IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

FRIDAY, THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE J.SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 5784 OF 2026

Between:

1. Shameem Sultana, W/o Syed Fareed Uddin, Aged 70 years, Occ: Housewife, R/o 20-4-973/15/A, Khiwath, Murgi Chowk, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500002.
2. Syed Fareed Uddin, S/o Late Syed Moinuddin @ Syed Khaja Moinuddin, Aged 81 years, Occ. Retd Employee, R/o 20-4-973/15/A, Khiwath, Murgi Chowk, Hyderabad, Telangana 500002.

...Petitioners/Accused 2 & 3

AND

1. State of Telangana, Rep., by Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad. **...Respondent No.1**
2. Smt Ruksana Begum, W/o Syed Muneer Uddin, Aged 43 years, Occ. Housewife, R/o H.No.8-1-332/3/A/43, 2nd Floor, Lane No.4, Arvind Nagar Colony, Tolochowki, Hyderabad, Telangana.

...Respondent No.2/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 quash the Charge Sheet against the Petitioners / Accused No. 2 & 3 in CC.No.9599 of 2020 on the file of XIII Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at Hyderabad.

I.A. NO: 1 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 grant stay of all further proceedings in the Charge Sheet against the Petitioners / Accused No.2 & 3 in C.C. No. 9599 of 2020 on the file of XIII Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at Hyderabad.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Mr. SK Ashraf, Advocate for the Petitioners and Mr. 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.5784 of 2026

Date: 17.04.2026

Between:

Shameem Sultana and another

...Petitioners

AND

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

...Respondents

ORDER

This Criminal Petition is filed by the petitioners/accused Nos.2 and 3, seeking to quash the proceedings in C.C.No.9599 of 2020 on the file of the learned XIII Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at Hyderabad.

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

3. 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, on 04.09.2020, took cognizance against the petitioner and other accused by using rubber stamp. It is trite law that the learned trial Court ought to have taken cognizance against the offences and not against the accused by recording satisfaction and by giving reasons.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that the learned Magistrate without recording satisfaction and without assigning any reasons has taken cognizance and issued summons to the petitioners 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, 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.9599 of 2020.

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[1] (2015) 4 SCC 609

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 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*

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

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

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[4] (2008) 17 SCC 457

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.9599 of 2020 pending on the file of the learned XIII Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at Hyderabad, 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

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The XIII Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at Hyderabad.
2. The Station House Officer, Women Police Station, CCS, DD, Hyderabad District.
3. One CC to Mr. SK Ashraf, Advocate [OPUC]
4. Two CCs to Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad [OUT]
5. Two CD Copies

KAM/VH

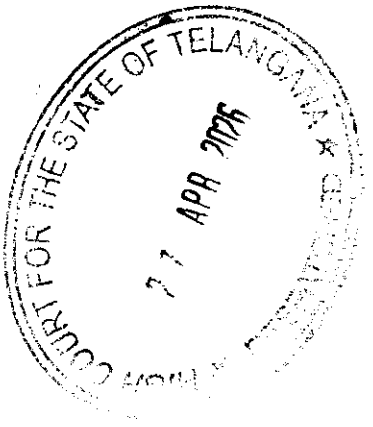
HIGH COURT

JSR, J

DATED: 17/04/2026

ORDER

CRLP.No.5784 of 2026



DISPOSING OF THE CRIMINAL PETITION