HC-KAR

NC: 2026:KHC:61377
CRL.P No. 15521 of 2026

CNR: KAHC010696582026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 4TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 15521 OF 2026

BETWEEN:

SRI VENKATESH K.M
S/O ALTE MUNIYAPPA
AGED ABOUT 57 YEARS
WORKING AS BILL COLLECTOR AT
MUDDENAHALLI GRAMA PANCYHAYAT
CHIKKABALLAPURA
R/AT KALAVARA VILLAGE
KASABA HOBLI
CHIKKABALLAPURA TALUK
CHIKKABALLAPUR DISTRICT - 562 101.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI DEVENDRA N, ADV.)

AND:

STATE OF KARNATAKA
BY NANDIGIRIDHAMA
POLICE STATION
CHIKKABALLAPURA REPRESENTED BY
STATE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR
HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
BENGALURU - 560 001.

...RESPONDENT

(BY SRI RAHUL RAI K, HCGP)

Digitally signed by NANDINI D
Location: HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

THIS CRL.P IS FILED U/S 438 CR.PC (FILED U/S 482 BNSS) PRAYING TO ENLARGE HIM ON BAIL IN CR.NO.0090/2026 REGISTERED BY THE RESPONDENT HEREIN FOR THE OFFENCES P/U/S 316(4) AND 318(3) OF BNS 2023 REGISTERED BY THE NANDIGIRIDHAMA POLICE STATION, CHIKKABALLAPUR (RESPONDENT HEREIN) AS BAIL APPLICATION FILED U/S 482 OF BNSS, 2023 BY THE PETITIONER IN COURT OF THE III ADDL. DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE, CHIKKABALLAPURA IN CRL.MISC.NO.485/2026 U/S 482 OF BNSS, 2023 SEEKING GRANT OF

ANTICIPATORY BAIL WHICH CAME TO BE DISMISSED ON 22.09.2026.

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

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

ORAL ORDER

1. Accused in Crime No.90/2026 registered by Nandi Giridhama Police Station, Chickballapura District, for the offences punishable under Sections 316(4), 318(3) of BNS, 2023, 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.90/2026 was registered by Nandi Giridhama Police Station, Chickballapura District, for the aforesaid offences against the petitioner herein based on the first information dated 08.08.2026 received from the Panchayath Development Officer of Muddenahalli Gram Panchayath. Apprehending arrest in the said case, petitioner had approached the jurisdictional Sessions Court in Crl. Misc. No.485/2026, which was rejected on 22.09.2026. Therefore, he is before this Court.

4. A reading of the first information would go to show that petitioner was earlier working as Bill Collector in Muddenahalli Gram Panchayath. The first informant has taken charge as Panchayath Development Officer of Muddenahalli Gram Panchayath with effect from 25.07.2024. It is alleged that for the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26, petitioner has misappropriated a total amount of Rs.29,60,123/-, out of the amount collected by him from the public. According to the first informant, the aforesaid misappropriation had come to light after the audit report of the year 2024-25.

5. Learned Counsel for the petitioner has brought to the notice of this Court that petitioner has suffered a stroke and he is completely paralyzed. Considering the nature of allegations found against the petitioner, his medical condition and also the fact that the alleged offences are triable by the Court of Magistrate and the maximum punishment for the alleged offences is imprisonment for a period of seven years, I am of the opinion that the prayer made by the petitioner who has undertaken to cooperate with the police for the purpose of

investigation, is required to be granted. Accordingly, the following order:

6. The 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.90/2026 registered by Nandi Giridhama Police Station, Chickballapura District, for the offences punishable under Sections 316(4), 318(3) of BNS, 2023, subject to the following conditions:

1. 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.

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

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

4. The petitioner shall not involve in similar offences in future.

Sd/-
(S VISHWAJITH SHETTY)
JUDGE

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