HC-KAR

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 12TH DAY OF JUNE, 2026

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE K.S. HEMALEKHA

WRIT PETITION NO.17252 OF 2026 (GM-MM_S)

BETWEEN:

SRI. C.K. DEVARAJU
AGED ABOUT 60 YEARS,
S/O. SRI. KALEGOWDA,
RESIDING AT BHAIRAVA NILAYA,
NO.4600, 22ND CROSS, V.V. NAGAR,
KALLAHALLI, MANDYA-571 401.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI. JAYANTH V., ADVOCATE)

AND:

Digitally signed by
MAHALAKSHMI B M
Location: High Court
of Karnataka

1. STATE OF KARNATAKA
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
REPRESENTED BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
M.S. BUILDING, BANGALORE-560 001.

2. DIRECTOR/COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY,
KHANIJA BHAVAN, R.C. ROAD,
BANGALORE-560 001.

3. SENIOR GEOLOGIST
GRAMA PANCHAYAT ROAD,
BEHIND R.T.O. OFFICE,

SATHYAMANGALA,
HASSAN-573 201. …RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI K.S. HARISH, GOVERNMENT ADVOCATE)

THIS WRIT PETITION IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 & 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA PRAYING TO ISSUE A WRIT OF CERTIORARI OR ANY OTHER WRIT OR ORDER QUASHING THE NOTICE DATED 18.05.2026 ORDER BEARING NO. GABHUE/HIBHUV/(MO)/KAGAGU/OTS/468 ISSUED BY THE RESPONDENT NO.3 (i.e., ANNEXURE-A) AS BEING VIOLATIVE OF ARTICLES 14 AND 21 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA AND ETC.

THIS PETITION COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE
and
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE K.S. HEMALEKHA

ORAL ORDER

(PER: HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE)

1. The petitioner has filed the present petition, *inter alia,* impugning the notice dated 18.05.2026 issued by respondent No.3 under Rule 44A of the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1994 [**KMMC Rules**].

2. The said notice directed the petitioner to pay the "One-Time Settlement [**OTS**] Penalty" of ₹12,85,61,302/- in a minimum of four

equal installments within a period of six months from date [within 45 days].

3. The petitioner contends that the said notice has been issued in violation of the principles of natural justice, inasmuch as the petitioner was neither provided with any material on the basis of which the said demand is premised, nor afforded any opportunity of being heard.

4. The learned Additional Government Advocate, submits on instructions, that the impugned notice be considered as a show-cause notice as to why the "One-Time Settlement Penalty" should not be imposed, permitting the petitioner to submit objections.

5. In view of the aforesaid statement, no orders are required to be passed in the present petition.

6. The petitioner shall be at liberty to respond to the said notice within a period of two weeks from date.

7. The concerned authorities shall consider the petitioner's response and take an informed decision after affording the petitioner an opportunity of being heard.

8. The petition is accordingly disposed of.

9. We clarify that all contentions of the parties are kept open.

Sd/-
(VIBHU BAKHRU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

Sd/-
(K.S. HEMALEKHA)
JUDGE

MBM
List No.: 2 Sl No.: 7