

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI
THURSDAY, THE SECOND DAY OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

[3396]



:PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA
CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 2304 OF 2026

Between:

1. Vykuntam @ Vykuntam Ashok Kumar, S/o. Vykuntam Suryanarayana, Age. 51 years, Occ:-Teacher, R/o. Flat No. S-3, Venkateswara Towers, Sai Adharshya Nagar, Pyakaraopeta, Anakapalli District, Andhra Pradesh. (Accused no.1)
2. Vykuntam Suryanarayana, S/o. Late Tavitayya, Age 80 years, Occ:- not working, R/o. H.No. 8.642, BC Colony, Veeraghattam Mandal Post, Parvathipuram Manyam District, Andhra Pradesh. (Accused no.2)
3. Vykuntam Seetamma, W/o. Vykuntam Suryanarayana, Age 75 years, Occ:-Housewife, R/o. H.No. 8.642, BC Colony, Veeraghattam Mandal Post, Parvathipuram Manyam District, Andhra Pradesh. (Accused no.3)
4. Vykuntam @ Vykuntham Srinivasa Rao, S/o. Vykuntam Suryanarayana, Age 55 years, Occ:-Senior Engineer in South Central Railway, R/o. Flat No. 206, Lakshmikanthamma Estate, Carmel Nagar, Gunadala, Vijayawada, Krishna District. (Accused no.4)

Petitioner/Accused No.1 to 4

AND

The State of Andhra Pradesh, Rep. by its Public Prosecutor at High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravathi Through Station House Officer, Payakaraopeta Police Station, Anakapalli District.

Respondent/Complainant

Petition under Sections 482 of BNSS, praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to enlarge the Petitioners herein/Accused No. 1 to 4 on Anticipatory bail in the event of his arrest in Cr.No. 07 of 2026 on the file of Payakaraopeta Police Station, Anakapalli District for the offences registered under Sections 108, 85, of BNS R/w 3 & 4 of DP Act.

The petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Petition and the grounds filed in support thereof and upon hearing the arguments of Sri V NITESH, Advocate for the Petitioners and of PUBLIC PROSECUTOR for the Respondent and the Court made the following;

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 2304/2026

ORDER:-

The Criminal Petition has been filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity 'the BNSS') by the petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 4, for granting of pre-arrest bail in connection with Crime No.7 of 2026 of Payakaraopeta Police Station, Anakapalli District, registered for the offences punishable under Sections 108, 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short "BNS") and Sections 3 and 4 of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

2. The case of the prosecution is that, this is a case of harassment on a married woman in demand of additional dowry and abetment of suicide with common intention that occurred on 04.01.2026 at 8.00 P.M. at Flat No.3, Sai Adarsh Nagar, Payakaraopeta village and Mandal.

3. Heard Sri V.Nitesh, learned, learned counsel for the petitioners and Mrs.K.Priyanka Lakshmi, learned Assistant Public Prosecutor for the State.

4. Learned Assistant Public Prosecutor would submit that notice is served on the *defacto* complainant, but none appeared.

5. Learned counsel for the petitioners would submit that the petitioners herein are the husband, parents-in-law, and brother-in-law of the deceased, respectively. Learned counsel would further submit that the *defacto*

complainant is the father of the deceased. It is contended that, as per the contents of the complaint, the complainant alleged that he noticed certain external injuries on the body of the deceased. However, the post-mortem certificate would disclose that the cause of death is cardiac arrest. The inquest report would also indicate that no external injuries were found on the body of the deceased. Learned counsel would further submit that the case is one of suicide or, in any event, a natural death. It is further submitted that A.1 is working as a teacher; A.2 and A.3, who are the parents of A.1 are aged about 80 and 75 years, respectively; and A.4 is the brother of A.1. It is specifically contended that A.4 has never resided with A.1 and the deceased under the same roof and is employed in the Railways. Learned counsel for the petitioners finally prays that this Court may be pleased to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioners by imposing any conditions.

6. Learned Assistant Public Prosecutor vehemently opposed the petition and would submit that the statement of the daughter of the deceased clearly reveals that the petitioners subjected the deceased to harassment. She would further submit that the investigation is at a crucial stage and, therefore, anticipatory bail cannot to be granted to the petitioners. Learned Assistant Public Prosecutor accordingly prays for dismissal of the petition.

7. As rightly contended by the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor, the case diary would *prima facie* disclose the complicity of the accused in the present matter. Be that as it may, it is an admitted fact that A.2 and A.3 are

residents of Veeraghattam Village, A.4 is a resident of Vijayawada, and A.1 is working at Payakaraopeta Village.

8. In the light of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, this Court is inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioners/A.2 to A.4, who are the family members of the husband of the deceased. This is particularly in view of the post-mortem examination report, which indicates that there were no external injuries on the body of the deceased and that the cause of death was cardiac arrest. However, insofar as the petitioner/A.1 is concerned, in view of the specific allegations made against him and the material available on record indicating his prima facie involvement, this Court is not inclined to grant anticipatory bail. Accordingly, the petition, to the extent of A.1, stands dismissed.

9. In the result, this Criminal Petition is partly allowed granting anticipatory bail to the petitioners/A.2 to A.4 on the following conditions:

- i. The petitioners/Accused Nos.2 to 4, shall appear before the concerned Magistrate Court within a period of one (1) week from the date of this order and shall furnish personal bond for Rs.20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand only) with two sureties for a like sum each to the satisfaction of the said Court;
- ii. On release, the petitioners/Accused Nos.2 to 4, shall appear before the Station House Officer concerned, once in a week i.e., on every Saturday, between 10:00 AM and 05:00 PM, till filing of charge sheet.

- iii. The petitioners/Accused Nos.2 to 4, shall make themselves available for investigation as and when required and shall cooperate with the Investigating Officer for further investigation.
- iv. The petitioners/Accused Nos.2 to 4, shall not cause any threat, inducement or promise to the prosecution witnesses;
- v. The petitioners/Accused Nos.2 to 4, shall surrender their passport, if any, to the Court concerned. If they claim that they do not have passport, they shall submit an affidavit to that effect to the Court concerned.

10. Insofar as the petitioner/A.1 is concerned, the criminal petition is dismissed.

11. In the event of violation of any of the above conditions, the prosecution is at liberty to seek cancellation of bail.

12. It is also made clear that the observations made in this order are only for the purpose of deciding the bail application and they shall not be construed as opinion on the merits of the case.

Consequently, miscellaneous applications pending, if any, shall stand closed.

//TRUE COPY//

SD/- N.NAGAMMA
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Station House Officer, Payakaraopeta Police Station, Anakapalli District
 2. One CC to SRI. V NITESH Advocate [OPUC]
 3. Two CCs to Public Prosecutor, High Court of AP [OUT]
 4. One spare copy
- KJ

HIGH COURT

DR.VJP,J

DATED:02/04/2026

BAIL ORDER

CRLP.No.2304 of 2026

ALLOWED

