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Status: **Pending**

Case Number: **WP 16469/2025**
(KAHC010370282025)

Classification: **GM RES**

Date of Filing: **09/06/2025**
14:13:40

Petitioner: **MR SUNIL MATHEW**

Petitioner Advocate: **SURAJ S**

Respondent: **STATE OF KARNATAKA**

Respondent Advocate:
BUBBERJUNG TRISULI VENKATESH

Filing No.: **WP 17070/2025**

Judge: **S.R.KRISHNA KUMAR**

Last Posted For: **HEARING - INTERLOCUTARY APPLN -2:30 PM**

Last Date of Action: **12/05/2026**

Last Action Taken:
ADJOURNED

Next Hearing Date:

Daily Orders: WP 16469/2025

1	<u>12/05/2026</u>	S.R.KRISHNA KUMAR	ADJOURNED
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ORAL ORDER ON I.A.No.1/2026 IN WP.No.16469/2025

When the matter came up before this Court on 30.04.2026, this Court passed the following order.

"Re-list on 12.05.2026 at 02.30 p.m., for hearing on I.A.No.1/2026 filed in W.P.No.16469/2029.

Statement of objections to be filed by the next date of hearing.

In the meanwhile, the Jurisdictional Magistrate i.e., the I Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru, before whom the applicants i.e. Sunil Mathew-accused No.2, Kiran Kumar accused No.4 accused No.3 and Shamant N.P. Mavinakere have deposited their passports, is hereby directed to hand over/release the said passports in favour of the aforesaid applicants immediately without any delay subject to the condition that the applicants shall not leave the Country till the next date of hearing.

Hand delivery of this order is permitted."

2. Subsequently, the petitioner No.1 - Sri. Sunil Mathew and petitioner No.2- Sri. Kiran Kumar. S., have filed affidavits along with their travel itinerary to the effect that they will be travelling out of the country and visiting Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, from 01.06.2026 to 10.06.2026 and necessary permission may be granted in their favour. The affidavit of Sunil Mathew is as under:

"I, Sunil Mathew, S/o. Late T.C. Mathew, aged about 49 years, having office at No. 07, (Old No. 215) Bellary Road, Palace Orchards, Bangalore 560080, residing at Samruddhi Lake Drive, Villa No. 56, Nimbekaipura, Old Madras Road, Bangalore 560049, now at Raipur for IPL 2026, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:

1. I state that I am the 1st Petitioner in the above Petition. I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case and I am competent to swear to this Affidavit.

2. I state that I am one of the Directors of M/s. DNA Entertainment Networks Private Limited and I am also its Vice-President, Business Affairs. I have been associated with the said company for over 25 years overseeing operations of the live entertainment business. M/s. DNA Entertainment Networks Pvt. Ltd. is highly reputed and it has successfully handled various live entertainment and sports events all over the country such as the Indian Premier League, Indian Badminton League, Indian Super League, Pro Kabaddi League, Hockey India League, the Diamond Jubilee event of our Vidhana Soudha, Rock 'N India, Sound Awake, Tamil Nadu Premier League, Premier Volley Ball and other corporate events apart from managing high profile weddings. The company has played a vital role in executing all the prominent events of the Royal Challengers Bangalore such as Unbox event which is conducted from 2023 as well as managing the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium during the Indian Premier League for the Royal Challengers Bangalore right from the outset in 2008. In fact, it manages the respective stadiums for 8 other Indian Premier League franchises as well even in the 2026 IPL. In fact, when India won the 2024 T20 Men's Cricket World Cup, the company successfully organized the function at the 32,000 capacity Wankhede Stadium on Marine Drive, Mumbai on 04.07.2024 conducted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India. On that day as well, over 3 lakh cricket fans joined the parade and the stadium was ably managed by the company. Hence, the company is extremely experienced in conducting high profile events at a huge scale and is by no stretch of the imagination, a fly-by-night operator or negligent in its duties and I am a part of the senior management of the said company. I am also the Chief Marketing Officer for several business conglomerates.

3. I further state my wife is a long term employee of Cisco, which is a highly reputed private company, for over 11 years and she is working as a technical writer for the said company in Bangalore. I further state that my son is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree - 3rd year B.A. (English and Mass Communication) at Alliance University, Bangalore and I have a minor daughter, who is currently pursuing 2nd year PUC (Commerce) at CMR National PU College, ITPL Branch, Bangalore. Both my children are totally dependent upon me and pertinently, neither of them are passport holders. I also have an aged mother, who is a 74 year old widow and is dependent on me. We are living in the Samruddhi Lake Drive address for the past 9 years and the said property is owned by me.

4. I state that over the coming months, I am committed to several major projects and reputed events scheduled across India, including the following:

- i) Pro Kabaddi League 2026-27
- ii) Volleyball League 2026
- iii) Target Family Day, July 6th-8th, 2026
- iv) Royal Stag Boombox, Mumbai, July 11th, 2026
- v) World Paddle League, August 2026
- vi) IBS Cargo Forum, New Delhi, November 2026
- vii) WPP Choreos 2026 in Mumbai
- viii) Indian Racing League, Mumbai and Goa, December 2026
- ix) RCB Sponsorship Meetings for Season 2027

x) IPL Sponsorship Meetings with Kolkata Knight Riders, Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings

xi) Women's Premier League 2027 (Cricket)

xii) Indian Premier League 2027 (Cricket)

5. I state that I have been duly complying with all the Interim Bail conditions imposed upon me vide the Interim Order dated 12.06.2025 by this Hon'ble Court. I further state that after this Hon'ble Court permitted me to travel across the country vide the Order dated 30.08.2025 for which the 1st Respondent did not object, I have been duly complying with all the conditions imposed therein and the Investigating Officer does not have a single grievance against me as I have duly cooperated at all times during the investigation as borne out from the fact that no application for cancellation of the Interim Bail was ever filed. In fact, the investigation process is fully completed and the 1st Respondent has placed the final report before this Hon'ble Court in a sealed cover and the Investigating Officer does not require my physical presence any more in view thereof.

6. Under the circumstances, I state that it is clearly evident that I have deep roots in Bangalore and I am not a flight risk. I further state that I come from a middle class family and if I do not report back to my daily job in India, my family and I will be left penniless out on the streets and I do not have any savings or connections to sustain myself abroad. I state that all my movable and immovable assets, including financial instruments and investments are in Bangalore. I further state that my family members also are not in a position to uproot themselves and travel abroad at my behest as they are at crucial junctures of their own lives and careers. I further state that I have no criminal antecedents, I am well reputed in social circles and an honest tax payer.

7. I further state that the nature of my job requires me to travel often across the country and occasionally abroad at short notice and it will be highly inconvenient and difficult if I have to approach this Hon'ble Court for permission on each occasion. I state that I will only travel abroad if it is absolutely necessary and unavoidable and since I am a senior functionary, our clients require my physical presence to ensure smooth functioning of large scale events at their discretion. Under the circumstances, I pray that I may be permitted to travel abroad as may be required and on each occasion, I undertake to file an Affidavit before this Hon'ble Court or the Hon'ble Magistrate, as deemed fit by this Hon'ble Court, with the confirmed travel itinerary.

8. I further undertake that I will be personally present before this Hon'ble Court or the Hon'ble Magistrate whenever called upon to be present, either now or if trial commences, which is highly unlikely as I have a very good case on merits in this Petition. I further undertake to render all assistance required by this Hon'ble Court from me in the disposal of this matter. I state that I have the greatest regard for the orders and majesty of this Hon'ble Court and I would never willfully disobey any order passed by it. I further state that since the above Petition is pending adjudication at a crucial juncture, it would obviously be adverse to my own interests to not comply with the conditions imposed by this Hon'ble Court.

9. I state that I am now scheduled to travel to Rio De Janeiro, Brazil between 01.06.2026 and 11.06.2026 and the copies of the Business Invitation Letter dated 25.04.2026, the Flight Ticket, the Hotel Booking and the Covering Letter dated 11.05.2026 for the Visa Application are produced herewith as Document Nos. 1 to 4 respectively, for the kind perusal of this Hon'ble Court.

10. I further state that in terms of the Order of this Hon'ble Court dated 30.04.2026, I have duly collected my passport on 04.05.2026 by personally appearing before the Hon'ble Magistrate in Crime No. 123/2025. I am advised to state that the right to hold a passport and to travel abroad freely have been held by the Apex Court and this Hon'ble Court to be a fundamental right falling within the ambit of Article 21 of Constitution of India and it is well settled that Courts cannot order impounding of Passports of accused persons under the criminal procedure code.

The facts stated above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, ability, faith and information.

3. The affidavit of Kiran Kumar is as under:

"I, Kiran Kumar S., S/o. Late Shanth Kumar, aged about 40 years, having office at No. 07, (Old No. 215) Bellary Road, Palace Orchards, Bangalore 560080, residing at R/a #1812, 5th Block, Sir M. Vishveshwaraiah Layout, Near Mangnahalli Cross Bus Stop, Bangalore 560110, now at Raipur for IPL 2026, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:

1. I state that I am the 2nd Petitioner in the above Petition. I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case and I am competent to swear to this Affidavit.

2. I state that I am the Manager of Operations since 13 years at M/s. DNA Entertainment Networks Pvt. Ltd. M/s. DNA Entertainment Networks Pvt. Ltd. is highly reputed and it has successfully handled various live entertainment and sports events all over the country such as the Indian Premier League, Indian Badminton League, Indian Super League, Pro Kabaddi League, Hockey India League, the Diamond Jubilee event of our Vidhana Soudha, Rock 'N India, Sound Awake, Tamil Nadu Premier League, Premier Volley Ball and other corporate events apart from managing high profile weddings. The company has played a vital role in executing all the prominent events of the Royal Challengers Bangalore such as Unbox event which is conducted from 2023 as well as managing the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium during the Indian Premier League for the Royal Challengers Bangalore right from the

outset in 2008. In fact, it manages the respective stadiums for 8 other Indian Premier League franchises as well even in the 2026 IPL. In fact, when India won the 2024 T20 Men's Cricket World Cup, the company successfully organized the function at the 32,000 capacity Wankhede Stadium on Marine Drive, Mumbai on 04.07.2024 conducted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India. On that day as well, over 3 lakh cricket fans joined the parade and the stadium was ably managed by the company. Hence, the company is extremely experienced in conducting high profile events at a huge scale and is by no stretch of the imagination, a fly-by-night operator or negligent in its duties and I am a part of the core team of the 1st Petitioner in the said company.

3. I further state that I have two minor sons, who are 5 and 7 years old, respectively and they are both studying in National Hill View Public School and my wife is a house maker. Furthermore, my widowed senior citizen mother also stays with me and they are all totally dependent upon me as I am the sole breadwinner in the house. We are living in the Sir M. Vishveshwaraiah Layout address for the past 6 years and the said property is owned by me.

4. I state that over the coming months, I am committed to several major projects and reputed events scheduled across India, including the following:

i) Pro Kabaddi League 2026-27

ii) Volleyball League 2026

iii) Target Family Day, July 6th - 8th, 2026

iv) Royal Stag Boombox, Mumbai, July 11th, 2026

v) World Paddle League, August 2026

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xi) Women's Premier League 2027 (Cricket)

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5. I state that I have been duly complying with all the Interim Bail conditions imposed upon me vide the Interim Order dated 12.06.2025 by this Hon'ble Court. I further state that after this Hon'ble Court permitted me to travel across the country vide the Order dated 30.08.2025 for which the 1st Respondent did not object, I have been duly complying with all the conditions imposed therein and the Investigating Officer does not have a single grievance against me as I have duly cooperated at all times during the investigation as borne out from the fact that no application for cancellation of the Interim Bail was ever filed. In fact, the investigation process is fully completed and the 1st Respondent has placed the final report before this Hon'ble Court in a sealed cover and the Investigating Officer does not require my physical presence any more in view thereof.

6. Under the circumstances, I state that it is clearly evident that I have deep roots in Bangalore and I am not a flight risk. I further state that I come from a middle class family and if I do not report back to my daily job in India, my family and I will be left penniless out on the streets and I do not have any savings or connections to sustain myself abroad. I state that all my movable and immovable assets, including financial instruments and investments are in Bangalore. I further state that my family members also are not in a position to uproot themselves and travel abroad at my behest as they are either very young or old. I further state that I have no criminal antecedents, I am well reputed in social circles and an honest tax payer.

7. I further state that the nature of my job requires me to travel often across the country and occasionally abroad at short notice and it will be highly inconvenient and difficult if I have to approach this Hon'ble Court for permission on each occasion. I state that I will only travel abroad if it is absolutely necessary and unavoidable and since I am an important functionary, our clients require my physical presence to ensure smooth functioning of large scale events at their discretion. Under the circumstances, I pray that I may be permitted to travel abroad as may be required and on each occasion, I undertake to file an Affidavit before this Hon'ble Court or the Hon'ble Magistrate, as deemed fit by this Hon'ble Court, with the confirmed travel itinerary.

8. I further undertake that I will be personally present before this Hon'ble Court or the Hon'ble Magistrate whenever called upon to be present, either now or if trial commences, which is highly unlikely as I have a very good case on merits in this Petition. I further undertake to render all assistance required by this Hon'ble Court from me in the disposal of this matter. I state that I have the greatest regard for the orders and majesty of this

Hon'ble Court and I would never willfully disobey any order passed by it. I further state that since the above Petition is pending adjudication at a crucial juncture, it would obviously be adverse to my own interests to not comply with the conditions imposed by this Hon'ble Court.

9. I state that I am now scheduled to travel to Rio De Janeiro, Brazil between 01.06.2026 and 11.06.2026 and the copies of the Business Invitation Letter dated 25.04.2026, the Flight Ticket, the Hotel Booking and the Covering Letter dated 11.05.2026 for the Visa Application are produced herewith as Document Nos. 1 to 4 respectively, for the kind perusal of this Hon'ble Court.

10. I further state that in terms of the Order of this Hon'ble Court dated 30.04.2026, I have duly collected my passport on 04.05.2026 by personally appearing before the Hon'ble Magistrate in Crime No. 123/2025. I am advised to state that the right to hold a passport and to travel abroad freely have been held by the Apex Court and this Hon'ble Court to be a fundamental right falling within the ambit of Article 21 of Constitution of India and it is well settled that Courts cannot order impounding of Passports of accused persons under the criminal procedure code.

The facts stated above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, ability, faith and information."

4. In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances and the undertakings given in the affidavits filed by the petitioner Nos.1 and 2 and the documents produced by them, I am of the considered opinion that the petitioner Nos.1 and 2 in W.P.No.16469/2025 are to be permitted to travel to Rio De Janeiro, Brazil between 01.06.2026 to 10.06.2026.

5. I.A.No.1/2026 is accordingly, allowed.

6. Re-list this matter after summer vacation, 2026, before the appropriate Bench.

Hand delivery of this order is permitted.

Last Updated On: 2026-05-13 14:51:09

2	<u>30/04/2026</u>	S.R.KRISHNA KUMAR	NOTICE
	<p>Learned AGA is directed to accept notice for respondent Nos.1 and 2. Ms. Kruthika Raghavan, learned counsel is directed to accept notice for respondent No.3. Copies to be served. Re-list on 10.06.2026 along with W.P.No.14378/2026. In the meanwhile, by way of an interim arrangement, without prejudice to the rights and contentions of the parties, making it subject to the final outcome of the petition and subject to the condition that the petitioner shall not claim any equities in this regard, petitioner is permitted to submit her application with respect to the Notification dated 16.04.2026 vide Annexure-B and to participate in the Preliminary Examination, Main Examination and Viva Voce, pending disposal of the petition. Liberty is reserved in favour of respondents to seek vacation / modification of this order. Hand delivery of this order is permitted.</p> <p>Last Updated On: 2026-04-30 18:03:35</p>		
3	<u>15/04/2026</u>	M.NAGAPRASANNA	PARTLY HEARD
	<p>Since the matter is substantially heard and with the consent of parties to the lis, the matter is treated as part heard. List this matter on 05.06.2026 at 2.30 p.m. Interim order subsisting, in any of the cases, shall continue until further orders.</p> <p>Last Updated On: 2026-04-18 11:00:18</p>		
4	<u>23/03/2026</u>	M.NAGAPRASANNA	ADJOURNED
	<p>At request, re-list these petitions at 02.30 p.m. on 15.04.2026. The interim arrangement/interim order granted earlier, is extended till the next date of hearing.</p> <p>Last Updated On: 2026-03-25 13:23:06</p>		
5	<u>03/03/2026</u>	M.NAGAPRASANNA	ADJOURNED