

ORDER

(Dt. 09/07/2026)

The accused **No.1 Aadesh Revji Pardhi** and accused **No.2 Shubham Balu Pardhi** are produced before me today at **05:00 PM.** by **N.S. Patil, RFO,** Pune in crime No.**5/2026** registered of the offence punishable u/s. 2(16), 2(36), 2(37), 9, 39, 40, 44, 48(A) 49, 49(B), 50, 51 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Accused persons have no complaints of ill-treatment at the hands of forest officials including RFO. They are representing by their counsel. The reasons and grounds of arrest are communicated to the accused. Intimation of arrest of accused persons is given to their nearest relatives.

2] RFO submitted that allegations are pertaining to offence u/s. 2(16), 2(36), 2(37), 9, 39, 40, 44, 48(A) 49, 49(B), 50, 51 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 concerning **Leopard (Panthera Pardus)** custody of the accused persons is required for to trace absconding accused, accomplice and further to investigate as to where from accused has procured the nails and skin of Leopard (Panthera Pardus). Hence, prayed for FCR for 05 days .

3] Perused the record. The accused No.1 and 2 were arrested on 09/07/2026, at about 01:00 hours and are produced before me today at **5:00 PM.** Record indicates that skin of Leopard with 15 nails, mobile phones and 2 canines are already seized from the accused persons. Seized skin and nails of Leopard (Panthera Pardus) are produced before me. Spot cum seizure panchanama indicates that seizure is effected at Sangamwadi, Pune. Having regard to the nature of crime which involves interstate trafficking racket, it is such a short time for completion of investigation. The recovery of other remains of Leopard (Panthera Pardus), tracing the source as to where from accused has procured the above skin

and nails and the tracing of accomplices are matters which lie peculiarly within the knowledge of the accused and can only be effectively achieved through custodial interrogation. Therefore, at this stage, when the investigation is at a crucial juncture, denial of custodial interrogation may seriously impede the discovery of material facts and the unearthing of the larger conspiracy in respect of such sensitive species. **In cases of organized wildlife crime, where evidence is often concealed and the network extends beyond a single individual and therefore, custodial interrogation of accused persons becomes imperative in the interest of a fair and effective investigation. It goes without saying that offences against wildlife are offences against the nature itself and effective investigation is not only a statutory mandate but an ecological necessity.** The accusation against the accused is well founded and there is reasonable nexus of accused persons with the crime. There are justifiable grounds and reasons for arrest of accused persons. In order to go to the root of the matter and for affording an opportunity to the RFO for conducting an effective investigation, the grant of Forest custody of the accused persons is imperative. The investigation needs to be brought to a logical end and for that purpose custodial interrogation is useful and truthful. Hence, the following order:-

ORDER

1. Accused **No.1 Aadesh Revji Pardhi and accused No.2 Shubham Balu Pardhi** as mentioned in FCR application are remanded to Forest Custody till **12/07/2026**.
2. The copy of this order be forwarded to the Court of Hon'ble Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pune.

Place- Pune
Dt. 09/07/2026


(Anupam S. Sharma)
Judicial Magistrate First Class,
Pune, Dist. Pune