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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 28-10-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE N.RAMESH

CRL OP No. 31191 of 2026

CNR: {HCMA012572362026}

1. Ramesh
   S/o Mahalingam,
   NO.138, Thumbakkadu,
   Polur Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District.

2. Elumalai
   S/o Poochi,
   Kalathur, Pattraikadu, Chengadu Front,
   Tiruvannamalai District.

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

The State Represented by The Forest Range Officer
Forest Range Office, Polur,
Tiruvannamalai District.

..Respondent(s)

To grant anticipatory bail to the petitioners in the event of their arrest in connection with O.R. No. 120 of 2026 on the file of the respondent, registered for the alleged offences under sections 21(d), 21(e) and 21 (f) of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882, read with Rule 2 and 3 of the TamilNadu Timber Transit Rules, 1968, on such terms and conditions as this Honorable Court.

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For Petitioner(s): Mr. P. Sivamani

For Respondent(s): Mr. R. Rajasekaran, Government Advocate

ORDER

The petitioners/A1 & A2 apprehend arrest for the alleged offence under Sections 21(d), 21(e), and 21(f) of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882 r/w Rules 2 and 3 of the Tamil Nadu Timber Transit Rules, 1968 in O.R.No.120 of 2026 on the file of the respondent police seeks anticipatory bail.

2.The case of the prosecution is that the petitioners along with A3 had transported Vengai Tree Timber using bearing Registration No.TN-16-C-5861 worth about to the tune of Rs.8 lakh weighing 1200 kgs of without any valid permission from the Government. In this regard, A3 was arrested on 25.09.2026 and the vehicle was seized by the respondent police. Hence the case.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that the third accused was granted bail and based on the confession statement of A3, the petitioners have been falsely implicated in this case. He further submitted that they are ready to abide by any stringent condition that may be imposed by this Court and

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they are ready to co-operate for investigation. Hence, he prays to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioners.

4. The learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side) appearing for the respondent police reiterated the prosecution case and, upon instructions, submitted that A3 was already arrested and released on bail and the vehicle was also seized by the respondent police. However, he opposed to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioners.

5. Considering the nature of allegations against the petitioners herein and the third accused was already arrested on 25.09.2026 and released on bail; that the petitioners are not having previous case, this Court is inclined to enlarge them on anticipatory bail, subject to certain conditions.

6. Accordingly, the petitioners are ordered to be released on bail in the event of arrest or on their appearance, within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date on which the order copy is made ready, before the **Judicial Magistrate, Polur, o**n condition that the petitioners shall execute a bond for a sum of **Rs.25,000/- each (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only),** with two sureties each, for a like sum to the satisfaction of the learned Magistrate concerned, and on further conditions:-

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(a) If the petitioners fail to surrender before the concerned learned Magistrate within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt of a copy of this order, this order shall stand automatically cancelled;

(b) The sureties shall affix their photographs and left thumb impression in the application for surety ship (Judicial Form No.46 annexed to 'The Criminal Rules of Practice, 2019]'. The learned Magistrate shall obtain a copy of any one of identify proofs to ensure their identity;

(c) The petitioners shall report before the respondent Police, daily at 10.30 a.m. for a period of four weeks and thereafter, as and when required for interrogation.

(d) On breach of any of the aforesaid conditions, the learned Magistrate/Trial Court is entitled to take appropriate actions against the petitioners in accordance with law as if the conditions have been imposed and the petitioners released on anticipatory bail by the learned Magistrate/Trial Court himself as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***P.K.Shaji v. State of Kerala [(2005) AIR SCW 5560];***

(e) If the petitioners thereafter absconds, a fresh FIR can be registered under Section 269 of BNS Act.

28-10-2026

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To

The State Represented by The Forest Range Officer
Forest Range Office, Polur,
Tiruvannamalai District.

2.The Public Prosecutor, High Court, Madras.

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N.RAMESH, J.

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