APHC010537122026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI **[3521]**
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

THURSDAY, THE 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 8988/2026

Between:

VALLAMALLA PRADEEP ALIAS BANTI, S/O. LATE BALARAJU,AGED ABOUT 22 YEARS,R/O. NARAKETPALLI VILLAGE AND MANDAL,NALGONDA DISTRICT, TELANGANA.PRESENTLY CONFINED AT DISTRICT JAIL, NALGONDA.

...PETITIONER/ACCUSED

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP. BY ITS PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH, AMARAVATI,THROUGH THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER,CHIMAKURTHY POLICE STATION,PRAKASAM DISTRICT.
2. MOTHER OF THE VICTIM GIRL, MOTHER OF THE VICTIM GIRL

...RESPONDENT/COMPLAINANT(S):

Counsel for the Petitioner/accused:

POTTURI VIKRAM

Counsel for the Respondent/complainant(S):

1. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR
2. SRINIVASULU P

The Court made the following:

ORDER:

The Criminal Petition has been filed under Sections 480 and 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity, 'the BNSS'), seeking to enlarge the petitioner/accused on bail in S.C.No.17 of 2026 on the file of the learned Special Court for Trial of Offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act), Prakasam District, Ongole, arising out of Crime No.139 of 2025 of Chimakurthy Urban Police Station, Prakasam District, registered against the petitioner/accused for the offences punishable under Sections 137(2) and 65(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity, 'the BNS') and Section 6 read with Section 5(l) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (for brevity, 'the POCSO Act').

2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor. Perused the record.

3. As seen from the record, the petitioner was arrested on 12.12.2025 and has been in judicial custody for the past 342 days. The Trial is at a progressive stage, and several prosecution witnesses have already been examined. The victim has supported the case of the prosecution. The punishment prescribed for the charged offence is imprisonment for 20 years or more.

4. The learned Assistant Public Prosecutor has relied upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Narayan Ghosh Alias Nantu v. State of**

Orissa[1], wherein, at paragraph Nos.9, 10, &12, it was held that when the trial is at an advanced stage and only a few witnesses remain to be examined, bail may not be appropriate, particularly when there is a likelihood of influencing witnesses or absconding. The Court further observed that the evidence, particularly relating to conspiracy, should not be discussed in detail at the bail stage, as its appreciation is left to the Trial Court.

5. In view of the facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is not inclined to exercise its jurisdiction to enlarge the petitioner on bail at this stage. The petitioner shall await the conclusion of the Trial. Hence, this Court finds no merit in the Criminal Petition, and the same is liable to be dismissed.

6. In the result, the Criminal Petition is dismissed.

As a sequel, Miscellaneous petitions, if any pending, shall stand closed.

DR. Y. LAKSHMANA RAO, J

Date: 19.11.2026
RSI

[1] (2008) 3 SCC 693

141

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

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RSI