest area. Based on the said information, accused Nos.1 to 6 were apprehended and from their possession sandalwood billets totally weighing 59 kilo 580 grams and the weapons which were used for the purpose of cutting the sandalwood trees were recovered under a Panchanama. Thereafter, the apprehended accused were arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

5. Investigation of the case is already completed. It is not in dispute that the petitioners herein do not have any criminal antecedents. Maximum punishment for the alleged offences is imprisonment for a period of 10 years. The petitioners have undertaken to abide by the

conditions that may be imposed on them by this Court and also to co-operate before the Trial Court for expeditious disposal of the case.

6. Under the circumstances, I am of the opinion that the prayer made by the petitioners for grant of regular bail needs to be answered affirmatively, subject to appropriate conditions. Accordingly, the following:

ORDER

i) The Criminal Petition is ***allowed***.

ii) The petitioners are directed to be enlarged on bail in FOC.No.18/2026-27 registered by Range Forest Officer, Tarikere Range, Tarikere, Chikkamagaluru District, for the offences punishable under Section 33, 50, 62, 84, 86 and 87 of Karnataka Forest Act, 1963, subject to the following conditions:

a) The petitioners shall execute a personal bond for a sum of Rs.1,00,000/-

(Rupees One Lakh only) each with two sureties, out of which, one shall be local surety, for the likesum, to the satisfaction of the jurisdictional Court;

b) The petitioners shall appear regularly on all the dates of hearing before the Trial Court unless the Trial Court exempts their appearance for valid reasons;

c) The petitioners shall not directly or indirectly threaten or tamper with the prosecution witnesses;

d) The petitioners shall not involve in similar offences in future;

e) The petitioners shall not leave the jurisdiction of the Trial Court without permission of the said Court until the case registered against them is disposed off.

Sd/-
(S VISHWAJITH SHETTY)
JUDGE

SHS
List No.: 1 Sl No.: 62