IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

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

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 5814 OF 2026

Between:

Penubelly Srinivas, S/o. Siddaiah, aged about 37 years, Occ. Business, R/o. H.No. 23/4, Raja Rajeswari Colony, Kapra, ECIL, Medchal-Malkajgiri District.

...Petitioner/Accused No.4

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep. by Public Prosecutor, High Court of Telangana, Hyderabad.

...Respondent No.1

2. The Sub-Inspector of Police, Police Station Shamirpet, Cyberabad Commissionerate.

...Respondent No.2/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 call for the records relating to PRC No. 29 of 2025 on the file of the XVII Additional Judicial Metropolitan Magistrate of First Class, Medchal, arising out of Crime No. 448 of 2024 on the file of Police Station Shamirpet, Cyberabad and quash the same insofar as the petitioner/Accused No.4 is concerned.

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 PRC No. 29 of 2025 on the file of the XVII Additional Judicial Metropolitan Magistrate of First Class, Medchal, insofar as the petitioner/Accused No.4 is concerned.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Sri N.Ashok Kumar, Advocate for the Petitioner and Ms. S.Madhavi, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor on behalf of the Respondent Nos.1 and 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.5814 of 2026

Date: 17.04.2026

Between:

Penubelly Srinivas

...Petitioner/Accused No.4

AND

The State of Telangana and another

...Respondents

ORDER

This Criminal Petition has been filed by the petitioner/accused No.4 seeking to quash the proceedings in PRC No.29 of 2025 on the file of the XVII Additional Judicial Metropolitan Magistrate of First Class, Medchal, for the offences punishable under Sections 310(4) and 61(2) of The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

2. Heard Mr. N.Ashok Kumar, learned counsel for the petitioner, and Ms.S.Madhavi, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor for respondent Nos.1 and 2. With their consent, 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 trial Court is at the stage of summons.

3. During the course of hearing, learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the learned Magistrate without recording satisfaction and without assigning any reasons has taken cognizance on 24.04.2025 and issued summons to the petitioner and the same is contrary to the principle laid down in ***Sunil Bharati Mittal v. Central Bureau of Investigation***[1].

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

5. 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 on 24.04.2025 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 PRC No.29 of 2025.

6. It is very much relevant to mention that in ***Sunil Bharati Mittal*** *supra* the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that the order of issuing

[1] (2015) 4 SCC 609

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 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."*

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

7. 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."*

8. 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.

9. 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 PRC No.29 of 2025 pending on the file of XVII Additional Judicial Metropolitan Magistrate of First Class,

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[4] (2008) 17 SCC 157

Medchal, 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.

10. Accordingly, the criminal petition is disposed of.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

SD/- P.C. SULEKHA DEVI
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To,

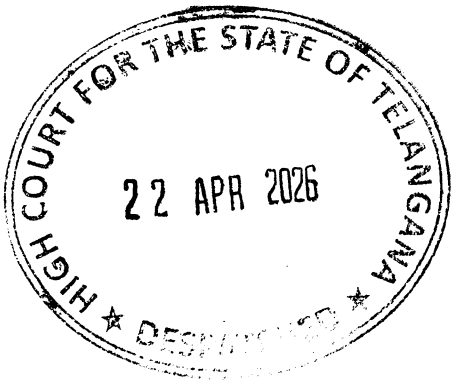
1. The XVII Additional Judicial Metropolitan Magistrate of First Class, Medchal.
2. The VII Additional Metropolitan Magistrate At Medchal, Cyberabad.
3. The Station House Officer, Shameerpet Police Station, Cyberabad District.
4. Two CCs to the Public Prosecutor, High Court of Telangana at Hyderabad [OUT]
5. One CC to Sri N.Ashok Kumar, Advocate [OPUC]
6. Two CD Copies

GNK/KAM

PMK

HIGH COURT

DATED: 17/04/2026



ORDER

CRLP.No.5814 of 2026

DISPOSING THE CRIMINAL PETITION

(9)
PMK
22/4/26