



2025:KER:74652

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BECHU KURIAN THOMAS

THURSDAY, THE 9TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025 / 17TH ASWINA, 1947

BAIL APPL. NO. 12382 OF 2025

CRIME NO.1/2025 OF PARIYARAM FOREST RANGE OFFICE, THRISSUR

PETITIONER:

**BABY V J.,
AGED 70 YEARS,
S/O IPPU, VALARIYIL HOUSE, RANDUKAI,
CHAIPANKUZHI, KUTTICHIRA, THRISSUR, KERALA,
PIN - 680 724.**

**BY ADVS.
SHRI.MANUMON A.
SHRI.REBIN VINCENT GRALAN
SHRI.SURESH C.
SMT.EDATHARA VINEETA KRISHNAN
SMT.ROSNA M. JOY
SMT.GAYATHRI E.S.
SMT.ATHIRA SURESH
SHRI.JOHN CHRISTO T.P.
SHRI.AKSHAY KUMAR C.S.
SMT.LINIYA LOVESON
SMT.ANJALI N.S.
SRI.JAYAN KUTTICHAKKU**

RESPONDENTS:

- 1 STATE OF KERALA.,
REPRESENTED BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
HIGH COURT OF KERALA, PIN - 682 031.**
- 2 DEPUTY RANGE FOREST OFFICER.,
CHAIPANKUZHI POLICE STATION, PIN - 680 724.**



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**3 RANGE FOREST OFFICER.,
PARIYARAM RANGE, ATHIRAPILLY, NEAR VAZHACHAL
CHECK POST, PARIYARAM, THRISSUR, PIN - 680 721.**

SRI. PRASANTH M.P., PP

**THIS BAIL APPLICATION HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON
09.10.2025, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:**



BECHU KURIAN THOMAS., J

Bail Appl. No.12382 of 2025

Dated this the 9th day of October, 2025

O R D E R

This bail application is filed under section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS').

2. Petitioner is the accused in O.R.No.01 of 2025 of Pariyaram Forest Range Office, Thrissur, registered for the offences punishable under section 27(I)(e)(iv) of the Kerala Forest Act, 1961 and Sections 2(16), 9 and 51 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

3. According to the prosecution, on 23.09.2025, petitioner killed a leopard in a reserve forest after laying a cable trap and thereby committed the offences alleged. Petitioner was arrested on 25.09.2025, and he has been in custody since then.

4. Sri.Manumon A., the learned counsel for the petitioner, submitted that the prosecution allegations are totally false, and the petitioner had been wrongly implicated in the crime. It was also submitted that after the wild animal was found with a cable trap on his legs, petitioner was arrayed as an accused without any material solely to show that the said trap was laid inside a reserve forest. According to the learned counsel, even, if it is assumed for arguments sake that the trap



belongs to the petitioner, there were no materials to show that the trap was laid in a reserve forest. On the other hand, the circumstances may, at the most, indicate that a trap was laid in some property by some person with the petitioner being made a scapegoat for the acts committed by some other person.

5. Sri.Prasanth M P., the learned Public Prosecutor, on the other hand, submitted that the allegations are serious as a wild animal which is included in the schedule to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, has been killed by a cable trap that too in a reserve forest and therefore, petitioner having been arrested only on 25.09.2025, his continued detention is necessary.

6. Petitioner is alleged to have laid a cable trap to prevent entry of wild animals into his property. Though the prosecution alleges that the cable trap was kept in a reserve forest, prima facie, there are no materials available to indicate as to who had laid the cable trap or the place where the trap was laid with a cable trap, there is nothing available to indicate the place where. In such circumstances, taking into reckoning the period of custody already undergone and also the fact that the petitioner is seventy years old and having criminal antecedents against him, I am of the view that further detention is not necessary.

In the result, this application is allowed on the following conditions:-



(a) Petitioner shall be released on bail on him executing a bond for Rs.50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) with two solvent sureties each for the like sum to the satisfaction of the court having jurisdiction.

(b) Petitioner shall appear before the Investigating Officer as and when required.

(c) Petitioner shall not intimidate or attempt to influence the witnesses; nor shall he tamper with the evidence.

(d) Petitioner shall not commit any similar offences while he is on bail.

In case of violation of any of the above conditions or if any modification or deletion of the conditions are required, the jurisdictional Court shall be empowered to consider such applications, if any, and pass appropriate orders in accordance with law, notwithstanding the bail having been granted by this Court.

Sd/-

BECHU KURIAN THOMAS
JUDGE

ADS



APPENDIX OF BAIL APPL. 12382/2025

PETITIONER ANNEXURES

**Annexure A1 A TRUE COPY OF REMAND REPORT DATED
25/09/2025 OF CHAIPANKUZHI FOREST
STATION, THRISSUR.**

**Annexure A2 A TRUE COPY OF THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF
THE PETITIONER ISSUED BY THE MEDICAL BOARD
FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, DISTRICT
HOSPITAL, THRISSUR DATED 08.05.2003.**