APHC010587002026

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

WEDNESDAY, THE 11th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 9884/2026

Between:

1. SARAKANAM LAKSHMI, W/O LATE PARAMESWARA RAO, AGED ABOUT 45 YEARS,GAVARA, D.NO.1-42,PEDDAPURAM VILLAGE, PEDDAPURAM MANDAL KAKINADA DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH.

...PETITIONER/ACCUSED No.1

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REPRESENTED BY ITS PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH, AMARAVATI,THROUGH THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER,PEDDAPURAM POLICE STATION, KAKINADA DISTRICT.

...RESPONDENT/COMPLAINANT

Counsel for the Petitioner/accused:

1. HARI KRISHNA TATA

Counsel for the Respondent/complainant:

1. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

The Court made the following:
ORDER:

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 No.1 on bail in Crime No.248 of 2026 of Peddarpuram Police Station, Kakinada District, registered for the alleged

offences punishable under Sections 143(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity ‘the BNS’) and Sections 3(1), 4(1), 5(1)(a), 8(b) of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

2. Mr. Hari Krishna Tata, the learned Counsel for the Petitioner submits that the Petitioner is innocent of the alleged offence and has been falsely implicated by the police. It is further submitted that the Petitioner is the sole earning member of the family and, therefore, her incarceration would cause undue hardship to her dependents. The Petitioner undertakes to strictly adhere to any conditions that may be imposed by this Court while enlarging her on bail. Hence, it is urged to allow the Petition.

3. *Per contra*, Mr.A.Sai Rohith, the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor vehemently opposed 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 strong likelihood that she may abscond, thereby hampering the ongoing investigation and evading the process of law and urged to dismiss the Petition.

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

5. On perusal of the record, the Petitioner is arraigned as Accused No.1 in this case. The Petitioner is a widow and is stated to be living in impoverished circumstances. The allegation against the Petitioner is that she was running a

brothel and inducing or luring victims to engage in flesh trade for some paltry amount. The Petitioner was arrested on 08.10.2026 and has been in judicial custody for the past 34 days. So far, six witnesses have been examined. The material portion of the investigation, insofar as the alleged role of the Petitioner is concerned, has been completed. There are no similar adverse antecedents reported against the Petitioner. The Petitioner is a permanent resident of Peddapuram Mandal, Kakinada District. She has got fixed abode. Therefore, the possibility of the Petitioner threatening witnesses, tampering with evidence, or hampering the investigation may not arise.

6. Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case, the nature and gravity of allegations levelled against the Petitioner/Accused No.1, this Court is inclined to enlarge the Petitioner/Accused No.1 on bail with some stringent conditions.

7. In the result, the Criminal Petition is allowed with the following stringent conditions:

i. The Petitioner/Accused No.1 shall be enlarged on bail subject to her executing a bond for a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) with two sureties for the like sum each to the satisfaction of the learned I Additional Judicial First Class Magistrate, Peddapuram.

ii. The Petitioner/Accused No.1 shall appear before the Station House Officer concerned, on every Saturday in between 10:00 am and 05:00 pm, till filing of the charge sheet.

iii. The Petitioner/Accused No.1 shall not leave the limits of the Andhra Pradesh without prior permission from the Station House Officer concerned.

iv. The Petitioner/Accused No.1 shall not indulge in any similar offence while on bail. The Superintendent, Sub-Jail, Kakinada, shall apprise the Petitioner/Accused No.1 at the time of her release that she shall not commit any such offence while on bail.

v. The Petitioner/Accused No.1 shall cooperate with the Investigating Officer in further investigation of the case and shall make herself available for interrogation by the Investigating Officer as and when required.

vi. The Petitioner/Accused No.1 shall not, directly or indirectly, make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him/her from disclosing such facts to the Court.

vii. The Petitioner/Accused No.1 shall surrender her passport, if any, to the Investigating Officer. If she claims that she does not have passport, she shall submit an affidavit to that effect to the Investigating Officer.

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DR. Y. LAKSHMANA RAO, J

Date: 11.11.2026
PRA

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 9884 of 2026

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PRA