IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE VAKITI RAMAKRISHNA REDDY

CRIMINAL PETITION No.18178 of 2026

(CNR.No.HBHC010756022026)

DATED: 17.11.2026

Between:

Amit Rohidas Sonavane @ Amit Rohidas Patil @ Amit.

.... Petitioner/Accused No.3

AND

State of Telangana,
Represented by the learned Public Prosecutor,
High Court for the State of Telangana,
Hyderabad.

.... Respondent/Complainant

ORDER:

This Criminal Petition is filed under Sections 480 and 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') seeking to enlarge the petitioner, who is arrayed as accused No.3 in SC NDPS No.39 of 2026 (arising out of Crime No.164 of 2025, Sujathanagar Police Station, Bhadradri-Kothagudem District) on the file of the learned I Additional Sessions Judge (Special Court for Cases under NDPS Act) at Bhadradri Kothagudem District on bail. The offences alleged against the petitioner-A3 are under Sections 8(c) r/w 20(b)(ii)(C), 27-A and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (for short 'NDPS Act').

2. The brief facts of the case are that, on 13.10.2025, acting on credible information, the police intercepted a Ashok Leyland container lorry bearing registration No.KA38 A 6754 during vehicle checking and apprehended accused Nos.1 and 2 while they were allegedly transporting 498.485 kilograms of dry ganja from Nellipaka, Andhra Pradesh to Jaipur, Rajasthan State. The contraband, valued at approximately Rs.2,49,24,250/- and the same was seized under a panchanama in the presence of mediators. The petitioner was arrested and remanded to judicial custody on 04.05.2026.

3. Heard Ms. Manda Deekshitha, learned counsel for the petitioner-accused No.3 and Sri M. Vivekananda Reddy, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor, appearing for the respondent-State.

4. Learned counsel for petitioner-A3 submitted that no contraband was recovered from the possession of the petitioner and that he was falsely implicated in an identical NDPS case involving 72.378 kg of ganja and was acquitted by the Sessions Court, Nagpur, vide judgment dated 11.08.2023. She further submitted that A2 was granted regular bail, the investigation is completed and the charge sheet has been filed. She contended that petitioner-A3 has been in judicial custody since 04.05.2026, has no criminal antecedents, and is the sole earning member of his family, with his

70-year-old father suffering from serious orthopaedic ailments. She also submitted that his earlier bail petition in Crl.P.No.14993 of 2026 was dismissed on 28.09.2026. Therefore, she prayed this Court to grant bail to the petitioner-A3 by allowing the present Criminal Petition.

5. On the other hand, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor opposed the grant of bail, contending that the quantity of dry ganja involved in the present case, i.e., 498.485 kilograms, is a huge commercial quantity and the petitioner-A3 has involved in two other cases one in Maharasthra and another in Andhra Pradesh. He further submitted that the investigation has been completed and the charge sheet has also been filed. It is also contended that the petitioner-A3 belongs to the State of Maharashtra and that, if enlarged on bail, there is every likelihood of his absconding. Therefore, he prayed for dismissal of the present Criminal Petition.

6. Considering the submissions made by both learned counsel and upon perusal of the material available on record, it is evident that the petitioner-A3 has been in judicial custody since 04.05.2026 and that the contraband seized in the present case is 498.485 kilograms of dry ganja, which constitutes a commercial quantity and charge sheet is also filed. As such, it cannot be said that petitioner-

A3 has not committed any offence, at this stage, in view of rigor of Section 37 of the NDPS Act. It is also pertinent to note that the petitioner-A3 had earlier filed Criminal Petition No.14493 of 2026 before this Court, seeking similar relief and the same was dismissed by order dated 28.09.2026. However, upon consideration of the material available on record, it is noticed that there are no changed circumstances back then in the earlier bail petition and the present bail application. In view of the same, this Court is not inclined to grant the relief as sought for, by the petitioner-A3. There are no merits in this Criminal Petition and the same is liable to be dismissed.

7. Accordingly, this Criminal Petition is dismissed.

Miscellaneous applications, if any pending, shall stand closed.

VAKITI RAMAKRISHNA REDDY, J

Date: 17.11.2026
dpm

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