HC-KAR

NC: 2026:KHC:61115
CRL.P No. 15852 of 2026
C/W CRL.P No. 15403 of 2026

CNR: KAHC010707142026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 3RD DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 15852 OF 2026

C/W

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 15403 OF 2026

IN CRL.P No. 15852/2026

BETWEEN:

1. SRIDHARA
   S/O RAJABHOVI
   AGED ABOUT 38 YEARS
   R/AT ANDALE VILLAGE
   MADIHALLI HOBLI, BELUR TALUK
   HASSAN DISTRICT - 573 216.

2. SHOBHA
   W/O SRIDHARA
   AGED ABOUT 42 YEARS
   R/AT ANDALE VILLAGE
   MADIHALLI HOBLI, BELUR TALUK
   HASSAN DISTRICT - 573 216.

...PETITIONERS

(BY SRI. GIRISH KUMAR B.M, ADVOCATE)

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Location: HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

AND:

1. STATE BY BELUR POLICE
   HASSAN DISTRICT,
   REPRESENTED BY STATE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
   HIGH COURT BUILDING,

BANGALORE - 560 001.

2. XXX
D/O MANJU
AGED ABOUT 18 YEARS,
R/AT HOSANAGARA
BELUR TOWN, BELUR,
HASSAN DISTRICT - 573 216

…RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI. RAHUL RAI K, HCGP FOR R1;
SRI. MANOJ ARADHYA, ADVOCATE FOR R2)

THIS CRL.P IS FILED U/S 438 OF CR.PC (FILED U/S 482 BNNS) PRAYING TO ENLARGE THE PETITIONERS ON ANTICIPATORY BAIL IN THE EVENT OF THEIR ARREST IN CRIME NO. 191/2026 REGISTERED BY BELUR POLICE, HASSAN DISTRICT, FOR THE OFFENCES PUNISHABLE UNDER SECTIONS 137(2), 45 AND 64 R/W SEC. 3(5) OF THE BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA, 2023, AND SECTION 6 OF THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT, 2012 (POCSO ACT), IN SPL. C. NO. 314/2026, PENDING BEFORE THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT HASSAN, FTSC-I, ON SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THIS HON'BLE COURT DEEMS FIT.

IN CRL.P NO. 15403/2026

BETWEEN:

ABHILASH
S/O SREEDHARA
AGED ABOUT 22 YEARS
R/AT ANDALE VILLAGE,
MADIHALLI HOBLI, BELUR TALUK
HASSAN DISTRICT - 573 216.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI. GIRISH KUMAR B.M, ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. STATE BY BELUR POLICE
   HASSAN DISTRICT,
   REPRESENTED BY STATE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
   HIGH COURT BUILDING,
   BANGALORE - 560 001.

2. XXX
   D/O MANJU
   AGED ABOUT 18 YEARS
   R/AT HOSANAGARA, BELUR
   HASSAN DISTRICT - 573 216.

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI. RAHUL RAI K, HCGP FOR R1;
SRI. MANOJ ARADHYA, ADVOCATE FOR R2)

THIS CRL.P IS FILED U/S 439 OF CR.PC (FILED U/S 483 BNNS) PRAYING TO ALLOW THE PETITION AND ENLARGE THE PETITIONER ON REGULAR BAIL IN CRIME NO.191/2026 REGISTERED BY BELUR POLICE, HASSAN DISTRICT FOR THE OFFENCES P/U/S 137(2), 45 AND 65 R/W 3(5) OF THE BNS 2023 AND U/S 6 OF THE POCSO ACT 2012 BEFORE THE ADDL.DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT HASSAN FTSC-I IN SPL.C NO.314/2026.

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

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

HC-KAR

NC: 2026:KHC:61115
CRL.P No. 15852 of 2026
C/W CRL.P No. 15403 of 2026

CNR: KAHC010707142026

ORAL ORDER

Accused Nos.1 to 3 in Special Case No.314 of 2026 pending before the Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, FTSC-1, Hassan arising out of Crime No.191 of 2025 registered by Belur Police Station, Hassan for the offences punishable under Section 137(2), 45 and 64 read with Section 3(5) of BNS, 2023 and Section 6 of POCSO Act, 2012, are before this Court in these two petitions filed under Section 483 and 482 of BNSS, 2023 seeking regular bail and anticipatory bail respectively.

2. Heard the learned counsel for the parties.

3. FIR in Crime No.191 of 2025 was registered by Belur Police Station, Hassan for the offence punishable under Section 137(2) of BNS, 2023 against Abhilash (accused No.1), based on the first information dated 21.08.2025 received from respondent No.2, who is the mother of the victim girl, aged 17 years. In the said case during the course of investigation, accused No.1 was

arrested on 11.06.2026 and remanded to judicial custody. His bail application filed before the jurisdictional Sessions Court was rejected and therefore, he is before this Court in Criminal Petition No.15403 of 2026. Accused Nos.2 and 3 are the parents of accused No.1. Apprehending arrest, they had approached the jurisdictional Sessions Court in Crl.Misc.No.972 of 2026, which was rejected on 28.09.2026. Therefore, they are before this Court in Criminal Petition No.15852 of 2026.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner has reiterated the grounds urged in the petition and prayed for allowing the petition.

5. Learned counsel for respondent No.2 submits that he has no objection for allowing the petitions.

6. The first information is submitted by the mother of the victim girl, alleging that her daughter aged 17 years was found missing from their house on 20.08.2025. Efforts made to trace her had failed. Since she suspected the

hand of accused No.1, she had approached the police on 21.08.2025 and FIR was registered against accused No.1 for an offence punishable under Section 137(2) of BNS, 2023. During the course of investigation, the petitioner and the victim girl were traced together. Petitioner was arrested and remanded to judicial custody. The statement of the victim girl under Section 183 of BNS, 2023 was recorded by the jurisdictional Magistrate on 17.06.2026. She has not made any allegations against the accused No.1, which would attract the alleged offence punishable under the POCSO Act. She has also not made any allegations against accused Nos.2 and 3, who are the parents of accused No.1. Investigation of the case is completed and charge sheet is filed.

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

IN CRL.P.No.15403/2026

O R D E R

(i) The Criminal Petition is allowed.

(ii) The petitioner/ accused No.1 is directed to be enlarged on bail in Special Case No.314 of 2026 pending before the Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, FTSC-1, Hassan arising out of Crime No.191 of 2025 registered by Belur Police Station, Hassan for the offences punishable under Section 137(2), 45 and 64 read with Section 3(5) of BNS, 2023 and Section 6 of POCSO Act, 2012, subject to the following conditions:

a) The petitioner/accused No.1 shall execute personal bond for a sum of Rs.1,00,000/- with two sureties for the likesum, to the satisfaction of the jurisdictional Court;

b) The petitioner/accused No.1 shall appear regularly on all the dates of hearing

before the Trial Court unless the Trial Court exempts his appearance for valid reasons;

c) The petitioner/accused No.1 shall not directly or indirectly threaten or tamper with the prosecution witnesses;

d) The petitioner/accused No.1 shall not involve in similar offences in future;

e) The petitioner/accused No.1 shall not leave the jurisdiction of the Trial Court without permission of the said Court until the case registered against him is disposed off.

IN CRL.P.No.15852/2026

O R D E R

(i) The criminal petition is allowed.

(ii) The respondent - Police or any other police in the State of Karnataka are directed to release the petitioners/accused Nos.2 and 3 in the event of their arrest in Special Case No.314 of 2026 pending before the

Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, FTSC-1, Hassan arising out of Crime No.191 of 2025 registered by Belur Police Station, Hassan for the offences punishable under Section 137(2), 45 and 64 read with Section 3(5) of BNS, 2023 and Section 6 of POCSO Act, 2012, subject to the following conditions:

a) Petitioners/accused Nos.2 and 3 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/- each with two sureties for the likesum to the satisfaction of the investigating officer.

b) Petitioners/accused Nos.2 and 3 shall regularly appear before the Trial Court without fail unless exempted by the Trial Court for valid reasons.

c) Petitioners/accused Nos.2 and 3 shall not tamper with the prosecution witness and they shall co-operate with the police for

investigation and appear before them whenever called upon.

d) Petitioners/accused Nos.2 and 3 shall not involve in similar offences in future.

Sd/-
(S VISHWAJITH SHETTY)
JUDGE

AMM
List No.: 1 Sl No.: 99