

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD

WEDNESDAY, THE EIGHTH DAY OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J. SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 5146 OF 2026

Between:

1. Namindla Padma, W/o Komuraiah, Age.60 years, Occupation. Household, R/o H.No.31.1-249, Komatipally, Hasanparthy, Hanumakonda District.
2. Namindla Komuraiah, S/o Durgaiah, Age.62 years, Occupation. Farmer, R/o H.No.31.1-249, Komatipally, Hasanparthy, Hanumakonda District.
3. Namindla Divya, D/o Komuraiah, Age. 29 years, Occupation. Student, R/o HNo.31.1-249, Komatipally, Hasanparthy, Hanumakonda District.

AND

...Petitioner/Accused No. 2 to 4

1. The State of Telangana, Represented by the Public Prosecutor, High Court Buildings, Hyderabad. Though PS. WPS 1, Warangal. Hanumakonda District.

...Respondent

2. Namindla Mounika, W/o Prashanth, Age. 29, Occupation. Govt. Teacher, SGT, at Dornakal, R/o H.No.25-7-174/4, Siri Colony, Kazipet, Hanumakonda District.

...Respondent/De-facto Complainant

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to quash the C.C.No.1744 of 2022 on the file of the Principal Junior Civil Judge-cum-Judicial First Class Magistrate at Hanumakonda in respect of the petitioners (A2 to A4).

I.A. NO: 1 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 of CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to stay all further proceedings against the petitioners (A2 to A4) in C.C.No.1744 of 2022 on the file of the Principal Junior Civil Judge-cum-Judicial First Class Magistrate at Hanumakonda, including personal appearance of the petitioners pending disposal of the above CRLP.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Mr. P. Jagan Mohan, Advocate for the Petitioners and the Mr. Jithender Rao Veeramalla, Additional Public Prosecutor on behalf of the Respondent No.1 and of None appeared for the Respondent No. 2.

The Court made the following: ORDER

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J.SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION No.5146 of 2026

Date: 08.04.2026

Between:

Namindla Padma and 2 others

...Petitioners

AND

State of Telangana,
Represented by the Public Prosecutor,
High Court Buildings, Hyderabad,
Through PS: WPS 1, Warangal,
Hanumakonda District and another

...Respondents

ORDER

This Criminal Petition is filed by the petitioners/accused Nos.2 to 4, seeking to quash the proceedings in C.C.No.1744 of 2022 on the file of the learned Principal Junior Civil Judge-cum-Judicial First Class Magistrate, Hanumakonda.

2. Heard Mr.P.Jagan Mohan, learned counsel for the petitioners and Mr.Jithender Rao Veeramalla, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for respondent No.1.

3. With the consent of both the learned counsel, the criminal petition is disposed of at the admission stage on the ground that even according to the learned counsel for the petitioners, the matter before the learned Trial Court has not ripened for the trial yet. In view of the same, notice in respect of respondent No.2/*defacto* complainant is dispensed with.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that the learned Magistrate, without recording satisfaction and without assigning any reasons, has taken cognizance against the petitioners on 25.06.2022 and issued summons mechanically and passed cryptic docket order. Therefore, the docket order dated 25.06.2022 passed by the learned Magistrate is liable to be quashed.

5. Learned Assistant Public Prosecutor has not opposed the submissions made by the learned counsel for the petitioners.

6. Having considered the rival submissions made by the respective parties and after perusal of the material available on record, it reveals that the learned Magistrate has taken cognizance, without recording satisfaction and without

assigning any reasons against the accused and not against the offences, through docket order dated 25.06.2022.

7. It is very much relevant to mention that in **Sunil Bharati Mittal v. Central Bureau of Investigation**¹ the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that the order of issuing process to accused to face criminal trial is a serious issue. Such summoning cannot be done on mere asking and the Court has to record reasons for summoning a person. In **GHCL Employees Stock Option Trust v. India Infoline Limited**², the Hon'ble Apex Court found fault with the order of the Magistrate in issuing summons when the Magistrate has not recorded his satisfaction about the prima facie case against the accused. In **Chief Enforcemnet Officer v. Videocon International Limited**³, the Hon'ble Supreme Court while discussing the expression 'cognizance' held that in criminal law 'cognizance' means becoming aware of and the word used with respect to Court or a Judge initiating proceedings in respect of an offence. Taking cognizance would involve application of mind by the Magistrate to the suspected commission of an offence. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in

¹ (2015) 4 SCC 609

² (2013) 4 SCC 505

³ (2008) 2 SCC 492

Sunil Bharati Mittal's case (Supra), further held as follows:

"Sine Qua Non for taking cognizance of the offence is the application of mind by the Magistrate and his satisfaction that the allegations, if proved, would constitute an offence. It is, therefore, imperative that on a complaint or on a police report, the Magistrate is bound to consider the question as to whether the same discloses commission of an offence and is required to form such an opinion in this respect. When he does so and decides to issue process, he shall be said to have taken cognizance. At the stage of taking cognizance, the only consideration before the Court remains to consider judiciously whether the material on which the prosecution proposes to prosecute the accused brings out a prima facie case or not."

8. In **Fakhruddin Ahmad v. State of Uttaranchal and another**⁴, it is held as follows:

"Nevertheless, it is well settled that before a Magistrate can be said to have taken cognizance of an offence, it is imperative that he must have taken notice of the accusations and applied his mind to the allegations made in the complaint or in the police report or the information received from a source other than a police report, as the case may be, and the material filed therewith. It needs little emphasis that it is only when the Magistrate applies his mind and is satisfied that the allegations, if proved, would constitute an offence and decides to initiate proceedings against the alleged offender, that it can be positively stated that he has taken cognizance of the offence. Cognizance is in regard to the offence and not the offender."

9. In view of the observations and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the judgments referred to supra, the act of issuing process of summoning the accused to face criminal trial is a serious issue and such orders directing

⁴ (2008) 17 SCC 157

summons to a person to face criminal trial cannot be on the basis of cryptic orders and it should be an order reflecting application of mind by the Presiding Officer while taking cognizance and issuing process.

10. For the foregoing reasons and in view of the principles laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the judgments cited *supra*, and without going into the other grounds, this Court is of the considered view that docket order dated 25.06.2022 passed by the learned Principal Junior Civil Judge-cum-Judicial First Class Magistrate, Hanumakonda in C.C.No.1744 of 2022 is liable to be quashed and accordingly quashed. However, this order will not preclude the learned Magistrate from taking cognizance and passing orders afresh in accordance with law, by giving reasons.

11. Accordingly, the criminal petition is disposed of.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

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SD/- P.C.SULEKHA DEVI
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

SECTION OFFICER

To,

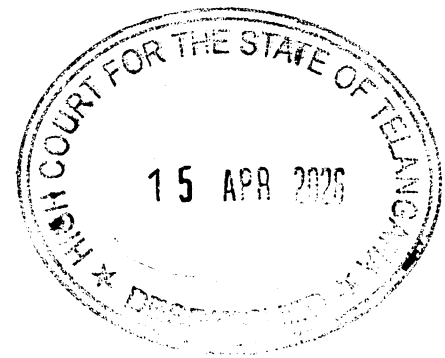
1. The V Additional Judicial First Class magistrate at Warangal.
2. The Station House Officer, WPS Warangal -I Hanamkonda District.
3. Two CCs to the Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad (OUT)
4. One CC to Mr. P. Jagan Mohan, Advocate [OPUC]
5. Two CD Copies

HIGH COURT

DATED: 08/04/2026

ORDER

CRLP.No.5146 of 2026



DISPOSING OF THE CRIMINAL PETITION

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