

(SHOW CAUSE NOTICE BEFORE ADMISSION)
HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

MONDAY, THE TWENTIETH DAY OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

:PRESENT:
THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J SREENIVAS RAO
CRLP NO: 5939 OF 2026

Between

1. Bishop A. Simeon, S/o Anandappa,
2. Sunny @ Ronald Augustine S, S/o Simeon Anandappa,
3. Rev. A Steven, S/o late Danamaiah,
4. Sanjay @ N Sanjay Kumar, S/o N. Yesurathnam,
5. Herbert Sreenivas, S/o late. Herbert Sudarshanam,

.....PETITIONERS/Accused 1 TO 5

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep. by its Public Prosecutor, Hyderabad, TS.
2. T. Vinay Kumar, S/o T. Benjamin, R/o. H. No: 5-98, Aden Colony, High Road No:9, Zahirabad Town, Sangareddy District-502220.

Respondents

WHEREAS the Petitioners above named through their Advocate SRI. LAKSHMI KANTH presented this Petition under Section 528 of B.N.S.S. praying that in the circumstances stated in the grounds filed in support of the CRIMINAL PETITION, the High Court may be pleased to call for the records and quash the proceedings initiated against the Petitioners / Accused No. 1 to 5 in FIR / Crime No. 111 of 2026 of PS Zaheerabad Town, Sanga Reddy District dt.15.03.2026 registered U/s 329(4), 115(2), 351(2), R/w 3(5) BNS as there is no prima facie case made out against the Petitioners.

AND WHEREAS the High Court upon perusing the petition and memorandum of grounds filed herein and upon hearing the arguments of Mr. C. RAGHU, Senior Counsel, representing Sri. LAKSHMI KANTH Advocate for the Petitioner, and Additional Public Prosecutor, for the Respondent No.1 directed issue of notice to the Respondent No.2 herein to show cause as to why this CRIMINAL PETITION should not be admitted.

You viz:

T. Vinay Kumar, S/o T. Benjamin, R/o. H. No5-98, Adar Colony, High Road No9, Zahirabad Town, Sangareddy District-502220.

are directed to show cause on or before 15.06.2026 to which date the case stands posted as to why in the circumstances set out in the petition and the memorandum of grounds filed therewith (copy enclosed) this CRIMINAL PETITION should not be admitted.

I.A. NO: 2 OF 2026

Petition under Section 528 of B.N.S.S. praying that in the circumstances stated in the grounds filed in support of the CRIMINAL PETITION, the High Court may be to grant stay of all further proceedings including personal appearance of the petitioners / accused No. 1 to 5 in FIR / Crime No. 111 of 2026 of PS Zaheerabad Town, Sanga Reddy District dt.15.03.2026 pending disposal of Criminal Petition.

The Court made the following:

ORDER

Notice before admission.

Learned Additional Public Prosecutor takes notice on behalf of respondent No.1.

Learned counsel for the petitioners is permitted to take out personal notice to respondent No.2 by way of Speed Post with Acknowledgment Due and file proof of service.

Mr. C. Raghu, learned Senior Counsel, representing Mr. Lakshmi Kanth, learned counsel for the petitioners, submits that the petitioners have not committed the alleged offence and have been falsely implicated in the present crime. He further submits that petitioner No.1 is discharging his duties as a Bishop of the Methodist Church and petitioner Nos.4 and 5 are Pastors of the Church. They have been rendering services to the said Church for a long time. When respondent No.2 and others attempted to interfere with the management affairs of the Church, petitioner No.5 approached the learned Principal Junior Civil Judge, Zaheerabad, Sangareddy District at Zaheerabad, and filed O.S. No.243 of 2025 against respondent No.2 and five others, seeking perpetual injunction restraining the defendants therein from obstructing for entering into



the Methodist Church for offering prayers. The learned trial Court, on 02.12.2025, granted status quo in I.A. No.711 of 2025. While the said interim order is in force, respondent No.2 filed the present complaint by giving it a criminal colour, to settle the civil dispute, which is contrary to law. Even according to the allegations made in the complaint, the ingredients of Sections 329(4), 115(2) and 351(2) r/w 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhitha, 2023 are not attracted against the petitioners and are punishable with imprisonment of less than seven years. He further submitted that the Investigating Officer, without following the mandatory procedure prescribed under Section 35(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') and without following the guidelines formulated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Arnesh Kumar Vs. State of Bihar*¹, is proceeding further in the matter and the same is contrary to law.

Taking into consideration the above submissions, this Court is of the *prima facie* view that there is force in the submissions made by the learned counsel for the petitioners. However, this Court would not be justified in granting a stay of further investigation pending the proceedings under Section 528 of the BNSS.

Hence, the Investigating Officer is directed to follow the due procedure as contemplated under the provisions of the BNSS and also the guidelines formulated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Arnesh Kumar* supra, insofar as petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 5 are concerned.

Post on 15.06.2026.


Sd/- B.REKHA RANI
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//


SECTION OFFICER

¹(2014) 8 SCC 273

To,

1. The Addl Judicial First Class Magistrate Court at Zaheerabad.
 2. The Station House Officer, Zaheerabad Police Station, Sangareddy.
 3. T. Vinay Kumar, S/o T. Benjamin, R/o. H. No5-98, Acen Colony, High Road No9, Zahirabad Town, Sangareddy District-502220.[by SPAD-along with a copy of petition and memorandum of grounds]
 4. One CC to Sri. LAKSHMI KANTH Advocate [OPUC]
 5. Two CCs to PUBLIC PROSECUTOR High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad [OUT]
 6. One spare copy
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HIGH COURT

JSR, J

DATED: 20-04-2026

NOTICE BEFORE ADMISSION

POST ON 15.06.2026

✓
CRLP.No.5939 of 2026



DIRECTION