HC-KAR

NC: 2026:KHC:61149-DB
WP No. 33654 of 2026

CNR: KAHC010744732026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 4TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE K.S. HEMALEKHA

WRIT PETITION NO. 33654 OF 2026 (GM-MM-S)

BETWEEN:

1. MURALI SUNDAR
AGED ABOUT 30 YEARS
S/O RAMANJINAPPA
R/OF DHANAVAHALLI VILLAGE
CHAKARASANAHALLI POST
NARASAPURA HOBLI, KOLAR TALUK
KOLAR DISTRICT – 563 133

…PETITIONER

(BY SRI RAVEENDRA GAJANAN KOLLE, ADVOCATE)

AND:

Digitally signed by VEERENDRA KUMAR K M
Location: High Court of Karnataka

1. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA
REP. BY ITS CHIEF SECRETARY
ROOM NO.320, 3RD FLOOR
VIDHANA SOUDHA
BENGALURU – 560 001

2. THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.,
DEPT. OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES (MINES)
ROOM NO.135, VIKAS SOUDHA
BENGALURU – 560 001

3. THE DIRECTOR & COMMISSIONER
DEPT. OF MINES AND GEOLOGY
KHANIJ BHAVAN

RACE COURSE ROAD
BENGALURU – 560 001

4. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR & COMPETENT AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
ROOM NO. S3 AND S3A
2ND FLOOR, ZILLA ADALITH BHAVAN
KUMBARAHALLI
KOLAR DISTRICT – 563 103

5. THE DISTRICT TASK FORCE COMMITTEE (MINES)
KOLAR DISTRICT, REP. BY ITS CHAIRMAN
THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
KUMBARAHALLI
MULABAGAL ROAD, NH - 75
KOLAR - 563 101

6. THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
KOLAR DISTRICT
KUMBARAHALLI
MULBAGAL ROAD, NH -75
KOLAR – 563 101

7. THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
KOLAR REVENUE SUB-DIVISION
NEAR COURT CIRCLE
KOLAR – 563 101

8. THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
KOLAR FOREST DIVISION
GAJALADHINNE PLANTATION, KNS POST
BANGARPET MAIN ROAD,
KOLAR – 563101

…RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI K.S. HARISH, GOVERNMENT ADVOCATE)

THIS WRIT PETITION IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 AND 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA PRAYING TO ISSUE A WRIT OF MANDAMUS OR ANY OTHER ORDER OR DIRECTION DIRECTING THE 4TH RESPONDENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR TO PROCESS THE PETITIONER'S QUARRY LEASE APPLICATION DATED 15.06.2026 PRODUCED AT ANNEXURE-A, STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 3-F OF THE KMMC RULES, 1994, BY PLACING THE SAME BEFORE 5TH RESPONDENT DISTRICT TASK FORCE (MINES) COMMITTEE IN ITS NEXT MONTHLY MEETING AS ALSO OBTAIN REQUISITE OPINION OR CLEARANCES FROM CONCERNED DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS, INCLUDING JOINT INSPECTION IN A TIME-BOUND PERIOD AND FURNISH THE SAME THROUGH 6TH RESPONDENT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WITHOUT INSISTING UPON THE PETITIONER TO PROCURE SUCH NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE/OPINION AND ETC.

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

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE
and
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE K.S. HEMALEKHA

ORAL ORDER

(PER: HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE)

1. The petitioner has filed the present petition, *inter alia*, praying as under:

> "a) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other

order or direction directing the 4th respondent Deputy Director to process the petitioner's quarry lease application dated 15.06.2026 produced at annexure-A, strictly in accordance with Rule 3-F of the KMMC Rules, 1994, by placing the same before 5th respondent District Task Force (Mines) Committee in its next monthly meeting as also obtain requisite opinion or clearances from concerned Departmental Officers, including Joint Inspection in a time-bound period and furnish the same through 6th respondent Deputy Commissioner without insisting upon the petitioner to procure such No Objection Certificate/Opinion; and/or

b) Pass any such other Orders as this Hon'ble Court deems as fit and proper to meet the ends of justice."

2. The petitioner states that he belongs to Scheduled Caste Community (Adi Karnataka) and claims that his livelihood depends on quarrying ordinary building stone by manual and traditional methods. He had filed an application dated 15.06.2026 along with the prescribed fee for grant of a quarry lease to extract ordinary building stone along with the application fees. He states that the said application was filed under Rule 3F(2) of the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1994 along with necessary documents. The petitioner is essentially aggrieved as his application has not been considered as yet.

3. Concededly, the question involved in the present petition is already covered by an order of this Court dated 08.04.2026 passed in **Rajappa v. State of Karnataka and others**[1].

4. In view of the above, the present petition is allowed.

5. The concerned authorities are directed to consider the petitioner's application at the next monthly meeting of the District Task Force Committee (Mines). However, if that is not feasible for any reason, the petitioner's application be considered in the subsequent meeting of the said committee and an appropriate decision be taken in accordance with law.

Sd/-
(VIBHU BAKHRU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

Sd/-
(K.S. HEMALEKHA)
JUDGE

KMV
List No.: 2 Sl No.: 5

[1] W.P.No.10626/2026 (NC:2026:KHC:19228-DB)