

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

**THURSDAY, THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF MAY
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX**

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE E.V. VENUGOPAL

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 7247 OF 2026

Between:

Challa Ashok, S/o. Challa Saidulu, Age 38 years, Occ. Agriculture,
R/o.H.No.5-54, Kattangur Mandalam, Kurumarthi, Nalgonda District

...Petitioner

AND

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

...Respondent

Petition under Section 482 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to grant Anticipatory bail to the Petitioner/Accused in the event of his arrest in Crime No.74/2026, dated 06.04.2026 registered by Nalgonda Rural Police Station under Sections 331(4), 305(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 on such term and conditions as this Hon'ble Court.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Sri Kompelli Mahesh, Advocate for the Petitioner and the Additional Public Prosecutor (TG/AP) on behalf of the Respondent.

The Court made the following Order:-

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

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE E.V.VENUGOPAL

CRIMINAL PETITION No.7247 of 2026

DATE: 14.05.2026

BETWEEN:

Challa Ashok

.....petitioner

And

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

.....Respondent

ORDER:

This Criminal Petition is filed under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') for grant of Anticipatory bail to the petitioner, who is arrayed as accused in Crime No.74 of 2026 before the Nalgonda Rural Police Station, Nalgonda District, registered for the offences punishable under Sections 331(4) and 305(a) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNS').

2. The brief facts of the case are that the *de facto* complainant, who works as a security guard, lodged a complaint on 06.04.2026 stating that while he was performing his routine patrolling duty and visited the Airtel tower situated

at Anneparthy village, he found that the plate was removed and 24 Amar raja batteries were missing from the room. He stated that some unknown offenders gained entry to the said room and committed theft of the said batteries and decamped with booty. The alleged incident occurred between 27.01.2026 and 05.04.2026 at night hours and the stolen property is worth of Rs.24,000/-. An FIR was lodged against unknown persons for offences relating to theft under the provisions of the BNS. During the course of investigation, the police allegedly suspected and sought to implicate the present petitioner in connection with the said offences.

3. Heard Sri K. Mahesh, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner as well as Sri M.Ramachandra Reddy, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of the respondent – State.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner is innocent and has been falsely implicated in this case without any credible material and that in the FIR, the offences were initially registered against unknown persons, and the petitioner was neither named nor attributed any specific role. His implication is solely based on alleged

statements of co-accused or other persons, which are inadmissible in law. He further submitted that no recovery has been effected from the petitioner, and there is no evidence to establish his involvement in the alleged theft. He contended that the case is false, motivated, and an abuse of the process of law. Therefore, he prayed the Court to grant pre-arrest bail to the petitioner by allowing the Criminal Petition.

5. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor opposes the petition, contending that the petitioner is involved in the present case as well as in a series of similar theft cases relating to telecom towers and that the investigation is still in progress and that the role of the petitioner is being ascertained based on material collected during investigation, and custodial interrogation may be required for recovery of stolen property and to unearth the larger conspiracy. Further, the investigation is not yet completed. Therefore, at this stage, granting of pre-arrest bail to the petitioner does not arise. Hence, he prayed the Court to dismiss the criminal petition.

6. In the light of the submissions made by both the learned counsel and upon perusal of the material available on

record, it appears that the case pertains to theft of battery cells and the petitioner is also involved in a series of similar theft cases relating to telecom towers. The main allegation against the petitioner is that he is involved in the theft cases and is part of a group responsible for committing such offences. As seen from the record, though the FIR was initially registered against unknown offenders, the petitioner has been subsequently arrayed as an accused during the course of investigation based on material collected by the investigating agency. Furthermore, there are multiple cases registered against the petitioner, wherein the investigation is still in progress. At this stage, this Court is not inclined to grant pre-arrest bail to the petitioner, and the petition is liable to be dismissed.

7. Accordingly, this Criminal Petition is dismissed.

Miscellaneous applications, if any pending, shall stand closed.

//TRUE COPY//

Sd/- M. OSMAN ALI BAIG
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Judicial First Class Magistrate (Special Mobile) Court at Nalgonda.(with records if any)
2. The Station House Officer, Nalgonda Rural P.S., Nalgonda
3. Two CCs to the Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana, Hyderabad. [OUT]
4. One CC to Sri Kompelli Mahesh, Advocate [OPUC]
5. Two CD Copies

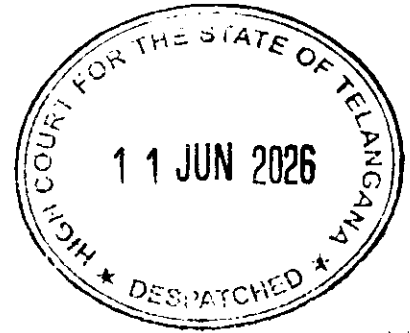
VC/GNK *Yg*

HIGH COURT

DATED: 14/05/2026

ORDER

CRLP.No.7247 of 2026



DISMISSING THE CRLP

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