IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE VAKITI RAMAKRISHNA REDDY

CRIMINAL PETITION No.19219 of 2026
(CNR No.HBHC010804012026)

DATED: 25.11.2026

BETWEEN:

Dharavath Santosh .... Petitioner/Accused No.3

AND

The State of Telangana,
Rep., by its Public Prosecutor,
High Court for the State of Telangana,
Hyderabad, through Prohibition Station,
Sanga Reddy.

.... 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 Crime No.119 of 2026 of Prohibition and Excise Station, Sanga Reddy, on bail. The said crime was registered for the offences punishable under Sections 8(c) r/w. 22(b & c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (for short 'NDPS Act').

2. The prosecution case, as per the panchanama, is that on 20.08.2026, acting on credible information regarding transportation of MDMA and LSD from Goa to Hyderabad, the

Excise officials, along with the Panch Witnesses, intercepted a Kia Seltos car bearing registration No. TS 08 JS 9957 at Kamkole Toll Plaza, Sangareddy District, wherein three persons were travelling. On searching the vehicle, the officials allegedly found 2.32 grams of MDMA powder and 25 LSD blots weighing 0.46 grams in a wallet kept in the dashboard. The accused allegedly disclosed that they had purchased the substances in Goa for Rs.15,000/- for personal consumption. The Excise officials seized the contraband, three mobile phones, the wallet and the vehicle, duly packed and sealed them in the presence of the panch witnesses and informed them that a case would be registered against the accused under the NDPS Act, 1985.

3. Heard Ms. Volimineni Manognya, learned counsel for the petitioner and Sri M. Vivekananda Reddy, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondent-State.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner-A3 was arrested and remanded to judicial custody on 20.08.2026 and has been in judicial custody at the District Jail, Kandi, Sangareddy District, for the past 87 days. It is further submitted that the petitioner-A3 is innocent and has been falsely implicated in the present case with an ulterior motive and *mala fide* intention. It is also submitted that the petitioner was

merely a rear-seat passenger in the KIA vehicle, which was driven and owned by Accused No.1, and that there is no material to establish that the petitioner was in conscious possession of any narcotic substance of commercial quantity.

5. It is further submitted that the alleged contraband, namely, 2.32 grams of MDMA and 0.46 grams of LSD blots, was not recovered from the person, clothes, bag, or any other article belonging to the petitioner. It is further submitted that, although Accused Nos.1 and 2 were arrested on the same day, i.e., 20.08.2026, they have already been enlarged on bail by this Court *vide* orders dated 13.10.2026 and 02.11.2026 in Crl.P. Nos.15773 of 2026 and 17637 of 2026, respectively. Therefore, learned counsel prayed that this Court may be pleased to grant bail to the petitioner-A3 by allowing the present Criminal Petition.

6. On the other hand, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor opposed for grant of bail to the petitioner-A3.

7. In the light of the submissions made by both the learned counsel and upon perusal of the material available on record, it appears that the petitioner herein has been in judicial custody since 20.08.2026. The contraband which is seized from Accused Nos.1 to 3 is 2.32 grams of MDMA, which falls under intermediate

quantity and 0.46 grams of LSD falls under commercial quantity. The entire investigation is completed, as such, detaining the petitioner-A3 further in judicial custody will not serve any purpose. Hence, the petitioner-A3 is entitled to be enlarged on bail, subject to the following conditions:

i) The petitioner-A3 shall execute a personal bond for a sum of Rs.15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand only) each, with two sureties for a like sum each to the satisfaction of the learned Special Judicial First Class Magistrate for Prohibition and Excise Offences at Sanga Reddy.

ii) The petitioner-A3 shall appear before the concerned SHO between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 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-A3 shall abide by the conditions stipulated in Section 437(3) of Cr.P.C. (presently, Section 480(3) of the BNSS).

iv) The petitioner-A3 shall not directly or indirectly influence, threaten, or induce any of the prosecution witnesses.

v) In the event of violation of any of the above conditions, the prosecution is at liberty to file an application for cancellation of bail.

8. Accordingly, the Criminal petition is allowed.

Miscellaneous applications, if any pending, shall stand closed.

VAKITI RAMAKRISHNA REDDY, J

Date: 25.11.2026
dpm

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