IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SMT. JUSTICE K. SUJANA

CRIMINAL PETITION No.8320 of 2026

DATE: 16.06.2026

Between:

Athkuri Bethaiah

…Petitioner/accused No.2

AND

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

…. Respondent/Complainant

O R D E R

This Criminal Petition is filed before this Court for grant of bail to the Petitioner who is arrayed as accused in Crime No.234 of 2025 before the V.M.Banjar Police Station, Kammam District, registered for the offences punishable under Sections 111, 318(2), 319(2), 336(3), 338 read with 3(5) of BNS and Section 66-D of IT Act, 2000-2008.

2. Brief facts of the case are that the *de-facto* complainant lodged a report before the police on 24.12.2025 stating that the accused A-1 operated a call center in Hyderabad with the assistance of A-4 and others, targeting innocent persons by promising high returns on short-term investments. They impersonated representatives of reputed companies, used fake applications, websites, and emails to gain trust, and collected money under false pretexts. Victims were further threatened, abused, and intimidated with misuse of personal data, including threats of posting obscene content and false claims of law enforcement actions such as “house arrest.” To facilitate the movement of large sums obtained through cyber fraud, A-1 utilized multiple bank (mule) accounts to receive and transfer funds quickly to avoid detection. A-2 and A-4 introduced LW-1 to A-1, who, under the guise of providing employment, got a bank account opened in LW-1’s name, collected banking credentials, and unlawfully gained control over the account. An amount of Rs. 2.51 crores was routed through this account within 24 days and transferred to various accounts. Further, A-2 to A-5 operated Telegram groups linked to bank accounts to receive proceeds of cybercrime and betting activities conducted by foreign

nationals. These funds were partly distributed and the remaining amounts were transferred to other mule accounts, converted into USDT, and sent abroad. After the arrest of A-26, the petitioner and A-3 became key agents of the syndicate in India, managing multiple groups, recruiting individuals, and operating bank accounts for commissions. The accused collectively handled cybercrime proceeds, converted them into cryptocurrency, and transferred them to foreign handlers, earning substantial commissions. Based on the same, police registered the case for above offences.

3. Heard Sri T. Anirudh Reddy, learned counsel for petitioner as well as Sri D.Arun Kumar, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondent-State.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that, earlier the petitioner was arrested on 23.02.2026 with regard to Crime No.86 of 2026 of Sathupally Police Station and in the present case, was produced before the concerned Magistrate through PT Warrant and sent to judicial custody on 08.04.2026 and ever since he has been in judicial custody with regard to the present case. It is further submitted that except the offence under Sections 111 and 338 of the BNS, all

the offences are punishable below seven years and all the other accused are released on bail and he is ready to cooperate with the investigating authority. Therefore, he prayed the Court to grant bail to him by allowing this criminal petition.

5. On the other hand, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor opposed the submissions made by the learned counsel for the petitioner, contending that the allegations against the petitioner are serious in nature. It was submitted that the petitioner obtained substantial amounts under the pretext of facilitating certain transactions, and subsequently transferred those amounts to another account after converting them into cryptocurrency. Further, the investigation is not yet completed. Therefore, 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 petitioner herein is in jail since 23.02.2026. The allegations against the petitioner are similar in nature to those made against the other accused, who have already been granted bail. Considering the facts and

circumstances of the case, the nature of the allegations, the duration of incarceration, the progress in the investigation, this Court finds it appropriate to grant bail to the petitioner, subject to the following conditions:

i. The petitioner shall execute a personal bond for a sum of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only), with two sureties for a like sum each to the satisfaction of the learned Principal Judicial Magistrate of First Class, at Sathupally.

ii. The petitioner shall appear before the concerned SHO at 11:00 a.m., on every Wednesday for a period of eight (8) weeks or till filing of charge sheet whichever is earlier, for the purpose of investigation, and thereafter, as and when required.

iii. The petitioner shall abide by the conditions stipulated in Section 437(3) of Cr.P.C. (presently, Section 480(3) of the BNSS).

7. Accordingly, the Criminal petition is allowed.

Miscellaneous applications, if any pending, shall stand closed.

K. SUJANA, J

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gv

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