

APHC010208382026



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI
(Special Original Jurisdiction)**

[3396]

MONDAY, THE TWENTY SEVENTH DAY OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 3138/2026

Between:

1. MERUGU ASHOK NAIDU, S/O. M. VENKATARAMANA NAIDU, AGED 31 YEARS, D.NO. 28/3, SUNKARAVANDLAPALLI, MADITHADU, T. SUNDUPALLI MANDAL, ANNAMAIAH DISTRICT.
2. AMRUTHAIAH NAIDU, S/O. G. REDDENNA, AGED 38 YEARS, D.NO. 31/14, DIGUVA NAYUNIVARIPALLI, H/O. MADITHADU, T. SUNDUPALLI MANDAL, ANNAMAIAH DISTRICT.

...PETITIONER/ACCUSED(S)

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH, AMARAVATI.

...RESPONDENT/COMPLAINANT

Counsel for the Petitioner/accused(S):

1. G JAGADEESWAR

Counsel for the Respondent/complainant:

1. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

The Court made the following:

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA**CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 3138 OF 2026****ORDER:-**

This Criminal Petition has been filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity 'the BNSS') by the Petitioners/Accused Nos.4 and 5 for granting of pre-arrest bail in connection with Crime.No.213 of 2025 of T.Sundupalli Police Station, Annamayya District, registered against the Petitioners herein for the offences punishable under Sections 303(2), 61(2), 49 r/w 3(5) of BNS, Section 20(1)(c), ii, iii, iv, x r/w 20(1)(d)(i)(a), 32A r/w 36(a) of Andhra Pradesh Forest (Amendment) Act, 2016.

2. Heard Mr.G.Jagadeesswar, learned counsel for the petitioners and Ms.K.Priyanka Lakshmi, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor representing the respondent/State. Perused the record.

3. The case of the prosecution is that, this is a case of criminal conspiracy, abetment to commit the offence, trespass into reserve forest without permission, cut the live red sander trees and committed theft and trying to shift by loading for the purpose of smuggling red sander logs that occurred on 22.12.2025 at about 11.30 hours, at Guvvaladinne, Near Bonamvandlapalli, H/o.Rayavaram Village, T.Sundupalli Mandal, Annamayya District, in which

accused Nos.1 and 2 were arrested at spot and 6 red sander wood logs, weighing about 139 kgs were seized from the possession; on the same day at 20.45 hours accused No.3 was arrested. During the course of investigation, accused No.1 confessed about the involvement of petitioners and others in this crime. Accused Nos.4 and 5 and other accused are absconding from the date of offence.

4. The learned counsel for the petitioners would submit that the petitioners are innocents and they have been falsely implicated in the alleged offence, without any cogent evidence linking to the commission of the crime on the confession of accused No.1. The learned counsel for the petitioners would further submit the investigation is might have been completed. The petitioners undertake to abide by any condition that this Court may impose while granting bail to the petitioners.

5. The learned Assistant Public Prosecutor, submits that the petitioners, along with the other accused, were involved in smuggling red sander logs. The investigation is at nascent stage and the investigation is pending for want of arrest of these petitioners and therefore urges this Court to dismiss the Criminal Petition.

6. As seen from the record, this is a case of trespass into reserve forest, cutting and felling of red sander trees and transportation of red sander

dressed logs to unknown destinations by way of smuggling. The offence alleged against the petitioners is punishable with imprisonment with a term which may extend to 10 years and fine which may extend to Rs.10,00,000/- and term of imprisonment shall not be less than 5 years and fine amount shall not be less than Rs.3,00,000/-. It is manifest from the case record that huge quantity of 6 red sander wood logs, weighing about 139 kgs were seized and that investigation is pending. Taking into consideration of these facts and circumstances, seriousness of the offence, gravity of punishment prescribed for the offences alleged against the petitioners and pending investigation, this Court is of the considered view that it is not a fit case to grant bail to the petitioners. Hence, the criminal petition is dismissed.

7. In the result, the criminal petition is dismissed at present.

As a sequel, Miscellaneous petitions, if any pending, shall stand closed.

Date: 27.04.2026

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DR.VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA, J

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THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 3138 OF 2026

27.04.2026

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