

Sujith vs State of Kerala

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Court : Kerala

Decided On : Mar-28-2025

Judge : Honourable Mr. Justice P.V.Kunhikrishnan

Appeal No. : Bail Appl./3996/2025

Appellant : Sujith

Respondent : State of Kerala

Judgement :

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN
FRIDAY, THE 28TH DAY OF MARCH 2025 / 7TH CHAITHRA, 1947
BAIL APPL. NO. 3996 OF 2025 CRIME NO.74/2025 OF
NEYYATTINKARA POLICE STATION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
PETITIONER(S)/ACCUSED 1 TO 6:

1 SUJITH AGED 27 YEARS S/O.SUNILKUMAR, MANALLOOR,
MANALLOOR.P.O, NEYYATTINKARA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN -
695121 2 SARATH AGED 28 YEARS MANALLOOR, MANALLOOR.P.O,
NEYYATTINKARA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695121 3
PRAVEEN AGED 27 YEARS S/O.PRASAD, KUTTAN KUTTI VILA,

MANALLOOR, MANALLOOR.P.O, NEYYATTINKARA,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695121 4 ANU AGED 27 YEARS
S/O.JAYARAJ, AYANIYARATHALA PUTHEN VEEDU, MANALLOOR,
MANALLOOR.P.O, NEYYATTINKARA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN -
695121 5 MANIKUTTAN AGED 28 YEARS S/O.RAJAN, MANALLOOR,
MANALLOOR.P.O, NEYYATTINKARA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN -
695121

6 JIJIN AGED 27 YEARS S/O.SARADA, MANALLOOR,
MANALLOOR.P.O, NEYYATTINKARA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN -
695121 BY ADVS. SUMAN CHAKRAVARTHY K.R.RIJA BREJITHA
UNNIKRISHNAN SUDEESH K.E. SURYA R. PRAHLADH S.P.
RESPONDENT(S)/STATE: STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY
PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, HIGH COURT OF KERALA, PIN - 682031 BY
ADV.: SR PP - NOUSHAD K A THIS BAIL APPLICATION HAVING
COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 28.03.2025, THE COURT ON THE
SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:

P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN, J.

----- Dated
this the 28th day of March, 2025

ORDER

This Bail Application is filed under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

2. The petitioners are accused in Crime No.74/2025 of Neyyattinkara Police Station,

Thiruvananthapuram. The above case is registered against the petitioners alleging offences punishable under Sections 189(2), 191(2), 190, 296(b), 115(2), and 118(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

3. The prosecution case is that, on 31.12.2024 a scuffle occurred between the son of the defacto complainant named Nandu and accused

persons in connection with the new year celebration conducted by Malarvadi Arts and Sports Club. It is alleged that in the scuffle the chain and mobile phone of the defacto complainant's son was lost.

Thereafter at about 00:45 hrs the defacto complainant, his son Nandu, Shaji a friend of defacto complainant and Abhishek, Shaji's son reached near Malarvadi Arts Club and while they were searching for the mobile phone of Nandu, the accused attacked them. It is alleged that the first accused beat the defacto complainant on his head using a stump of a motor bike. While the defacto complainant fell down the 2nd accused beat him with a bamboo stick and the 3rd accused uttered abusive words. Thereafter the 3rd accused beat Nandu and Abhishek using bamboo stick. Hence, it is alleged that the accused committed the offence.

4. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioners and the learned Public Prosecutor.

5. The counsel for the petitioners submitted

that it is a case and counter case. The counsel also submitted that the petitioners are ready to abide any condition imposed by this Court, if this Court grant them bail.

6. The Public Prosecutor opposed the bail

application. But, the Public Prosecutor submitted that no criminal antecedents is alleged against the petitioners as per the report received by him from the Investigating Officer.

7. This Court considered the contentions of the petitioners and the Public Prosecutor. Admittedly, it is a case and counter case. There are two versions about the same incident. Which version is correct cannot be decided in a bail application. No criminal antecedents is also alleged against the petitioners.

Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, I think, the petitioners can be released on bail after imposing stringent conditions.

8. Moreover, it is a well accepted principle

that the bail is the rule and the jail is the exception. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Chidambaram. P v Directorate of Enforcement* [2019 (16) SCALE 870], after considering all the earlier judgments, observed that, the basic jurisprudence relating to bail remains the same inasmuch as the grant of bail is the rule and refusal is the exception so as to ensure that the accused has the opportunity of securing fair trial.

9 Recently the Apex Court in *Siddharth v State of Uttar Pradesh and Another* [2021(5)KHC 353] considered the point in detail. The relevant paragraph of the above judgment is extracted hereunder.

12. We may note that personal liberty is an important aspect of our constitutional mandate. The occasion to arrest an accused during investigation arises when custodial investigation becomes necessary or it is a heinous crime or where there is a possibility of influencing the witnesses or accused may abscond. Merely because an arrest can be made because it is lawful does not mandate that arrest must be made. A distinction must be made between the existence of the power to arrest and the justification for exercise of it. (*Joginder Kumar v. State of UP and Others* (1994 KHC 189: (1994) 4 SCC 260: 1994 (1) KLT 919: 1994 (2) KLJ 97: AIR 1994 SC 1349: 1994 Cri LJ 1981)) If arrest is made routine, it can cause incalculable harm to the reputation and self-esteem of a person. If the Investigating Officer has no reason to believe that the accused will abscond or disobey summons and has, in fact, throughout cooperated with the investigation we fail to appreciate why there should be a compulsion on the officer to arrest the accused.

10. In *Manish Sisodia v. Central Bureau of*

Investigation [2023 KHC 6961], the Apex Court observed that, even if the allegation is one of grave economic offence, it is not a rule that bail should be denied in every case. Considering the dictum laid down in the above decisions and considering the facts and circumstances of this case, this Bail Application is allowed with the following conditions:

1. The petitioners shall appear before the Investigating Officer within two weeks from today and shall undergo interrogation.

2. After interrogation, if the Investigating Officer propose to arrest the petitioners, they shall be released on bail on executing a bond for a sum of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) with two solvent sureties each for the like sum to the satisfaction of the arresting officer concerned.

3. The petitioners shall appear before

the Investigating Officer for interrogation as and when required. The petitioners shall co-operate with the investigation and shall not, directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer.

4. Petitioners shall not leave India without permission of the jurisdictional Court.

5. Petitioners shall not commit an offence similar to the offence of which they are accused, or suspected, of the commission of which they are suspected.

6. The observations and findings in this

order is only for the purpose of deciding

this bail application. The principle laid down by this Court in Anzar Azeez v. State of Kerala [2025 SCC OnLine KER 1260] is applicable in this case also.

7. Needless to mention, it would be

well within the powers of the investigating officer to investigate the matter and, if necessary, to effect recoveries on the information, if any, given by the petitioners even while the petitioners are on bail as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Sushila Aggarwal v. State (NCT of Delhi)* and another [2020 (1) KHC 663].

8. If any of the above conditions are

violated by the petitioners, the jurisdictional Court can cancel the bail in accordance to law, even though this bail is granted by this Court. The prosecution and the victim are at liberty to approach the jurisdictional Court to cancel the bail, if any of the above conditions are violated. Sd/- P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN nvj JUDGE

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