

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

**WEDNESDAY, THE SIXTH DAY OF MAY
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX**

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE K. SUJANA

CRIMINAL APPEAL Nos. 362, 366 & 390 of 2026

CRIMINAL APPEAL No.362 of 2026

Appeal filed under Section 14-A (2) of the Scheduled Cases and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 aggrieved by the orders dated 12-03-2026 in CrI.M.P.No.302 of 2026 in Cr. No.1135 of 2025 of P.S.Shadnagar on the file of the Special Sessions Judge for Trial of Cases under SCs and STs (PoA) Act-Cum-VII Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ranga Reddy District at LB Nagar.

Between:

Kagula Venkataiah @ Venkatesh, S/o Ramulu, aged 39 years, Caste. Yadava
Occ. Agriculture, R/o H.No. 11-78, Yellampally Village of Farooq Nagar
Mandal, Ranga Reddy District

...Appellant/A-1

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Through P.S. Shadnagar.
2. Smt. Year Vani, W/o. Yerra Raja Shekhar, Aged about. 30 years,
Occ. Housewife, R/o. Ayyappa Colony, Shadnagar Town, Ranga Reddy
District.

...Complainant/Respondents

CRIMINAL APPEAL No: 366 of 2026

Appeal filed under Section 14-A (2) of the Scheduled Cases and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 aggrieved by the orders dated 12-03-2026 in CrI.M.P.No.303 of 2026 in Cr. No.1135 of 2025 of P.S. Shadnagar on the file of the Special Sessions Judge for Trial of Cases under SCs and STs (PoA) Act-Cum-VII Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ranga Reddy District at LB Nagar.

Between:

Pathi Srinu, S/o late Venkataiah aged 35 years, Caste: Yadava
Occ: Tractor Driver, R/o Yellampally Village of Farooq Nagar Mandal, Ranga
Reddy District.

...Appellant / A-2

AND

1. The State of Telangana,, Through P.S. Shadnagar
2. Smt Year Vani W/o Yerra Raja Shekhar, Aged about 30 years
Occ: Housewife R/o Ayyappa Colony, Shadngar Town, Ranga Reddy District

...Respondents / Complainant

CRLA NO: 390 OF 2026

Appeal filed under Section 14-A (2) of the Scheduled Cases and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 aggrieved by the orders dated 05-03-2026 in CrI.M.P.No.291 of 2026 in Cr. No.1135 of 2025 of P.S. Shadnagar on the file of the Special Sessions Judge for Trial of Cases under SCs and STs (PoA) Act-Cum-VII Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ranga Reddy District at LB Nagar.

Between:

Soma Suresh @ Soma Chandan Kumar, S/o. Soma Kitaiah, aged about 36 years, Occ. Private Employee, R/o. H.No.1-80, Nazeeb Nagar, Moinabad Mandal, Ranga Reddy District. Presently R/o. Mekaguda Village, Nandigama Mandal, Ranga Reddy District.

...Appellant/Accused

AND

1. The State of Telangana, rep., by its Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad.
2. Yerra Vaani @ Yerra Vani, W/o. Late Yerra Raja Sekhar, Aged about 35 years, Occ. Housewife, R/o. H.No.18-179/8, Ayyappa Colony, Shadnagar Town, Farooqnagar mandal, Ranga Reddy District.

...Respondents / Complainant

I.A. NO: 1 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to amend the prayer in CrI.A.No.390 of 2026 by substituting the words "release the appellant on bail pending investigation, enquiry and trial in Crime No.1135/2025 of Shadnagar Police Station, Cyberabad District," with "set aside the order passed in

Crl.M.P.No.291 of 2026 on the file of the Special Sessions Judge for Trial of Cases under SCs & STs (POA) Act-cum-VII Additional District & Sessions Judge, Ranga Reddy District at L.B.Nagar and release the appellant on bail pending investigation, enquiry and trial in Crime No.1135/2025 of Shadnagar Police Station, Cyberabad District," in the interest of justice.

Counsel for the Appellants/Accused Nos.1 and 2: SRI M.A. MUJEEB

Counsel for the Appellant/Accused No.5: SRI C SHARAN REDDY

**Counsel for the Respondent: SRI M RAMACHANDRA REDDY,
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR**

Counsel for the Respondent No.2: SRI S M RIZWAN AKHTAR

The Court made the following: ORDER

8,89.11

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA

AT HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SMT. JUSTICE K. SUJANA

CRIMINAL APPEAL Nos.362, 366 & 390 of 2026

DATE: 06.05.2026

Crl.A.No.362 of 2026

BETWEEN:

Kagula Venkataiah @ Venkatesh

.....petitioner/accused No.1

And

The State of Telangana,
Rep. by its Public Prosecutor,
High Court for the State of Telangana
at Hyderabad and another

.....Respondents/complainant

ORDER

These Criminal Appeals are filed challenging the orders dated 12.03.2026 passed in Crl.M.P.Nos.302, 303 & 291 of 2026 in Crime No.1135 of 2025, respectively, by the learned

Special Sessions Judge for Trial of Cases under SCs/STs (PoA)
Act-cum-VII Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ranga
Reddy District at L.B. Nagar.

2. The brief facts of the case are that the deceased was allegedly murdered in a premeditated and caste-motivated incident arising out of a dispute, wherein he had assisted his younger brother in eloping with the daughter of accused No.1. Bearing a grudge, accused No.1 is stated to have conspired with other accused persons and arranged for the elimination of the deceased by providing money and coordinating the plan. In furtherance of the said conspiracy, accused No.2 along with other co-accused allegedly participated in the execution of the offence, including facilitating the kidnapping of the deceased from his residence at Shadnagar, after which he was strangulated and his body was burnt in the agricultural fields at Nawabpet. Accused No.5 is alleged to have assisted the accused persons by procuring petrol and nylon rope used in the commission of the offence. Considering the gravity and nature of the allegations, the prima facie material available on record, the role attributed to the accused, and the apprehension of threat to witnesses, the trial Court held that

mere filing of the charge sheet cannot be treated as a change in circumstances and that it is not a fit case for grant of bail. Accordingly, the bail petitions filed by accused Nos.1, 2 and 5 were dismissed. Aggrieved thereby, the appellants/accused Nos.1, 2 and 5, respectively, filed the present Criminal Appeals.

3. Heard Sri M.A. Mujeeb, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the appellants/accused Nos.1 and 2, Sri C. Sharan Reddy, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the appellant/accused No.5 as well as Sri M. Ramachandra Reddy, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of respondent – State and Sri S.M. Rizwan Akhtar, learned counsel appearing on behalf of respondent No.2.

4. Learned counsel for the appellants/accused Nos.1 and 2 submitted that the appellants are innocent and have been falsely implicated in the case and that their guilt, if any, can only be established during trial and that continued incarceration is unwarranted. The investigation has been completed and charge sheet has been filed, and therefore there is no possibility of tampering with evidence. He further

submitted that the appellants have been in judicial custody for a considerable period, are suffering from health issues, and have family responsibilities. He contended that bail is the rule and jail is an exception, and therefore, the appellants are entitled to be enlarged on bail.

5. Learned counsel for the appellant/accused No.5 submitted that accused No.5 has no direct role in the commission of the offence and is falsely implicated. The only allegation against accused No.5 is that he purchased petrol and other items, without any knowledge of the alleged conspiracy and that no mens rea or intention to commit the offence is attributable to him. He further submitted that investigation is completed and charge sheet is filed, and similarly placed co-accused have been granted bail. The appellant is willing to abide by any conditions and hence seeks grant of bail.

6. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that the case involves a heinous, caste-motivated honour killing, which has caused serious unrest in society. The accused persons have actively participated in the offence and there is strong

prima facie material against them. He contended that mere filing of the charge sheet is not a ground for grant of bail and does not constitute a change in circumstances. There is a likelihood of the accused threatening witnesses and causing further disturbance. Therefore, considering the gravity of the offence, he prayed the Court to dismiss these Criminal Appeals.

7. Learned counsel for respondent No.2 submitted that all the accused persons acted in concert and played active roles in the commission of the offence, which is a grave caste-based honour killing and that the appellants have a clear motive and there is sufficient material establishing their involvement. He further submitted that the family of the victim is under constant threat and release of the accused would endanger their lives and lead to tampering of evidence. He contended that the appeals are not maintainable as they are in the nature of bail applications without proper challenge to the trial Court's order. Therefore, he prayed the Court to dismiss these Criminal Appeals.

8. In the light of the submissions made by both the parties and upon perusal of the material available on record, it appears that there are specific and grave allegations against the appellants/accused Nos.1, 2 and 5. The main allegation against accused No.1 is that he, having borne a grudge on account of the marriage of his daughter with the brother of the deceased, hatched a conspiracy to eliminate the deceased and played a key role in orchestrating the offence. Accused No.2 is alleged to have actively participated in the execution of the said conspiracy, including accompanying other accused and facilitating the kidnapping and subsequent murder of the deceased. Accused No.5 is alleged to have aided the commission of the offence by procuring petrol and nylon rope, which were used in carrying out the crime.

9. Though the learned counsel for the appellants contended that there were other suspects and that no proper investigation was conducted in that regard, this Court is not inclined to accept the said contention at this stage. A perusal of the complaint lodged by the de facto complainant clearly discloses that on the date of the incident, accused No.1 along with other accused went to the house of the deceased and

took him away under the pretext that the police at Shadnagar had summoned him. Thereafter, the deceased went missing, and subsequently, it came to light that he was murdered. This sequence of events prima facie establishes a clear proximity between the accused taking the deceased from his house and the death of the deceased. As such, at this stage, it cannot be presumed that some other unknown persons might have committed the offence.

10. Further, though it is contended by the counsel for the appellants that the present case does not fall within the category of an "honour killing", the material on record indicates that the dispute between the parties arose out of the marriage of the daughter of accused No.1 with the brother of the deceased. Therefore, it cannot be said, at this stage, that such a circumstance could not have been a motive for commission of the offence. The said aspect requires detailed examination during trial.

11. Insofar as accused No.5 is concerned, though it is contended that his role is minimal, the allegation that he procured petrol and other material used in the commission of

the offence would prima facie indicate his participation in furtherance of the conspiracy. At this stage, such material cannot be brushed aside as insignificant, particularly when the offence alleged is grave in nature.

12. Having regard to the seriousness of the allegations, the manner in which the offence is said to have been committed, and the prima facie material available on record, this Court is of the considered view that it is not a fit case to grant bail to the appellants. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has consistently held that in cases involving heinous offences, particularly those relating to honour killing and premeditated murder, the Court must exercise caution while granting bail, and the gravity of the offence and the impact on society are relevant considerations.

13. Further, as rightly contended by the learned counsel for respondent No.2, reliance is placed on the judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Bhagwan Dass v. State (NCT of Delhi)**¹, **Virupakshappa Gouda v. State of Karnataka**,

¹ 2011 6 SCC 396

Gudur Sandeep Reddy and others v. State of Telangana², and **Mamta Nair v. State of Rajasthan**³, wherein it is held that crimes such as honour killings are to be dealt with sternly and that courts should be slow in granting bail in such cases. The said principles squarely apply to the facts of the present case.

14. In view of the above discussion and the settled legal principles, this Court finds no grounds to interfere with the order passed by the trial Court, and the appellants are not entitled to be enlarged on bail.

15. Accordingly, these Criminal Appeals are dismissed.

Miscellaneous applications, if any pending, shall stand closed.

2(2021)1 ALT(Cr)18
3 (2021)7 SCC 442

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Sd/- K.AMMAJI
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

SECTION OFFICER

To,

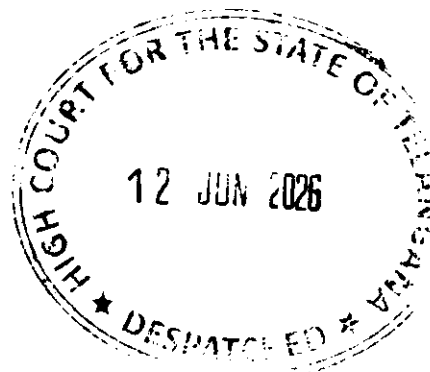
1. The Special Sessions Judge for Trial of Cases under SCs and STs (PoA) Act-Cum-VII Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ranga Reddy District at LB Nagar.
2. The Additional Judicial First Class Magistrate, Shadnagar, Ranga Reddy
3. The Superintendent, Central Prison, Chanchalguda, Hyderabad
4. One CC to Sri M.A. Mujeeb, Advocate [OPUC]
5. One CC to Sri C Sharan Reddy, Advocate [OPUC]
6. One CC to Sri S M Rizwan Akhtar, Advocate [OPUC]
7. Two CCs to Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad [OUT]
8. Two CD Copies

HIGH COURT

DATED: 06/05/2026

ORDER

CRLA Nos. 362, 366 & 390 of 2026



DISMISSING THE CRIMINAL APPEALS

⑪ MT
5/16/26