IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

MONDAY, THE TWENTY SIXTH DAY OF OCTOBER TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 17468 OF 2026

Between:

1. Chokkapu Sundeep @ Chokkapu Sandeep, S/o Chokkapu Shiva, Aged about 38 years, Occ: Tax Assistant, GST Department, R/o. Flat No. 2150, Building No. 52, Sector 7, CGS Colony, Antophill, Mumbai - 400 - 037. Local R/o. H. No. 101, B block, Bobbili Empire, Jayabheri, Near Big Bazar, Kompally, Qutubullapur, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana - 500 014.
2. Smt. Swarnalatha Chokkapu @ Chokkapu Swarnalatha, W/o. Chokkapu Shiva, Aged about 59 years, Occ. Housewife, R/o. Flat No. 101, Block-B, Bobbili Empire, Jayabheri, Near Big Bazar, Kompally, Qutubullapur, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana - 500 014.

...Petitioner Nos.1 and 2/Accused Nos.1 and 2

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Through the Public Prosecutor High Court at Hyderabad.
2. Smt. Chokkapu Haneela Tanvitha, W/o. Chokkapu Sandeep, Aged about 36 years, Occ. Private Service, R/o. Flat No. 204, Parimala Sadan Apts., Road No. 3, Kamala Nagar Dilsukhnagar, Hyderabad - 500 - 060.

...Respondents/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. 4176 of 2022 on the file of the III Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Ranga Reddy District at L.B. Nagar, arising out of Crime No. 235 of 2022 on the file of Saroornagar Women Police Station, Rachakonda, including the charge-sheet filed therein, insofar as the Petitioners / Accused Nos. 1 and 2 are concerned, for the offences alleged against each of them respectively under Sections 498-A, 406, 323 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

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 stay all further proceedings in C.C. No. 4176 of 2022 on the file of the III Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Ranga Reddy District at L.B. Nagar, arising out of Crime No. 235 of 2022 on the file of Saroornagar Women Police Station, Rachakonda, insofar as the Petitioners / Accused Nos. 1 and 2 are concerned, pending final disposal of this Criminal Petition.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Ms. Anchal Sharma, representing Sri Nikunj Dugar, 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.17468 of 2026

CNR.No. HBHC010725322026

Date: 26.10.2026

Between:

Chokkapu Sundeep @ Chokkapu Sandeep and another

...Petitioners

AND

The State of Telangana and another

...Respondents

ORDER

This Criminal Petition has been filed by the petitioners, seeking to quash the proceedings in C.C.No.4176 of 2022 on the file of the III Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Ranga Reddy District at L.B.Nagar, registered for the offence punishable under Sections 498-A, 406, 323 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

2. Heard Ms. Anchal Sharma, learned counsel representing Mr. Nikunj Dugar, learned counsel for the petitioners and Mr.Jithendar Rao Veeramalla, learned Additional Public Prosecutor 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 riped for the trial yet. In view of the same, notice in respect of respondent No.2/*defacto* complainant is dispensed with.

4. Upon perusal of the record, it reveals that the learned Magistrate, without recording satisfaction and without assigning any reasons, has taken cognizance against the petitioners and issued summons mechanically and passed cryptic docket order. Therefore, cognizance order passed by the learned Magistrate is liable to be quashed.

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

6. Having considered the 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 the cognizance order.

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 ***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,*

[1] (2015) 4 SCC 609
[2] (2013) 4 SCC 505
[3] (2008) 2 SCC 492

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 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 157

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 the cognizance order is liable to be quashed and accordingly quashed. The learned Magistrate is directed to take cognizance afresh and to proceed with the matter, in accordance with law.

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,

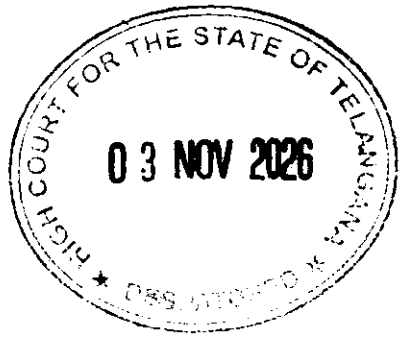
1. The III Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Ranga Reddy District at L.B. Nagar
2. The Station House Officer, Saroornagar WPS Police Station, Rachakonda
3. Two CCs to Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad [OUT]
4. One CC to Sri Nikunj Dugar, Advocate [OPUC]
5. Two CD Copies

ABK/GNK

R.R

HIGH COURT

DATED: 26/10/2026



ORDER

CRLP.No.17468 of 2026

DISPOSING OF THE CRIMINAL PETITION

Scopes
2/11/26
R.K