IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

MONDAY, THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 5445 OF 2026

Between:

1. Kummari Bharath kumar, S/o. Kummari Yadaiah, aged about 36 years, Occ. Private Employee, R/o. Plot no. 46/B, H.No.2-48/6, Telicom Nagar, Sherilingam Pally village, R.R District.
2. Ravulakolu Hemalatha, D/o R.Krishna, aged about 29 years, Occ. Housewife, R/o. Plot no. 46/B, H.No.2-48/6, Telicom Nagar, Sherilingam Pally village, R.R District.
3. Kummari Bhargav, S/o. Kummari Yadaiah, aged about 28 years, Occ. Private Employee, R/o. Plot no. 46/B, H.No.2-48/6, Telicom Nagar, Sherilingam Pally village, R.R District.

...Petitioners/Accused Nos.3, 4 & 8

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep by its Public Prosecutor, High Court Buildings, High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad. Through the S.H.O. Shabad Police Station, Ranga Reddy District.
2. Tejaswini Kummari, W/o.Bhagath, aged about 20 years, Occ.Student, R/o.H.No.46, Serilingampally, Gachibowli, Ranga Reddy District. Presently residing at H.No.11-99/1, Sankepally Guda, Shabad Mandal, Ranga Reddy District.

...Respondents/Defacto 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 proceedings in C.C. No. 389 of 2025, on the file of Judicial First-Class Magistrate at Chevella, Ranga Reddy District, against the Petitioners No. 1 to 3/Accused Nos. 3,4 and 8.

I.A. NO: 2 OF 2026

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 stay all further proceedings in C.C. No. 389 of 2025, on the file of the Judicial First-Class Magistrate at Chevella, Ranga Reddy District, against the Petitioners No. 1 to 3/ Accused Nos. 3, 4 and 8 pending disposal of the Main Quash Petition in the interest of the justice.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Ms. B. Himavarshini, Advocate for the Petitioners and Sri Jithender Rao Veeramalla, Additional Public Prosecutor on behalf of the Respondent No.1 and 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.5445 of 2026

Date: 13.04.2026

Between:

Kummari Bharath Kumar and 2 others
...petitioners/accused No.3, 4 and 8
AND

The State of Telangana,
Rep. by its Public Prosecutor,
High Court for the State of Telangana, Hyderabad and another
...respondents

ORDER

This Criminal Petition is filed by the petitioner/accused Nos.3, 4 and 8, seeking to quash the proceedings in C.C.No.389 of 2025 pending on the file of the Judicial First-Class Magistrate at Chevella, Ranga Reddy District, for the offences punishable under Sections 85, 115(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short, 'BNS') and Sections 3 and 4 the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (for short. 'DP Act').

2. With the consent of the learned counsel for the petitioners and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor, the criminal petition

is disposed of at the stage of admission on the ground that the learned Magistrate has taken cognizance by using rubber stamp without recording satisfaction and without assigning any reasons. In view of the same, notice in respect of respondent No.2/*defacto* complainant is dispensed with.

3. Heard Ms. B.Himavarshini, learned counsel for the petitioners and Sri Jithendar Rao Veeramalla, learned Additional Public Prosecutor for respondent No.1.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that the learned Magistrate without recording satisfaction and without assigning any reasons has taken cognizance on 23.04.2025 and issued summons to the accused and the same is contrary to the principle laid down in ***Sunil Bharati Mittal v. Central Bureau of Investigation***[1].

5. The above said submissions are not opposed by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor.

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,

[1] (2015) 4 SCC 609

without applying his mind and without assigning any reasons, especially taken cognizance against the accused and not against the offences through cognizance order, passed in C.C.No.389 of 2025.

7. It is very much relevant to mention that in ***Sunil Bharati Mittal*** *supra* 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

[2] (2013) 4 SCC 505
[3] (2008) 2 SCC 492

Court in ***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 summons to a person to face criminal trial cannot be on the basis of cryptic orders and it should

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[4] (2008) 17 SCC 157

be an order reflecting application of mind by the Presiding Officer while taking cognizance and issuing process.

10. For the foregoing reasons as well as 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 cognizance order, passed in C.C.No.389 of 2025 pending on the file of the Judicial First-Class Magistrate at Chevella, Ranga Reddy District, 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.

SD/- K.BHAVANI SWAMY
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

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SECTION OFFICER

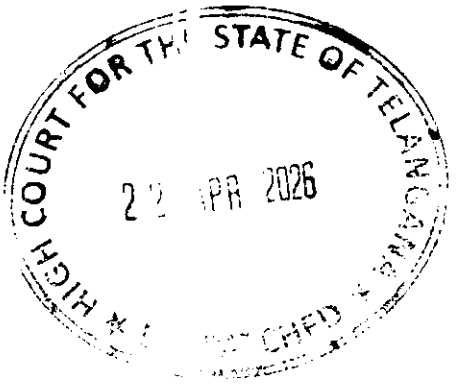
To,

1. The Judicial First Class Magistrate, Chevella, Ranga Reddy
2. The Metropolitan Magistrate, Chevella, Ranga Reddy
3. The Station House Officer, Shabad Police Station, Cyberabad
4. Two CCs to Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad [OUT]
5. One CC to Ms. B. Himavarshini, Advocate [OPUC]
6. Two CD Copies

ABK /KA

HIGH COURT

DATED: 13/04/2026



ORDER

CRLP.No.5445 of 2026

DISPOSING OF THE CRIMINAL PETITION

(9) NJT
22/4/26.