



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.NAGAPRASANNA

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 2731 OF 2026 (482(Cr.PC)/
528(BNSS))

BETWEEN:

1. AXIS BANK LTD.
A BANKING COMPANY,
CARRYING ON THE BANKING BUSINESS
UNDER THE BANKING REGULATION ACT, 1949,
INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT, 1956
AND HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT
'TRISHUL', 3RD FLOOR,
OPP: SAMARTHESHWAR TEMPLE.,
LAW GARDEN, ELLIS BRIDGE,
AHMEDABAD - 380 006.
GUJARA.

AND HAVING ONE OF ITS
BRANCH OFFICE AT
HIRANANDANI ESTATE,
THANE, 1ST FLOOR,
WALDROFF SHOPPING COMPLEX,
BEHIND MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS BUNGALOW,
PATLIPADA, GHODBUNDER ROAD,
THANE (W),
MAHARASTRA - 400 607.

2. AXIS BANK LTD.,
UPPER GROUND FLOOR,
GATA NO.21, BARGADI MANGATH,
BAKSHI KA TALAB,
NEAR CENTRAL BANK,
LUCKNOW DISTRICT,





UTTAR PRADESH - 226 201.

REPRESENTED BY ITS BRANCH HEAD,
MR. AJINKYA RAMDAS BORKAR.
AGED ABOUT 43 YEARS,
ALSO AT:
PLATINUM LAWNS B101.
VIHANG PHASE-1
KASARVADAVALI,
GHOD BUNDER ROAD,
THANE, VTC THANE
PO. KASARVADAVALI
DISTRICT: THANE,
MAHARASHTRA STATE PIN-400 615.

...PETITIONERS

(BY SRI. UNNIKRISHNAN M.,ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA BY
NORTH EAST CEN CRIME POLICE STATION.
NORTH EAST DIVISION.
BANGALORE DISTRICT.

REPRESENTED BY SPP
HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA,
BANGALORE 01.

2. MR. SANEEL OHRI,
S/O. O.P.OHRI.
AGED ABOUT 60 YEARS.
RESIDING AT NO.C-701,
VERACIOUS VANIVILAS.
DODDABALLAPURA ROAD,
YELAHANKA.
BENGALURU - 560 064.
KARNATAKA.

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI.B.N.JAGADEESH, ADDL.SPP)



THIS CRL.P IS FILED U/S.482(FILED U/S.528 BNSS) CR.P.C BY THE ADVOCATE FOR THE PETITIONER PRAYING TO SET ASIDE THE ORDER DATED 19.07.2025 PASSED BY THE 45TH ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE NRUPATUNGA ROAD, BENGALURU IN CRIME NO.307/2025 THAT IS ANNEXURE C IN TERMS OF WHICH, THE PETITIONER IS DIRECTED TO DEFREEZE THE SAVING/CURRENT ACCOUNT NO.924020069397856 AND A/C NO.924020016685869 MAINTAINED IN THE PETITIONERS BANK AND TRANSFER THE SAME TO THE ACCOUNT OF THE RESPONDENT NO.2 THAT IS A/C NO.925010012294533 AXIS BANK LTD.,

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR ORDERS, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.NAGAPRASANNA

ORAL ORDER

Heard Sri Unnikrishnan M., learned counsel for the petitioners and Sri. B.N. Jagadeesha, learned Additional State Public Prosecutor appearing for respondent No.1.

2. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioners submits that in all identical cases co-ordinate Benches have allowed the petitions and remitted the matter back to the learned Magistrate to permit the petitioner to file his objections with liberty to appear and then consider applications filed by the petitioners.



3. I deem it appropriate to quote the orders so passed in Crl.P.No.1787/2023 dated 14.12.2023:

"ORDER

The Petitioner which is a Financial Institution is before this Court challenging the order passed by 1st Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on an application filed under Sections 451 and 457 of Cr.P.C. by the complainant/respondent No.2 directing the petitioner-Bank to defreeze the amount belonging to the accused and transfer the said amount to the bank account of the complainants/respondent No.2.

2. The petitioner's concern is that the order passed by the Jurisdictional Magistrate cannot be executed because it surpasses the specified release amount, and numerous courts across the Country have issued directives to the investigating agencies to unfreeze the bank accounts of the accused therein.

3. Learned Special Public Prosecutor on instructions would suggest that the matter may be remanded to the Jurisdictional Courts to consider the application filed under Sections 451 and 457 of Cr.P.C. afresh, by affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner.

4. Admittedly, multiple cases are registered against the accused herein within the State and across the country and there are multiple orders passed by the Jurisdictional Magistrates directing the petitioner to unfreeze the account of the accused and transfer the amount to the bank account of the complainants. The passing of multiple orders has caused difficulty to the petitioner/bank in executing the said order, since the amount ordered to be released in some accounts exceeds the amount available in the subject accounts of the accused. Therefore, the learned Magistrate before passing an order



directing the petitioner to unfreeze and transfer the amount to the accounts of the complainants, is required to hear the petitioner. Accordingly, I pass the following:

ORDER

- i. Criminal Petition is **allowed**.
- ii. The order dated 26.11.2021 passed by the 1st Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bengaluru in Cr.No.452/2021 is hereby set aside.
- iii. Matter is remanded to 1st Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bengaluru to reconsider the application filed under Sections 451 and 457 of Cr.P.C. afresh, after giving the opportunity of hearing to the petitioner.
- iv. Till the application is disposed of, the petitioner/bank is restrained from releasing the money in favour of any person from the subject account."

In CrI.P.No.13487/2023 c/w. CrI.P.Nos. 10201/2023, 12091/2023, 13483/2023, 13489/2023, 13611/2023, 13627/2023, 13940/2023, 13955/2023, 98/2024, 128/2024, 356/2024, 357/2024 dated 12.02.2024:

"7. Having heard the arguments of both side, perused the records. The Trial Courts have passed the impugned orders in these cases for de-freezing the accounts of the customers and releasing the amounts, without giving opportunity of hearing to the petitioner - Bank. If the orders of the Magistrate are not complied with, it amounts to violation of court order and they face contempt. Therefore, before de-freezing the accounts, it is necessary for the Trial Court to give opportunity to



the petitioner of being heard in the matter and then pass appropriate orders since some of the customers do not have any amounts in their accounts and some of the customers are having lesser amount or zero balance. Hence, it is necessary for this Court to set aside the impugned orders with liberty to the petitioner to approach the various courts and after hearing the petitioner - Bank, the Courts can pass appropriate orders.

8. Accordingly, I pass the following:

ORDER

- (i) These Criminal Petitions are allowed.
- (ii) The impugned orders passed by the Trial Court given in the tabular form below are hereby set aside:

Sl. No.	Crl. P. No.	Impugned order dated	Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate	CR. No.
1	13487/2023	17/02/2023	I A.C.M.M.	1213/2022
2	10201/2023	07/07/2023	C.J.M., BANGALORE RURAL DIST.	Crl. Misc. No.177/2022
3	12091/2023	05/01/2023	II Addl. Sr. Civil Judge and JMFC Chikkaballapura	CR. No. 45/2022
4	13483/2023	13/10/2023	I A.C.M.M.	CR. No. 200/2023
5	13489/2023	11/08/2023	I A.C.M.M.	CR. No. 124/2023
6	13611/2023	30/09/2023	I A.C.M.M.	CR. No. 196/2023
7	13627/2023	12/04/2023	I A.C.M.M.	CR. No. 02/2023
8	13940/2023	18/07/2023	I A.C.M.M.	CR. No. 1060/2022
9	13955/2023	15/08/2023	I A.C.M.M.	CR. No. 05/2023
10	98/2024	08/08/2023	I A.C.M.M.	CR. No. 1051/2023
11	128/2024	24/07/2023	I A.C.M.M.	CR. No. 969/2022
12	356/2024	31/07/2023	C.J.M., BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT	CR. No. 197/2023
13	357/2024	07/06/2023	I A.C.M.M.	CR. No. 136/2023



(iii) The Trial Court is directed to hear the petitioner and the respondents and dispose of the matters in accordance with law, afresh.

(iv) Till disposal of the cases by the Trial Court, the petitioner-Bank is restrained from releasing the amounts of de-frozen accounts of customers or complying the order of the Magistrate."

In the light of the orders passed by the co-ordinate benches as quoted hereinabove, as also same was being held in other cases, I deem it appropriate to dispose of this petition by passing the following:

ORDER

- a. Criminal Petition is **allowed**.
- b. The order dated 19.07.2025 passed by the 45th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore in Cr.No.307/2025 is hereby set aside.
- c. Matter is remanded to 45th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore to reconsider the application filed by the petitioners.



d. Till the application is disposed of, the petitioner/bank is restrained from releasing the money in favour of any person from the subject account.

e. In the light of the issue pending for such consideration, I deem it appropriate to direct the concerned Court to dispose the application so filed by the petitioners as expeditiously as possible, at any rate, within eight weeks from the date of receipt of copy of this order.

Ordered accordingly.

I.A.No.1/2026 is disposed, as a consequence.

Sd/-
(M.NAGAPRASANNA)
JUDGE