

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
[M/S VIDHARTH INDUSTRIES INDIA PVT LTD VS. UNION OF
INDIA AND ANOTHER]

09.06.2026

(VIDEO CONFERENCING / PHYSICAL HEARING)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B M SHYAM PRASAD

ORAL ORDER

Mr. Nagaraja H R, a learned Standing Counsel for the first respondent has entered appearance and his appearance is accepted. Mr. Aravind V. Chavan, a learned Standing Counsel for the second respondent, is directed to accept notice for this respondent. Mr. Prashanth S Shivadass, the learned counsel for the petitioner, is heard on the grant of *ad interim* order.

The petitioner has called in question provisions of Rule 33 of the Health Security se National Security Cess Rules, 2026¹ and these Rules require the petitioner, who is the manufacturer of Pan Masala, to ensure installation of CCTV. The petitioner has called in question the vires of this Rule contending that unless the Act provided a specific power in

¹ Notified on 01.02.2026

the Central Government to insist upon CCTV in the factory premises, the Rules could not have provided for the same.

Mr. Prashanth S Shivadass, while emphasizing the afore, submits that the similar Rules under the Central Excise Act, 1944 is being examined with the benefit of interim order by this Court and that Allahabad High Court has also stayed the operation of similar Rule 16 and 22(3) of Chewing Tobacco, Jarda Scented Tobacco and Gutkha Packing Machines (Capacity Determination and Collection of Duty) Rules, 2026.

In the light of the grounds urged as also the Rules being discriminatory, for reasons of parity, interim order is granted as prayed for to be in force until further orders but with liberty to the respondents to complete their pleadings and seek vacating of this Order.

The office is directed to re-list this petition on **21.07.2026.**

(B M SHYAM PRASAD)
JUDGE