

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

THE HONOURABLE SMT. JUSTICE K. SUJANA

CRIMINAL PETITION No.16026 of 2025

DATE: 11.12.2025

BETWEEN:

Potru Praveen

..... Petitioner/Accused

And

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

..... Respondent/complainant

ORDER

This Criminal Petition is filed under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') for grant of pre-arrest bail to the petitioner, who is arrayed as accused No.1 in Crime No.2934 of 2025 before the Cyber Crimes Police Station, Cyberabad Commissionerate, registered for the offences punishable under Sections 79, 189, 204, 308, 318(4), 319(2), 336(3), 338, 340(2) and 352 read with 3(5) of BNS and Sections 66-C, 66-D read with 43 of IT Act.

2. The brief facts of the case are that, on 29.11.2025, based on reliable information that a gang was suspected to be illegally operating a fake call centre, the complainant conducted an inspection and found accused Nos.3 to 11. Relying on the confession statements of accused Nos. 3 to 11, the complainant came to the conclusion that they were involved in serious acts wherein the call centre targeted Australian citizens by impersonating computer support centres and committing cyber frauds such as making fake investment promises, impersonating reputed companies, creating fake mobile applications, websites and emails, threatening and extorting victims, abusing victims seeking refunds, and claiming access to victims' personal data, among other fraudulent activities.

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

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner was innocent and had been falsely implicated in the

case. He contended that there was no evidence to attract the offences punishable under Sections 308 and 338 of the BNS, and that the said Sections had been imposed only to avoid notice under Section 35(3) of the BNSS. In fact, none of the victims have been reported to the police and no victim statement had been recorded to constitute the offence. He further submitted that, apart from Sections 308 and 338 of the BNS, all other offences alleged were punishable with imprisonment of up to or less than seven years. Therefore, he prayed the Court to grant pre-arrest bail to the petitioner by allowing the criminal petition.

5. On the other hand, learned Additional Public Prosecutor opposed the same stating that the allegations leveled against the petitioner were heinous in nature and involved serious cyber fraud. He further submitted that the investigation had not yet been completed and, at that stage, granting pre-arrest bail to the petitioner did not arise. Therefore, he prayed the Court to dismiss the criminal petition.

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

it was noted that the petitioner had been arrayed as accused No.1 solely on the basis of the confessional statements of accused Nos.3 to 11. According to the investigating authority, accused Nos.1 and 2 were not present at the scene of offence when the raid was conducted. The allegation was that they were luring people by impersonating representatives of reputed e-commerce and financial companies, promising high returns on short-term investments, and threatening the victims. It was further observed that no victims' statements have been recorded. Considering the overall facts and circumstances of the case, this Court deemed it fit to grant pre-arrest bail to the petitioner, subject to the following conditions:

- i. The petitioner shall surrender before the Station House Officer, Cyber Crimes Police Station, Cyberabad Commissionerate, within two weeks from today, and on such surrender, the said Station House Officer shall release them on bail on executing a personal bond for Rs.25,000/- with two sureties, for the like sum each.

- ii. The petitioner shall abide by the other conditions stipulated in Section 482(2) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and co-operate with the Investigating Officer in investigating the case.
- iii. The petitioner shall appear before the concerned Investigating Officer on every Monday and Friday between 09:00 a.m, and 05:00 p.m., till the filing of the charge sheet and thereafter, as and when required.

7. Accordingly, this Criminal Petition is allowed.

Miscellaneous applications, if any pending, shall stand closed.

K. SUJANA, J

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