APHC010536072026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

AT AMARAVATI

THURSDAY, THE 15th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE DR JUSTICE Y. LAKSHMANA RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 8966 OF 2026

Between:

Ulabala Srirama Murthy @ Sriram, S/o Gangu Naidu, Age 42 years, R/o Door No.6-125, Padmanabha Nagar, Venkata Puram, Pendurthi, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

...Petitioner/Accused No.2

AND

The State of Andhra Pradesh, Represented by its Public Prosecutor, High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh. [SHO, IV Town Police Station, Visakhapatnam City]

...Respondent/Complainant

Petition under Section 480 & 483 of BNSS, praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to grant bail to the petitioner/Accused No.2 in Crime No.72/2026, dated 30.04.2026 on the file of the IV Town Police Station, Visakhapatnam Commissionerate.

The Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Petition and the grounds filed in support thereof and upon hearing the arguments of Sri V.Sai Kumar, Advocate for the Petitioner and of Public Prosecutor for Respondent, the Court made the following

ORDER:

Criminal Petition has been filed under Sections 480 and 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for brevity 'the BNSS'), seeking to enlarge the Petitioner/Accused No.2 on bail in Crime No.72 of 2026 of IV Town Police Station, Visakhapatnam Commissionerate, registered for the alleged offences punishable under Sections 20(b)(ii)(B) read with 8(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (for brevity 'the NDPS Act').

2. Mr. V. Sai Kumar, the learned Counsel for the Petitioner submits that the Petitioner is innocent of the alleged offence. He has been falsely implicated by the police. It is further submitted that the Petitioner is the sole earning member of the family and, therefore, his incarceration would cause undue hardship to his dependents. He is a law-abiding citizen. The Petitioner undertakes to strictly adhere to any conditions that may be imposed by this Court. Hence, it is urged to allow the Petition.

3. *Per contra*, Mr. A.Sai Rohith, the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor vehemently opposed the grant of bail to the Petitioner, submitting that the investigation is still underway and several material witnesses remain to be examined. It is contended that if the Petitioner is released on bail at this stage, there is a strong likelihood that he may abscond, thereby hampering the ongoing investigation and evading the process of law and urged to dismiss the Petition.

4. Heard the learned counsel for the Petitioner and the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor. Perused the record.

5. As seen from the record, the Petitioner is arraigned as Accused No.2 in this case. The prosecution alleges that the Petitioner/Accused No.2 had supplied 4 kgs of ganja. It is not a commercial quantity. So far, four witnesses have been examined. There is one similar adverse antecedent reported against the Petitioner. The Petitioner was arrested on 06.08.2026 and has been in judicial custody for the past 70 days.

6. The Petitioner is a permanent resident of Pendurthi, Visakhapatnam. He has got fixed abode. If the Petitioner is enlarged on bail subject to stringent conditions, there is no likelihood of his absconding, threatening the witnesses, tampering with the evidence or hampering the further course of investigation.

7. Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case, the nature and gravity of the allegations levelled against the Petitioner/Accused No.2, this Court is inclined to enlarge the Petitioner on bail, subject to certain stringent conditions.

8. In the result, the Criminal Petition is allowed with the following stringent conditions:

> i. The Petitioner/Accused No.2 shall be enlarged on bail subject to his executing a bond for a sum of Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs only) with two sureties for the like sum each to the satisfaction of the learned I Additional District and Sessions Judge, Visakhapatnam.

ii. The Petitioner/Accused No.2 shall appear before the Station House Officer concerned, on every Saturday in between 10:00 am and 05:00 pm, till filing of the charge sheet.

iii. The Petitioner/Accused No.2 shall not leave the limits of the State of Andhra Pradesh without prior permission from the Station House Officer concerned.

iv. The Petitioner/Accused No.2 shall not commit or indulge in commission of any offence in future.

v. The Petitioner/Accused No.2 shall cooperate with the Investigating Officer in further investigation of the case and shall make himself available for interrogation by the Investigating Officer as and when required.

vi. The Petitioner/Accused No.2 shall not, directly or indirectly, make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him/her from disclosing such facts to the Court.

vii. The Petitioner/Accused No.2 shall surrender his passport, if any, to the Investigating Officer. If he claims that he does not have passport, he shall submit affidavit to that effect to the Investigating Officer.

Sd/-SUDA SRINIVASA RAO
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The I Additional District and Sessions Judge, Visakhapatnam.
2. The Superintendent, Central Prison, Visakhapatnam.
3. The Station House Officer, IV Town Police Station, Visakhapatnam Commissionerate.
4. One CC to Sri V.Sai Kumar, Advocate [OPUC]
5. Two CCs to Public Prosecutor, High Court of AP, Amaravati. [OUT]
6. One spare copy.

PSD

HIGH COURT

DR.YLR,J

DATE:15/10/2026

BAIL ORDER

CRLP NO. 8966 OF 2026

ALLOWED

