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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 23-10-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE DR.JUSTICE P.MURUGAN

CRL OP(MD) No. 24166 of 2026

CNR:{HCMD011528692026}

K. Murugesan

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

The State of Tamil Nadu rep. by
Forest Range Officer,
Thiruppathur,
WL.OR.No.02 of 2026.

..Respondent(s)

PRAYER: For Bail in WLOR No.02 of 2026 on the file of the Respondent.

For Petitioner(s): M/s.Shalini Priyanka

For Respondent(s): Mr.V.Shathurthi Raja
Government Advocate (Crl. Side)

ORDER

The petitioner/sole accused, who was arrested and remanded to judicial custody on 01.10.2026 for the offences punishable under Section 2(31), 2(32), 2(36), 39(1)(a), 39(3)(a), 49A(a), 50(1)(a)(c) and 51(1) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Amendment Act, 2022), in WLOR No.02 of 2026, on the file of the respondent, seeks bail.

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2. The case of the prosecution is that on information received received from the Tamil Nadu Forest Wildlife Crime Control Board, Ramanathapuram, the respondent searched the premises of the petitioner. It was found that the petitioner had illegally possessed freshwater turtle, star tortoise, coral and spotted deer horn (chital anther). Hence, the complaint.

3. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner is innocent and he has not committed any offence as alleged by the prosecution. She would further submit that the petitioner is in judicial custody from 01.10.2026. She would also submit that the petitioner is ready to abide by any stringent conditions that may be imposed by this Court.

4. The learned Government Advocate (Crl. Side) appearing for the respondent reiterated the prosecution case and would submit that the petitioner is the sole accused in this case. He would further submit that investigation is yet to be completed.

5. Considering the above facts and circumstances and also the fact that the petitioner is in judicial custody from 01.10.2026, this Court is inclined to grant bail to the petitioner subject to certain conditions.

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6. Accordingly, the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his executing a bond for a sum of **Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only)** with two sureties each for a like sum to the satisfaction of the learned Principal District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Thiruppathur, and on further conditions that:

[a] the petitioner and the sureties shall affix their photographs and left thumb impression in the surety bond and the Magistrate may obtain a copy of their Aadhaar card or bank pass book to ensure their identity;

[b] On execution of the surety, the accused is directed to appear before the learned Principal District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Thiruppathur for 15 working days at 10.30 am. Thereafter, the accused shall appear before the said Court on every Wednesday at 10.30 am for a period of 10 weeks;

[c] In the event that the accused is unable to appear before the said Court, the counsel for the accused may file accused absence petition on behalf of the accused under Section 355 of BNSS and the same may be considered by the Court;

[d] In the event that neither the accused appear nor his counsel file any such accused absent petition, the Court has to issue a Non

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Bailable Warrant against the accused and secure him and commit him to custody**;**

[e] If the accused thereafter absconds, a fresh FIR shall be registered under Section 269 BNS, 2023;

[f] If the investigating agency requires the presence of the accused, after the execution of the bail bond, the Investigating Officer has to issue a summons to the accused for interrogation. However, the interrogation should not amount to harassment of the accused. The issuance of the summons to the accused and the interrogation of the accused should be reflected in the CD file as well as in the General Diary. The said exercise shall be done by the Investigating Officer at once or twice during the daytime. Once the purpose of the interrogation is over, the accused shall be sent out from the police station without any further delay;

[g] On compliance of the above conditions for appearance of the accused all the conditions referred above shall stand relaxed;

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

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

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[j] On breach of any of the aforesaid conditions, the learned Magistrate / Trial Court is entitled to take appropriate action against the petitioner in accordance with law as if the conditions have been imposed and the petitioner is 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)AIR SCW 5560].**

23-10-2026

Lm

To

1. The Principal District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate,
   Thiruppathur.

2. The Forest Range Officer,
   Thiruppathur,
   WL.OR.No.02 of 2026.

3. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
   Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
   Madurai.

4.The Sub Jail, Thiruppathur.

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DR.P.MURUGAN, J.

Lm

CRL OP(MD) No. 24166 of 2026

23-10-2026

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