

[ 3303 ]

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA  
AT HYDERABAD**

**MONDAY, THE TWENTY SEVENTH DAY OF APRIL  
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX**

**PRESENT**

**THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J SREENIVAS RAO**

**CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 5455 OF 2026**

**Between:**

1. Arige Sridevi, W/O. Venkateswara Prasad, Aged 55 years, Occ.Housewife R/o.H.No. 4/69, Arava palli, Nandalur PO Cuddapah District, Andhra Pradesh-516150.
2. Arige Venkateswara Prasad, S/o Arige Pedda Subbarayudu, Aged 59 years Occ. Medical Store, R/o.H.No. 4/69, Arava palli, Nandalur PO Cuddapah District, Andhra Pradesh-516150,
3. Arige Sri Chandana, D/o. Arige Venkateswara Prasad, Aged 30 years Occ.Pvt. Service, R/o.H.No. 4/69, Arava palli, Nandalur PO Cuddapah District, Andhra Pradesh-516150,
4. Pagadala Ranga Swamy, S/o. Pagadala Adinarayana, Aged 40 years, Occ.Business R/o.H.No. 1/164-2, Aravapalli Nagireddy Patti Nandalur PO, Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh - 516150
5. Balaji Sivasankar @ Siva, S/o.B.R.Singh, Aged 52 years, Occ.Pvt.Service R/o. H.No.2/139, Arava palli, Nandalur PO Cuddapah District, Andhra Pradesh-516150,
6. Pagadala Dakshayani @ Shoba, W/o. Chandra Kumar, Aged 47 years Occ.housewife R/o.H.no.5/57, Jangam Street Nandalur, Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh - 516150.
7. Jangamsetty Srikar, S/o. Chandra Kumar, Aged 20 years, Occ.Student, R/o.H.no.5/57, Jangam Street Nandalur, Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh- 516150

**AND**

**...PETITIONER/ACCUSED**

1. State of Telangana, Rep. by Public Prosecutor High Court for State of Telangana at Hyderabad. P.SMeerpet, Malkajgiri Distirct.

2. Samarthyam Mounika, W/o. Arige Sree Harsha Aged 27 years, Occ. Pvt. Employee RiaBlock No.21/10SF, 2nd floor, Saroor Nagar Rangareddy District.

**...RESPONDENT/COMPLAINANTS**

Petition under Section 437/438/439/482 of Cr.P.C praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to quash the proceedings against the petitioners/A1 to A7 in Crime.No.344 of 2026 of PS, Meerpet, Malkajiri District

**I.A. NO: 1 OF 2026**

Petition under Section 482 of Cr.P.C praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to dispense with filing of the certified copy of the FIR in Crime.No.344 of 2026 of PS, Meerpet, Malkajiri District

**I.A. NO: 2 OF 2026**

Petition under Section 482 of Cr.P.C 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 including arrest of the petitioners/A1 to A7 in Crime.No.344 of 2026 of PS, Meerpet, Malkajiri District

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Sri M PHANI KUMAR , Advocate for the Petitioner and the Public Prosecutor (TG/AP) on behalf of the Respondent No. and of Sri\_Advocate for the Respondent No.

**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.5455 of 2026**

**Date: 27.04.2026**

Between:

Arige Sridevi and six others

...Petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 7

AND

State of Telangana and another

...Respondents

**ORDER**

This Criminal Petition is filed seeking to quash the proceedings in Crime No.344 of 2026 of Meerpet Police Station, Malkajgiri District, wherein, the petitioners were arrayed as accused Nos.1 to 7, for the offences punishable under Sections 85 and 351(2) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023(for short 'BNS') and Section 3(1)(r)(s) of The Scheduled Castes And The Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 2015 (for short 'SC ST POA Act').

2. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor submits that pursuant to the order dated 13.04.2026, the concerned SHO has served notice to respondent No.2 and placed a copy of the said intimation. In spite of the said intimation, respondent No.2 has not chosen to enter appearance.

3. Heard Sri M. Phani Kumar, learned counsel for the petitioners and Mr.Jithender Rao Veeramalla, learned Additional Public Prosecutor for respondent No.1.
4. With their consent, the criminal petition is disposed of at the stage of admission.
5. Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the petitioners have not committed the alleged offences and have been falsely implicated in the present case. The petitioners neither demanded additional dowry nor abused respondent No.2 in the name of her caste. Hence, the ingredients of the offences under Sections 85 and 351(2) read with 3(5) of the BNS and Section 3(1)(r)(s) of the SC ST POA Act are not attracted against the petitioners. Hence, the continuation of proceedings against the petitioners is a clear abuse of process of law. He further submitted that the offence levelled against the petitioners is punishable with imprisonment of less than seven years. The Investigating Officer, without following the mandatory procedure prescribed under Section 35(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS'), as well as the guidelines formulated by the Hon'ble Apex Court in *Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar*<sup>1</sup>, is proceeding with the matter, which is contrary to law.

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<sup>1</sup> (2014) 8 SCC 273

6. *Per contra*, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that there are specific allegations levelled against the petitioners to attract the ingredients of the above said offences. Whether the petitioners have committed the offences or not have to be revealed during the course of investigation and the petitioners are not entitled to seek quashing of the proceedings at this stage. He further submitted that the Investigating Officer wants to follow the procedure contemplated under Section 35(3) of the BNSS and also the guidelines formulated by the Apex Court in **Arnesh Kumar** (*supra*) on the ground that the offences levelled against the petitioners are punishable with imprisonment less than years.

7. Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the petitioners will cooperate with the investigation.

8. Having considered the rival submissions made by the respective parties and after perusal of the material available on record, it reveals that the offences levelled against the petitioners are punishable with imprisonment of less than seven years. Even according to the learned Additional Public Prosecutor, the Investigating Officer wants to follow the procedure as contemplated under Section 35(3) of the BNSS, as well as the guidelines formulated by the Hon'ble Apex Court in **Arnesh Kumar** (*supra*).

9. In view of the above, the Investigating Officer is directed to follow the procedure as contemplated under the provisions of the BNSS, 2023. It is needless to mention that the petitioners shall cooperate with the investigation.

10. Accordingly, the criminal petition is disposed of.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

SD/- K.BHAVANI SWAMY  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

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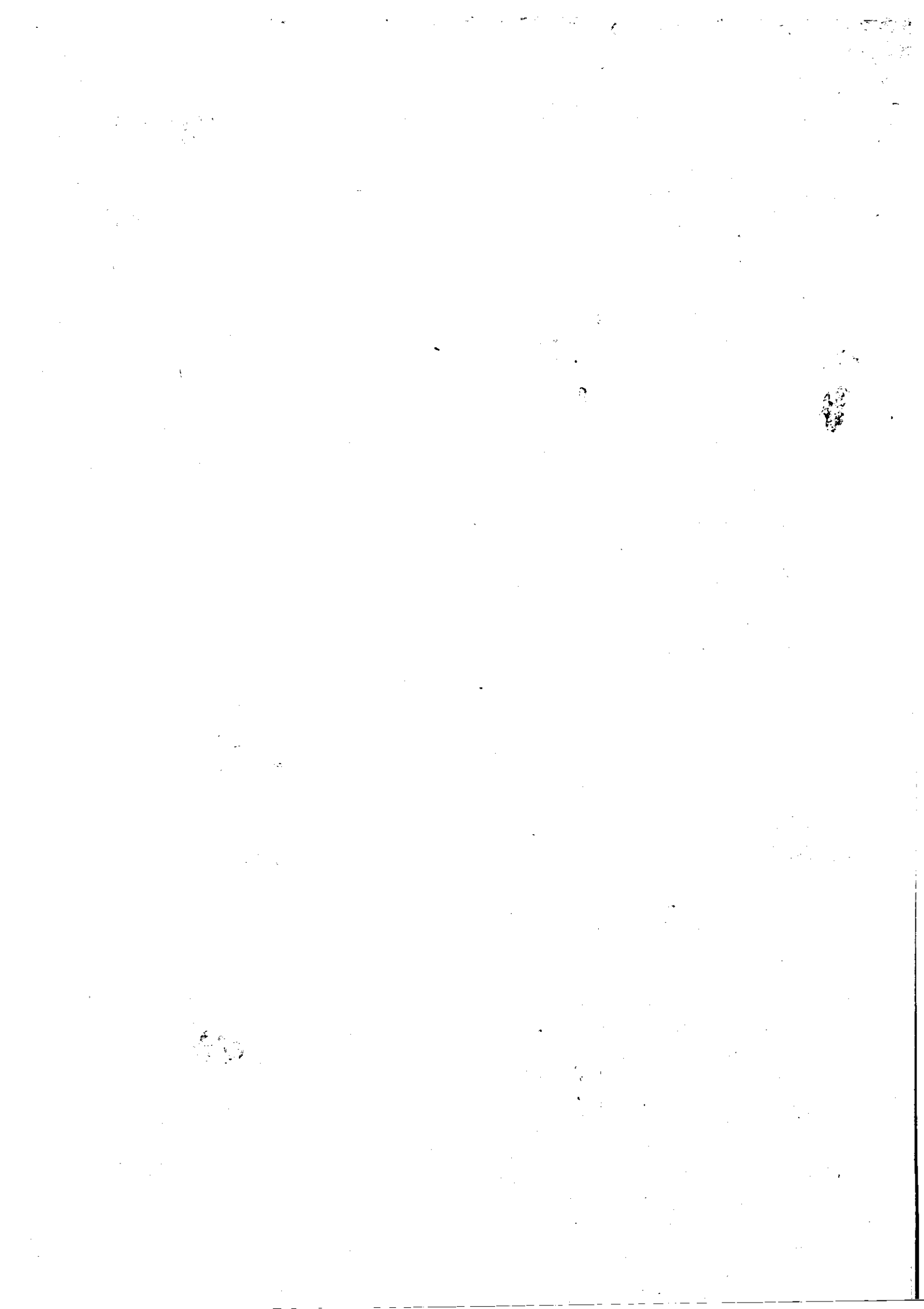
SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. State of Telangana, Rep. by Public Prosecutor High Court for State of Telangana at Hyderabad. P.SMeerpet, Malkajiri Distirct.
2. Samarthyam Mounika, W/o. Arige Sree Harsha Aged 27 years, Occ. Pvt. Employee RiaBlock No.21/10SF, 2nd floor, Saroor Nagar Rangareddy District.
3. One CC to SRI. M PHANI KUMAR Advocate [OPUC]
4. Two CCs to PUBLIC PROSECUTOR High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad [OUT]
5. Two CD Copies

KA





CC-TODAY

HIGH COURT

DATED: 27/04/2026

ORDER

CRLP.No.5455 of 2026



PARTLY ALLOWING THE  
APPEAL/DISMISSING/DISPOSING/CLOSING

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