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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 10-11-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE N.RAMESH

CRL OP No. 32487 of 2026

Prasath,
S/o.Govindasamy,
No.1/3(1), Pillayar Koil Street,
Periyaeriyur, Serpadi,
Vellore District. ...Petitioner/Accused-6

Vs

The State by,
The Forest Range Officer,
Katpadi FRO,
Vellore District. ...Respondent/Complainant
(STOR No.1 of 2026)

PRAYER : Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, to enlarge the petitioner as against the case pending on the file of the respondent police in STOR No.1 of 2026.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.D.Thirumoorthy
For Respondent(s): Mr.M.M.I.Khaleel,
Govt.Advocate (Crl.Side)

O R D E R

The Petitioner, who was arrested and remanded to judicial custody on 10.10.2026 for the alleged offence under Section 35, 35(A), 35(B), 36, 41, 49-A, 56(A), (B), (C), (D) of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882 (Tamil Nadu Forest Act V of 1882), Section 2, 3(ii), 7 & 9 of the Tamil Nadu Timber Transit Rules 1968 and Section 2, 3 & 4 of the Tamil Nadu Timber (Movement Control) Rules 1982, in STOR No.1 of 2026 on the file of the respondent police, seeks bail.

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2. The case of the proseuction, in brief, is that on 09.10.2026, the petitioner, along with the other accused, was allegedly found in possession of eight red sanders logs while travelling in a Tata Indica car bearing Registration No.AP 11 AB 6789, which was subsequently seized, resulting in the registration of the present case.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner is innocent and has been falsely implicated in this case. He further submitted that the petitioner has been in judicial custody since 10.10.2026. He also further submitted that the petitioner is ready to abide by any stringent conditions that may be imposed by this Court. Hence, he prays for grant of bail to the Petitioner.

4. Per contra, the learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) appearing for the Respondent Police reiterated the prosecution case and submitted that the petitioner, along with the other accused, was allegedly found in possession of eight red sanders logs while travelling in a Tata Indica car. He further submitted that no previous case is pending against him. However, he opposed the grant of bail to the petitioner.

5. I have given my anxious consideration to either side submissions and perused the materials available on record.

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6. Considering the facts and circumstances of the caes, the nature of the allegations, the quantity of red sanders logs seized and the period of incarceration already undergone by the petitioner, this Court is inclined to grant bail to the petitioner, subject to certain conditions.

7. Accordingly, the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on him executing a bond for a sum of **Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only)** with **two sureties each**, for a like sum to the satisfaction of the **learned Judicial Magistrate, K.V.Kuppam,** and on further conditions that:

[a] 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 the identity proofs to ensure their identity;

[b] the petitioner shall report before the respondent police daily at 10.30 a.m., for a period of 30 days and thereafter as and when required for interrogation;

[c] the petitioner shall not abscond either during investigation or trial;

[d] the petitioner shall not tamper with the evidence or witness either during investigation or trial;

[e] On breach of any of the aforementioned conditions, the learned Magistrate/Trial Court is entitled to pass appropriate orders against the petitioner in acc with law as if the aforementioned conditions have been imposed and the

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petitioner released on bail by the learned Magistrate/Trial Court himself as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **P.K.Shaji vs. State of Kerala [(2005)13 SCC 283];**

[f] If the accused thereafter absconds, a fresh FIR can be registered under Section 269 of B.N.S.

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Note:

1. Registry is directed to forthwith upload this order in the Official Website of this Court.
2. All concerned to act on this order being uploaded in Official Website of this Court without insisting on certified hard copies. To be noted, this order when uploaded in the official website of this Court will be watermarked and will also have a QR code.

To

1.The Judicial Magistrate,
K.V.Kuppam.

2.The Forest Range Officer,
Katpadi FRO,
Vellore District.

3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison, Vellore.

4.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

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N.RAMESH, J.

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