

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI

THURSDAY, THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF AUGUST
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FIVE

:PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 8282 OF 2025

Between:

Pravin @ Ravi @ Kalvapudi Ravi Kumar, S/o Krishnamurthy. Aged about 32 years, Occ Agriculture Coolie, R/o Cherlopalli, Puttur Tirupati, Annamayya District.

...Petitioner/Accused No.7

AND

The State of Andhra Pradesh, Rep by its Public Prosecutor, High Court of A.P at Amaravati, Nelapadu, Guntur District

...Respondent

Petition under Sections 480 & 483 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the memorandum of grounds filed in support of the Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to direct to enlarge the petitioner/A7 on bail in connection with Crime No. 25 of 2025 on the file of RSASTF, Tirupati, Tirupati District.

The Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Petition and the memorandum of grounds filed in support thereof and upon hearing the arguments of SRI B S REDDY Advocate for the Petitioner, and of PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, for the Respondent, the Court made the following

ORDER:

The Criminal Petition has been filed under Sections 437 and 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (for brevity 'the Cr.P.C.)/ Sections 480 and 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity 'the BNSS'), seeking to enlarge the petitioner/Accused No.7 on bail in Cr.No.25 of 2025 of RSASTF Police Station, Tirupati, registered against the petitioner/Accused No.7 and others for the offences punishable under Sections 303(2) r/w 3(5), 49, 61(2) of B.N.S and Sections 20(1)(d)(i)(a) r/w 20(1)(c), ii, iii, iv, x, 36(a) r/w 32A, 29(4)(a)(i) of the A.P.Forest Amendment Act, 2016.

2. The case of the prosecution is that on 26.06.2025 at about 4.00 A.M., the Reserve Sub-Inspector of Police, RSASTF, Tirupati along with his staff and concerned forest officials while conducting combing operation for protection of Red Sanders and when reached near Mellamkondaswamy Silalu Reserve Forest Area, Gudigunta Forest Beat, Anantasagaram Forest Section, Athmakur Range, Nellore Division, Anantasagaram Mandalam, Nellore District and on searching found Accused Nos.1 to 4 in possession of 55 logs of Red Sanders. The logs along with vehicles were seized from their possession and case was registered against the accused persons. During the course of investigation, Accused Nos.1 to 4 confessed about involvement of other accused.

3. Sri B. S. Reddy, the learned counsel for the petitioner, submits that the petitioner has not committed any offence; he was falsely implicated in this case only basing on the confession of co-accused; the confession statement of co-accused is not admissible in evidence; he is the sole breadwinner of his family; he is languishing in jail since 34 days; he is ready to abide any conditions to be imposed by this Court; and urged to enlarge the petitioner on bail.

4. *Per contra*, Ms. P. Akhila Naidu, the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor, submits that the accused Nos.1 to 4 confessed about the involvement of petitioner herein in the crime; that investigation is pending; and urged to dismiss the bail petition.

5. Perused the record.

6. As seen from the record, the allegation against the petitioner/accused No.7 is that he secured coolies for cutting down the Red Sander trees in the Seshachalam Forest and sending it to prospective purchasers. Basing on the confession of the other accused, the role of the petitioner has come out. The petitioner himself has surrendered before the learned Jurisdictional Magistrate Court on 10.07.2025 and he has been in judicial custody for the past 34 days. The alleged contraband seized from the possession of accused is 955 KGs. The petitioner is permanent resident of Cherlopalli Puttur Village, Tirupati,

Annamayya District. Since all the witnesses examined are official witnesses, the question of petitioner threatening the witnesses or hampering the investigation would not arise.

7. Taking into consideration of the nature of allegations levelled against the petitioner; the period of detention undergone by them and the petitioner himself surrendered before the learned Jurisdictional Court, the question of he evading from the clutches of law would not arise and hence, this Court is inclined to enlarge the petitioner on bail.

8. This Court is of the opinion that if certain stringent conditions are imposed on the petitioner for securing his presence before the learned Trial Court for trial, the interest of justice would be met.

9. In the result, the Criminal Petition is allowed with the following conditions:

- i. The petitioner/Accused No.7 shall be enlarged on bail subject to executing a personal bond for a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only), with two sureties for the like sum each to the satisfaction of the learned Judicial Magistrate of First Class-cum-Special Court for Trial of Cases relating to Red Sanders Smuggling, Tirupati.

Dr.YLR,
Crl.P.No.8282 of 2025
Dated 14.08.2025

ii. The petitioner/Accused No.7 shall appear before the Investigation Officer concerned, on every Saturday in between 10:00 am and 05:00 pm, until further orders.

iii. The petitioner/Accused No.7 shall not leave the limits of the District, without prior permission from the learned Trial Judge.

iv. The petitioner/Accused No.7 shall not commit or indulge in similar offences in future.

v. The petitioner/Accused No.7 shall cooperate with the investigating officer in further investigation of the case and shall be available to the investigating officer as and when called.

SD/- M.SRINIVAS
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

SECTION OFFICER

//TRUE COPY//

To,

1. The Judicial Magistrate of First Class cum Special Court for Trial of cases relating to Red Sanders Smuggling, Tirupati.
2. The Superintendent, Sub-Jail, Tirupati.
3. The Station House Officer, RSASTF Police Station, Tirupati, Tirupati District
4. One CC to SRI. B S REDDY Advocate [OPUC]
5. Two CCs to PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, High Court of Andhra Pradesh [OUT]
6. One spare copy

PSR

HIGH COURT

DR.YLR,J

DATED:14/08/2025

BAIL ORDER

CRLP.No.8282 of 2025

ALLOWED

