IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA

AT HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SMT. JUSTICE K. SUJANA

CRIMINAL PETITION No.3152 OF 2026

DATE :18.03.2026

Between :

Kola Manjula

... Petitioner

And

The State of Telangana,
Rep., by its Public Prosecutor,
High Court premises,
High Court of Telangana, Hyderabad

... Respondent/complainant

: ORDER :

This criminal petition is filed under Section 480 & 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 by the petitioner praying to enlarge her on bail in connection with Crime No.32 of 2025 of Cyber Crime Police Station, Khammam. The offences alleged against the petitioner are under Sections 61(2), 308(2), 318(4), 319(2), 340(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short "BNS") and under Section 66C, 66D of Information Technology Act.

2. The facts of the case are that on 03.07.2025 at about 14:50 hours, the complainant received a phone call from mobile number 7416642504 to his mobile number 9490992622. The caller introduced himself as Gaurav Sarathi, Sub-Inspector of Police from Bengaluru City Police, and informed the complainant that his Aadhaar number had been misused to open a bank account in Canara Bank. The caller further stated that one Sadhakath Khan of Uttar Pradesh, who was recently arrested in a human trafficking case, was found in possession of several bank account numbers and Aadhaar details, including those of the complainant, and that about 187 persons were identified as accused in the case. He also alleged that an amount of Rs.3 crores had been transacted through the complainant's account and that the complainant had received 10% commission from the said Sadhakath Khan. Thereafter, the caller informed the complainant that an officer from ACB Investigation would contact him and obtained his WhatsApp number. On 04.07.2025 at about 08:30 hours, the complainant received a WhatsApp video call from mobile number 7296094283 from a person who introduced himself as Akash,

Investigation Officer, ACB, Bengaluru, who questioned the complainant regarding his alleged involvement in the said case and assured him of help through a fast-track investigation, directing him to keep the matter confidential as a "national secret". The caller also sent a purported "national secret letter" claiming it to be from the Supreme Court of India and induced the complainant to disclose his bank account details and transfer money for verification of transactions. Believing the same to be genuine, the complainant transferred Rs.7,50,000/- on 04.07.2025 from his State Bank of India account through RTGS, Rs.15,00,000/- on 10.07.2025 from his Union Bank of India account through RTGS, and Rs.9,60,000/- on 14.07.2025 from his State Bank of India account through RTGS, totaling Rs.32,10,000/-. The callers assured that the amount would be refunded after one week along with an appreciation letter from the Supreme Court and change of Aadhaar ID. However, after receiving the money, the accused persons stopped responding to the complainant and switched off their mobile phones. Realizing that he had been cheated by persons impersonating police officials and using fake documents, the complainant lodged a complaint on 31.07.2025 with the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and requested for necessary legal action.

3. Heard Sri VPS Kumar Gummalla, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and Sri M.Ramachandra Reddy, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondent-State.

4. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that petitioner is innocent of the said allegations. That during her husband's illness, unknown persons at Gandhi Hospital, Secunderabad, falsely promised government financial aid and induced her to provide Aadhaar and photographs to open a bank account. They fraudulently seized her debit card, SIM card, and credentials, and used her as an unwitting "mule" in a Rs.24,00,000/- fraud. Being an uneducated woman, she could not comprehend or execute sophisticated cybercrimes. It is further submitted that she was arrested on 06.01.2026 and is in judicial remand, but police records show "NIL" recovery from her possession, and she has been wrongly implicated in three cybercrime cases. Learned counsel further contended that the alleged confession of the petitioner was obtained under custodial coercion, not recorded before a Magistrate, and is inadmissible under Section 23 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, and under Section 183 BNSS. The remand

case diary also shows “NIL” recovery, showing absence of incriminating evidence. She has been wrongly implicated in this crime. The petitioner undertakes to cooperate with investigation and trial, poses no flight risk, and has deep roots in the community. He further contended that petitioner is a widow, mother of minor children. Hence, prayed this Court to grant regular bail to the petitioner.

5. On the other hand, learned Additional Public Prosecutor vehemently opposed bail contending that the petitioner herein provided her bank account to other accused on commission basis to use the same in cyber crimes to deceive the victims and to gain money from them, which is a serious offence as such, petitioner is not entitled to bail and prayed to dismiss this petition.

6. Considering the submissions made by the learned counsel for both parties and upon perusal of the material available on record, it is seen that petitioner is in jail from 06.01.2026 and the main contention of the petitioner is that her account was mis-used by the fraudsters and she is innocent of the said allegations. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and the period of incarceration of petitioner in jail, this

Court deems it appropriate to grant bail to the petitioner subject to the following conditions:

> i. The petitioner shall execute a personal bond for a sum of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) with two sureties for a like sum each to the satisfaction of the Special Judicial Magistrate of First Class for Trail of Cases Under Prohibition and Excise Act-cum-V-Additional Junior Civil Judge at Khammam.
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> ii. The petitioner shall appear before the concerned SHO between 09.00 a.m and 5.00 p.m., on every Wednesday 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.
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> iii. The petitioner shall abide by the conditions stipulated in Section 483(2) of the BNSS.

7. Accordingly, the Criminal Petition is allowed. Miscellaneous petitions, if any, pending shall stand closed.

K. SUJANA, J

Date :18.03.2026

Rds

THE HON'BLE SMT. JUSTICE K. SUJANA

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