



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

KALABURAGI BENCH

DATED THIS THE 22ND DAY OF APRIL, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE G BASAVARAJA

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 200536 OF 2026

(482(Cr.PC)/528(BNSS))

BETWEEN:

MR. ANANDA A S/O ANJANAPPA
AGED ABOUT 41 YEARS
NO.88/89, ANDRAHALLI MAIN ROAD
NEAR MARUTHI MEDICAL
VIDYAMANYANAGARA
BANGALORE NORTH
BANGALORE-560091

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI CHETAN V., ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA
BY SUB-URBAN POLICE STATION
KALABURAGI
REPRESENTED BY ADDL. SPP
HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
KALABURAGI-585103
2. MR. MANJUNATH BHANDARI
S/O SHIVALINGAPPA
AGED ABOUT 46 YEARS
R/AT JAFARABAD VILLAGE
KALABURAGI TQ: AND DIST: 585103

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI GOPALKRISHNA B. YADAV, HCGP FOR R1)





THIS CRL.P. IS FILED U/S.482 OF CR.P.C. (OLD), U/SEC. 528 OF BNSS (NEW), PRAYING TO ALLOW THIS PETITION AND QUASH THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS IN CRIME NO.354/2025 REGISTERED BY KALABURAGI SUB URBAN POLICE STATION FOR THE ALLEGED OFFENCES PUNISHABLE U/SECS. 299 AND 353(2) OF BNS, 2023 AND SEC. 66(C) OF IT ACT WHICH IS PENDING ON THE FILE OF THE COURT OF THE V ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, KALABURAGI.

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

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE G BASAVARAJA

ORAL ORDER

The petitioner has filed this petition under Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 seeking the following relief:

"WHEREFORE, the Petitioner most humbly prays that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to allow this petition and quash the entire proceedings in Crime No.354/2025 registered by Kalaburagi Sub Urban Police Station for the alleged offences punishable under Sections 299, 353(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Section.66(c) of IT Act which is pending on the file of the Court of the V Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC, Kalaburagi in the interest of justice and equity."

2. I have heard the arguments on both sides.

3. The petitioner has urged the following grounds to quash the proceedings:



"1) It is submitted that, the petitioner is innocent and he has not committed any offence much less the offences alleged in the impugned FIRs. The allegations made in all the complaints are false, baseless and do not disclose the commission of any cognizable offence by the petitioner.

2) It is submitted that, a perusal of the impugned FIR would clearly indicate that the name of the petitioner is not mentioned in the complaint or FIR and the allegations are made against an unknown Facebook account by name "Gulamara Appa". The respondent police have not placed any material to show that the said Facebook account belongs to the petitioner. In the absence of any specific allegation or material connecting the petitioner to the alleged account or posts, the registration of FIRs and continuation of proceedings against the petitioner is wholly illegal and unsustainable in law.

3) It is submitted that, all the impugned FIRs arise out of the very same alleged social media posts attributed to a Facebook account by name "Gulamara Appa" and therefore the cause of action in all the complaints is one and the same. Hence, registration of multiple FIR's for the very same cause of action is impermissible in law. The copies of the other FIR's are herewith produced and marked as **Document No.5 to 10.**

4) It is submitted that, a perusal of the contents of all the complaints would clearly indicate that the allegations made by the complainants are identical in nature and relate to the same alleged posts and comments. Therefore, continuation of separate criminal proceedings in different police stations amounts to multiplicity of proceedings and abuse of process of law.

5) It is submitted that, when the earliest FIR in Crime No.65/2023 in Ramanagara Police Station has



already been registered with respect to the very same alleged social media posts, the subsequent registration of FIRs in other police stations for the very same allegations is illegal and unsustainable in law,

6) It is submitted that, the respondent police have mechanically registered multiple FIRs without verifying whether earlier FIR has already been registered in respect of the same cause of action and therefore the impugned FIR is liable to be quashed.

7) It is submitted that, permitting multiple FIRS for the same alleged act would lead to abuse of process of court and would result in harassment to the petitioner by compelling him to face several criminal proceedings before different courts across the State.

8) It is submitted that, the essential ingredients of the offences alleged in the impugned FIRs are not made out from the contents of the complaints and the allegations made in the complaints even if accepted in their entirety do not constitute the offences alleged against the petitioner.

9) It is submitted that the respondent police have registered the FIRs in a routine and mechanical manner without conducting any preliminary verification regarding the authenticity of the alleged social media account and without collecting any material to show that the petitioner is the author of the alleged posts.

10) It is submitted that, continuation of criminal proceedings against the petitioner in all the impugned FIRs would cause serious prejudice and hardship to the petitioner and would amount to violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.



11) It is submitted that, the petitioner has been taken into judicial custody in one case and thereafter he has been secured in other cases by way of body warrants, thereby prolonging the custody of the petitioner on the basis of multiple FIRs arising out of the same alleged cause of action, which is Impermissible in law.

12) It is submitted that, the respondent police cannot be permitted to continue multiple prosecutions against the petitioner for the very same alleged social media posts as the same amounts to misuse of criminal law and abuse of process of court."

4. I have examined the material placed before this Court.

5. On the basis of the complaint filed by Manjunath Bhandari S/o Shivalingappa, Kalaburagi Sub-Urban Police have registered the case in Crime No.354/2025 against the accused for the offence punishable under Section 299 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

6. The petitioner has produced the copies of the FIRs pertaining to Crime No.150/2025 of Afzalpur Police Station, Crime No.105/2025 of Mahagoan Police Station,



Crime No.9/2026 of Kodigenahalli Police Station, Crime No.6/2026 of Davanagere Police Station, Crime No.65/2023 of Ramanagara Town Police Station and Crime No.244/2025 of Chamarajanagar Police Station.

7. All these FIRs reveal that the date of incident in the present case differs from the dates of the incidents mentioned in the above FIRs. On the basis of registration of the multiple FIRs against this petitioner by the aforesaid police stations, the proceedings cannot be quashed. A perusal of the entire material placed before this Court, I do not find any grounds to quash the proceedings. Hence, the Criminal Petition is dismissed.

In view disposal of the main petition, pending interlocutory application does not survive for consideration. Accordingly, stands disposed of.

Sd/-
(G BASAVARAJA)
JUDGE

RSP
List No.: 1 Sl No.: 11/CT-BH