APHC010571112026

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

TUESDAY, THE 17th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 9585/2026

Between:

ADDANKI RAJAGOPAL, S/O. POLU RAJUAGED ABOUT 44 YRS, OCC BUS CONDUCTOR,R/O. D.NO.3-60A, PAPINENIPALLI VILLAGE,ARDHAVEEDU MANDAL,PRAKASAM DISTRICT-523335

...PETITIONER/ACCUSED

AND

THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, THROUGH STATION HOUSE OFFICER- ARDHAVEEDU POLICE STATION PRAKASAM DISTRICT, REP. BY ITS PUBLIC PROSECUTORHIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH, AT AMARAVATI

...RESPONDENT/COMPLAINANT

Counsel for the Petitioner/accused:

PHANI TEJA CHERUVU

Counsel for the Respondent/complainant:

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

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 Crime No.102 of 2025 of Ardhaveedu Police Station, Prakasam District, registered against the Petitioner/Accused for the offence punishable under Sections 109(1), 324(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity 'the BNS').

2. Mr.Phani Teja Cheruvu, learned counsel for the petitioner, submits that the petitioner is innocent of the alleged offences and has been falsely implicated in the present case. He has not committed any offence. He is a sole earning member of the family. He is a law-abiding citizen. He has got fixed abode. The petitioner undertakes to abide by any conditions that may be imposed by this Court while granting bail. Hence, learned counsel urges that the petition may be allowed.

3. *Per contra*, Mr. A. Sai Rohith, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor, vehemently opposes the grant of bail to the petitioner, submitting that the investigation is still underway and several material witnesses remain to be examined. It is contended that if the petitioner is released on bail at this stage, there is a likelihood of his absconding, thereby hampering the ongoing investigation and evading the process of law. In view of the

foregoing submissions, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor urges that the petition be dismissed.

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

5. As seen from the record, the alleged offence took place on 02.12.2025. The petitioner was arrested nearly eight months after the incident, at the school premises itself. The petitioner is working as a cleaner of the school bus, whereas the deceased was the driver of the school bus. So far, twenty witnesses have been examined. It is alleged that the petitioner poured petrol on the body of the deceased and set him on fire, resulting in the deceased sustaining 70% thermal burn injuries. The petitioner was arrested on 26.08.2026 and has been in judicial custody for the past 84 days only. Based on the statements of the prosecution witnesses, the accusations against the petitioner appear to be well-founded.

6. Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case, the nature and gravity of the allegations levelled against the petitioner/Accused, and the fact that the accusations against the petitioner appear to be well-founded based on the statements of the prosecution witnesses, this Court is not inclined to enlarge the petitioner on bail. Hence, this Court finds no merit in the Criminal Petition, and the same is liable to be dismissed.

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

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

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DR. Y. LAKSHMANA RAO, J

Date: 17.11.2026
RSI

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THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

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