HC-KAR
CNR: KAHC010686182026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 15262 OF 2026
C/W
CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 15699 OF 2026,

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 15945 OF 2026,

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 16313 OF 2026

IN CRL.P No. 15262/2026:

BETWEEN:

SRI RAMAKRISHNA T
S/O THAMMAIAH
AGED ABOUT 50 YEARS
WORKING AS DEPUTY MANAGER (D.T.)
MANDYA DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK
PRODUCERS SOCIETIES UNION LTD.
GEJJALAGERE, R/O. BASAVALINGANADODDI
VILLAGE, KESTURU-POST, MADDUR TALUK
MANDYA DISTRICT - 571 429.

...PETITIONER

Digitally signed by NANDINI D
Location: HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

(BY SRI S.D. KULKARNI, SR. COUNSEL FOR
SUBRAHMANYA DATTATRAY, ADV.)

AND:

1. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA
   REPTD. BY STATION OF OFFICER
   MADDUR POLICE STATION
   MALAVALLI SUB-DIVISION
   MADDUR TOWN-571 428, MANDYA DIST.
   NOW REPRESENTED BY ITS STATE P.P.
   HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
   BANGALORE - 560 001.

2. SMT. ASHWINI
   MANAGER, DIARY

M/S MANDYA DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE
MILK PRODUCERS SOCIETIES
UNION LIMITED PRODUCT DIARY
GEJJALAGERE - 571 428, MANDYA DISTRICT.

…RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI JAGADEESHA B.N, ADV., AND
SRI RAHUL RAI, ADV., FOR
SRI B.L. SANJEEV, ADV., FRO R-2)

THIS CRL.P IS FILED U/S 438 CR.PC (FILED U/S 482 BNSS) PRAYING TO ENLARGE THE ACCUSED NO.2/ PETITIONER ON ANTICIPATORY BAIL IN CR.NO.303/2026 OF MADDUR P.S MADDUR REGISTERED UNDER SEC.316(4),274,318(3),317(4),61 OF BNS 2023 PENDING ON THE FILE OF THE 2ND ADDL.J.M.F.C COURT MADDUR BY ISSUING APPROPRIATE DIRECTION TO THE RESPONDENT POLICE TO RELEASE THE ACCUSED NO.2/ PETITIONER ON BAIL IN THE EVENT OF HE BEING ARRESTED IN THE ABOVE CASE.

IN CRL.P NO. 15699/2026:

BETWEEN:

SRINIVASMURTHY K.N
S/O NAMANAYAK
AGED ABOUT 49 YEARS
R/O KILARADAHALLI TANDE VILLAGE
BUKAPATNA HOBLI, SHIRA TALUK
TUMAKURU DISTRICT - 572 137
PRESENTLY RESIDING AT
NEAR MADDURAMMA TEMPLE
MADDUR TALUK, MADDUR TOWN
MANDYA DISTRICT - 571 428.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI PAVAN KUMAR G, ADV.)

AND:

STATE OF KARNATAKA
BY MADDUR P.S
REP BY SPP, HIGH COURT BUILDING
BANGALORE - 560 001.

...RESPONDENT

(BY SRI JAGADEESHA B.N, ADV., FOR
SRI RAHUL RAI K, HCGP FOR R-1;
SRI B.L. SANJEEV, ADV., FOR R-2)

THIS CRL.P IS FILED U/S 439 CR.P.C (U/S 483 BNSS) PRAYING TO ENLARGE THE PETITIONER ON BAIL IN CR.NO.303/2026 REGISTERED BY MADDUR P.S., FOR THE OFFENCES P/U/S 316(4),274,318(3),317(4),61 OF BNS, 2023, PENDING BEFORE THE 2nd ADDL. JMFC COURT, MADDUR.

IN CRL.P NO. 15945/2026:

BETWEEN:

PRADEEP KUMAR JADAV
S/O RAMA SHETTY JADAV
AGED ABOUT 45 YEARS
PURCHASE OFFICER
KMF, MANMUL, MADDURU TALUK
MANDYA - 571 428
PRESENTLY R/AT 9TH CROSS
NEAR GANAPATHI TEMPLE, K.H. NAGARA
MADDURU TOWN, MANDYA DISTRICT - 571 428
PERMANENT R/O KOLURU VILLAGE
MUDDEBIHAL TALUK
VIJAYAPURA DISTRICT - 586 129.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI HEMANTH KUMAR K, ADV.)

AND:

STATE OF KARNATAKA
BY MADDURU POLICE
REP BY STATE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR
HIGH COURT COMPLEX
BENGALURU - 560 001.

...RESPONDENT

(BY SRI JAGADEESHA B.N, ADV., FOR
SRI RAHUL RAI K, HCGP FOR R-1;
SRI B.L. SANJEEV, ADV., FOR R-2)

THIS CRL.P IS FILED U/S 439 CR.P.C (U/S 483 BNSS) PRAYING TO ENLARGE THE PETITIONER ON BAIL IN CR.NO.303/2026 REGISTERED BY THE RESPONDENT IN MADDUR P.S., FOR THE OFFENCES P/U/S 316(4),274,318(3),317(4),61 OF BNS, 2023, PENDING BEFORE THE II ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, AT MADDUR, MANDYA.

IN CRL.P NO. 16313/2026:

BETWEEN:

RAVI
S/O BOREGOWDA
AGE: 37 YEARS
MASTER INSULATION GODOWN
MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE/ SECURITY GUARD
GEJJALAGERE KIADB, MADDUR TALUK
MANDYA DISTRICT - 571 428
VILLAGE ADDRESS: SIDDANAHALLI VILLAGE
MALLUR HOBLI, CHENNAPATNA TALUK
BENGALURU SOUTH DISTRICT - 562 108.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI CHANDRASHEKHARA REDDY K.N, ADV.)

AND:

1. STATE OF KARNATAKA
THROUGH THE PSI MADDUR P.S
REP. BY SPP, HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
BANGALORE - 560 001.

2 SMT. ASHWINI
MANAGER, DAIRY
M/S. MANDYA DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE
MILK PRODUCERS SOCIETIRES
UNION LIMITED PRODUCT DAIRY
GEJJALAGERE - 571 428
MANDYA DISTRICT.

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI JAGADEESAH B.N, ADV., AND
SRI RAHUL RAI K, HCGP FOR R-1;
SRI B.L. SANJEEV, ADV., FOR R-2)

THIS CRL.P IS FILED U/S 439 CR.PC (FILED U/S 483 BNNS) PRAYING TO ALLOW THIS CRIMINAL PETITION FILED U/S 483 OF THE BNSS 2023.B. ENLARGE THE PETITIONER/ACCUSED NO. 4 ON REGULAR BAIL IN CRIME NO. 303/2026 REGISTERED BY MADDUR POLICE STATION, MANDYA DISTRICT, FOR THE OFFENCES PUNISHABLE UNDER SECTIONS 316(4), 274, 318(3), 317(4), AND SECTION 61 OF BNS 2023 ON THE FILE OF THE II ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC, MADDUR, MANDYA DISTRICT IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE.

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

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

ORAL ORDER

1. Accused nos.1, 2, 4 & 6 are before this Court in these petitions filed under Sections 482 & 483 of BNSS, 2023, seeking anticipatory bail and regular bail in Crime No.303/2026 registered by Maddur Police Station, Mandya District, for the offences punishable under Sections 316(4), 274, 318(3) of BNS, 2023.

2. Heard the learned Counsel for the parties.

3. FIR in Crime No.303/2026 was registered by Maddur Police Station, Mandya District, for the aforesaid offences against Pradeep Kumar Jadav and another based on the first information dated 30.08.2026 received from Ashwini.N., W/o Prajval Kumar.S., authorized representative of Mandya District Milk Producers Co-operative Societies Union Ltd., (for short, 'MANMUL'). During the course of investigation, accused nos.1, 4 & 6 were arrested and remanded to judicial custody. Their bail applications filed before the jurisdictional Sessions Court in

Crl. Misc. Nos.903/2026, 877/2026, & 870/2026 were rejected on 06.10.2026, 28.09.2026 & 28.09.2026, respectively, and therefore, they are before this Court in Crl.P.Nos.15945/2026, 16313/2026 & 15699/2026, respectively. Apprehending arrest in the case, accused no.2 had approached the jurisdictional Sessions Court in Crl. Misc. No.834/2026 which was rejected on 28.09.2026. Therefore, he is before this Court in Crl.P.No.15262/2026.

4. A reading of the first information as well as the other material made available to the Court by the learned Counsel for the petitioners, learned State Public Prosecutor and the learned Counsel appearing for the defacto complainant who has filed his statement of objections, would reveal that allegation against the accused persons is about adulteration of skimmed milk powder, produced in the product unit of MANMUL and transferred to the godown of M/s. Master Insulation Inc. owned by one Anantha.

5. According to the prosecution, as on 20.03.2026, there was total stock of 3,61,450 Kgs. of skimmed milk powder at

Godown No.1 of M/s. Master Insulation Inc., and since sufficient space was available in the premises of MANMUL, it was decided to lift the stock from the godown to MANMUL and at that stage, it was found that there was shortage of 90 MTs. of skimmed milk powder in the godown. Therefore, it was decided to hold an enquiry.

6. After available stock was lifted from the godown and random quality check of the stock was made, it was found that the skimmed milk powder was adulterated. On verification, it was found that accused nos.1 & 2 were responsible for the same and it is under these circumstances, FIR was initially registered against them. After accused no.1 was arrested in the present case, it was found that even other accused persons were involved in the scam.

7. According to the prosecution, accused no.1 had taken charge of the godown belonging to M/s. Master Insulation Inc. with effect from 02.06.2025 and he was incharge of Finished Goods Store (FGS). It is only after accused no.1 took charge of the godown, he along with accused no.2 had procured a

material known as Maltodextrin from a firm known as 'Dairy Agro Industries' and the said material allegedly was mixed with skimmed milk powder, and thereafter, was being supplied to the customers. The laboratory report which is produced along with the statement of objections would reveal that the aforesaid material/product known as maltodextrin contained starch and less milk protein. The laboratory report would also indicate that the said product was not safe for consumption.

8. Accused no.4 was working as a Supervisor in the godown and accused no.6 was working in the product unit only for a few days after accused no.1 took charge of the godown with effect from 02.06.2025. Material collected by the Investigation Officer as on this date would clearly indicate that it is only accused nos.1 & 2 who had played major role in committing the alleged crime and no prima facie material is available at this stage as against accused nos.4 & 6. Investigation of the case is under progress and involvement of the other accused is also found as per the material collected by the Investigation Officer as on this date. Since the alleged crime has a serious consequence and impact on the society at large, I am of the

opinion that at this stage prayer made by accused nos.1 & 2 for grant of regular bail and anticipatory bail, respectively, cannot be entertained, while prayer made by accused nos.4 & 6 for grant of regular bail can be answered affirmatively. Accordingly, the following order:

9. Crl.P.No.15945/2026 & Crl.P.No.15262/2026 are dismissed.

10. Crl.P.No.16313/2026 & Crl.P.No.15699/2026 are allowed. The petitioners/accused nos.4 & 6 are directed to be enlarged on bail in Crime No.303/2026 registered by Maddur Police Station, Mandya District, for the offences punishable under Sections 316(4), 274, 318(3) of BNS, 2023, subject to the following conditions:

a) Petitioners/accused nos.4 & 6 shall execute personal bond for a sum of Rs.1,00,000/- each with two sureties for the likesum, to the satisfaction of the jurisdictional Court;

b) The petitioners/accused nos.4 & 6 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/accused nos.4 & 6 shall not directly or indirectly threaten or tamper with the prosecution witnesses;

d) The petitioners/accused nos.4 & 6 shall not involve in similar offences in future;

e) The petitioners/accused nos.4 & 6 shall not leave the jurisdiction of the Trial Court without permission of the said Court until the case registered against him is disposed off.

Sd/-
(S VISHWAJITH SHETTY)
JUDGE

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