IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE B.R.MADHUSUDHAN RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION No.17225 of 2026

CNR.No.HBHC010723182026

DATE: 29.10.2026

BETWEEN:

Vishal Rao Ponugoti

.....Petitioner-Accused

And

1.The State of Telangana,
Rep. by its P.P.H.C. of Telangana,
P.S., Miyapur, Hyderabad District

...Respondent No.1-State

2. XXX

...Respondent No.2- De facto Complainant.

ORDER

1. This Criminal Petition is filed under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') praying this Court to enlarge the petitioner-accused on bail in connection with Crime No.1317 of 2026 of Miyapur Police Station, Cyberabad, registered for the offences punishable under Sections 69, 75, 77, 78, 79, 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Sections 67, 67A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

2. Heard Sri Ponnam Mahesh Babu, learned counsel for the petitioner-accused and Sri D. Arun Kumar, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondent–State.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the essential requirement under Section 69 of BNS is the existence of a promise to marry without intention of fulfilling the same, the prosecution must therefore establish the dishonest intention accompanying the alleged promise. The petitioner-accused never took photos or recorded videos of the private moments of the complainant whatsoever and never circulated the same. The petitioner-accused never repeatedly made calls, harassed the complainant or used filthy language against her. The complainant has communicated through Whatsapp on 04.01.2026 that she is stepping away completely both personally and business wise and the petitioner-accused never involved personally or physically since then. The alleged act on 12.07.2026 as stated by the complainant never occurred and the petitioner never induced her into physical relationship without her consent. The petitioner-accused is arrested and remanded to judicial custody on 23.09.2026,

since then he is in jail, entire investigation is completed and prayed to enlarge the petitioner – accused on bail.

4. Notice issued to the *de facto* complainant *is* served and proof is filed to that effect.

5. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor submits that police has made an application before the learned Trial Court on 25.09.2026 to record the statement of the victim under Section 183 of the BNSS and the same is pending consideration.

6. The victim has lodged a report before the Raidurgam Police Station on 10.09.2026, it is stated in the complaint that she met Vishal Rao Ponugoti through a matrimonial website in August 2024 and subsequently developed a serious relationship with him from June 2025. From August 2025 onwards, the accused allegedly induced her into a physical and intimate relationship by repeatedly making explicit promises of marriage. The accused has negotiated marriage with another woman in March 2025 and he had performed a Vara Pooja ceremony on 12.07.2026. On 25.10.2025, the accused allegedly took her photograph in a partially

undressed condition and sent the same to her through Whatsapp and also admitted to secretly record videos of their private moments. Basing on the said complaint, F.I.R. came to be registered under different Sections of BNS and IT Act.

7. The petitioner-accused is arrested and remanded to judicial custody on 23.09.2026, since then he is in jail.

8. Remand Case Diary goes to show that respondent-State has examined 15 witnesses in support of the case.

9. This Court is conscious of the fact that prosecution has made an application before the concerned Court to record the statement of the victim under Section 183 of the BNSS, so far the statement of the victim is not recorded and the same is pending consideration.

10. The learned counsel for the petitioner – accused has filed a copy of whatsapp chat dated 04.01.2026 which is sent by the complainant to the accused, wherein the complainant vehemently stated that " *I don't want to keep you hanging on the business about not wanting marriage. I'd been waiting since last week to discuss this properly on call. Our intentions*

don't align, and I've decided not to continue this any further. I'm stepping away completely – both personally and business-wise".

11. Record goes to show that major portion of the investigation is completed, detaining the petitioner-accused further in judicial custody will not serve the purpose. Hence, petitioner-accused is entitled to be enlarged on bail, subject to the following conditions:

i. The petitioner-accused shall execute a personal bond for a sum of Rs.20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand only), with two sureties for a like sum each to the satisfaction of the VIII Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class at Kukatpally, Cyberabad.

ii. The petitioner-accused shall appear before the concerned SHO between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on every Sunday for a period of Eight (8) weeks or till filing of charge sheet whichever is earlier, for the purpose of investigation, and thereafter, as and when required.

iii. The petitioner-accused shall abide by the conditions stipulated in Section

437(3) of Cr.P.C.(presently, Section 480(3) of the BNSS).

iv. The petitioner-accused shall not directly or indirectly influence, threaten, or induce any of the prosecution witnesses.

v. It is made clear that if any of the conditions imposed by this Court are violated, the prosecution is at liberty to file an application for cancellation of the bail.

11. Accordingly, the Criminal petition is allowed.

Miscellaneous applications, if any pending, shall stand closed.

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B.R.MADHUSUDHAN RAO, J

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