

**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: 6396 OF 2026

Between:

1. Peshetti Laxmi Narayana,, S/o Pcchaiah, aged about 41 years, Occ. Journalist (Andra Jyothi), R/o H.No.3-18,Kalyani Village, Yellareddy Mandal, Kamareddy, District.
2. Neela Sangameshwar,, S/o Narsimlu,aged about 38 years, Occ.Journalist (Prashna Ayudham) R/o H.No.1-54,Timmapur Village, Yellareddy Mandal, Kamareddy, District.

...PETITIONER A1 AND A3

AND

1. The State of Telangana,, Rep. by its Public Prosecutor, Through Yellareddy Police Station, High Court of Telangana, Hyderabad.

...RESPONDENT

2. Cherla Surendra Babu,, S/o Bhasker, Aged about 33 years, Occ. Sub-Registrar At Yellareddy, R/o H.No.2-39, Ramannapeta Village, Konaraopeta Mandal, Rajanna Siricilla District

...RESPONDENT/DEFACTO/COMPLAINANT

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to quash the Proceedings in F.I.R.No.205 of 2025 dt:25.10.2025 on the file of the Yellareddy Police Station.

I.A. NO: 2 OF 2026

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to stay of all further Proceedings in F.I.R.No.205 of 2025 dt:25.10.2025 on the file of the Yellareddy Police Station pending disposal of the Criminal Petition.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Sri K. Sanjeev, Advocate for the Petitioner and Sri Jithender Rao Veeramalla, Additional Public Prosecutor on behalf of the Respondent No. 1 and None Appeared for Respondent No. 2.

The Court made the following: ORDER

HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT

HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J. SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION No.6396 of 2026

DATE: 27.04.2026

Between :

Peshetti Laxmi Narayana and another

....Petitioners

AND

The State of Telangana, and another.

....Respondents

:ORDER:

This Criminal Petition has been filed by the petitioners/accused Nos.1 and 3 under Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short, 'the BNSS'), seeking to quash the proceedings in F.I.R.No.205 of 2026 of Yellareddy Police Station, Kamareddy, registered for the offences punishable under Sections 308(2) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short, the BNS').

2. Heard Mr.K.Sanjeev, learned counsel for the petitioners and Mr.Jithender Rao Veeramalla, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of respondent No.1-State.

3. In spite of the service of notice, respondent No.2 has not chosen to enter appearance. Hence, this Court has no option except to proceed with the matter on merits.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that the petitioners have not committed any offences and have been falsely implicated in the present crime. The petitioners are discharging their duties as Journalists and they published a news article on 24.10.2025 in a newspaper edition titled "Prashna Ayudham," and "Andhra Jyothi" stating that respondent No.2 and his staff were not attending the office on time. Respondent No.2, with an ulterior motive filed the present complaint against the petitioners on the very next day i.e., on 25.10.2025 only with an intention to harass them. Thus, the ingredients of the offence under Section 308(2) read with 3(5) of the BNS are not attracted against the petitioners. Hence, the continuation of the proceedings against the petitioners is a clear abuse of the process of law.

5. *Per contra*, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that there are specific allegations levelled against the petitioners to attract the ingredients of the offence under Section 308(2) of the BNS. He further submitted that the investigation is under progress. Hence, at this stage, the petitioners are not entitled to seek quashing of the proceedings against them.

6. Having considered the rival submissions made by the respective parties and upon perusal of the material available on record, it reveals that there are no specific allegations levelled against the petitioners to attract the ingredients of the offence under Section 308(2) of the BNS. According to the learned counsel for the petitioners, the petitioners are journalists in "Prashna Ayudham" and "Andhra Jyothi" newspaper and an article was published on 24.10.2025 stating that respondent No.2 and his staff were not attending the office on time.

7. It is relevant to extract Section 308 of the BNS for the sake of convenience:

308. Extortion- Whoever intentionally puts any person in fear of any injury to that person, or to any other, and thereby dishonestly induces the person so put in fear to deliver to any person any property, or valuable security or anything signed or sealed which may be converted into a valuable security, commits extortion. — —

8. In the case on hand, there are no specific allegations that the petitioners have put respondent No.2 under fear of death or grievously hurting him. Hence, this Court is of the *prima facie* view that the continuation of the proceedings against the petitioners is a clear abuse of the process of law.

9. It is pertinent to mention that the law governing the exercise of inherent powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. or the extraordinary writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution is well settled by the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *State of Haryana v. Bhajan Lal*¹, wherein the Court illustratively catalogued the categories of cases warranting quashment, such as when the allegations *prima facie* do not constitute an offence, are absurd or inherently improbable, are actuated by mala fides, or where continuance of proceedings would amount to abuse of the process of law. Guided by these principles, and considering that the allegations in the present case do not disclose the essential ingredients of the alleged offences.

10. For the foregoing discussion, this Court is of the considered opinion that it is a fit case to invoke the Jurisdiction of this Court

¹ 1992 Supp (1) SCC 335

under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the proceedings against the petitioners/accused Nos.1 and 3.

11. Accordingly, the Criminal petition is allowed and the proceedings against the petitioners/accused Nos.1 and 3 in F.I.R.No.205 of 2026 of Yellareddy Police Station, Kamareddy, are hereby quashed.

Miscellaneous applications, pending if any, shall stand closed.

SD/- P.C.SULEKHA DEVI
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Judicial First Class Magistrate at Yellareddy
2. The Station House Officer, Yellareddy Police Station, Kamareddy District
3. Two CCs to Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad [OUT]
4. One CC to Sri K. Sanjeev, Advocate [OPUC]
5. Two CD Copies

VH/ka

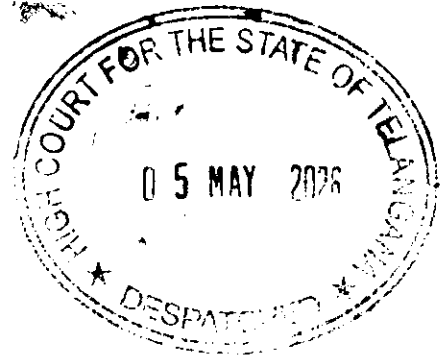


HIGH COURT

DATED: 27/04/2026

ORDER

CRLP.No.6396 of 2026



**ALLOWING THE
CRIMINAL PETITION**

(8) NT
u/s/26