

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s). 7354/2025

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 02-05-2025 in CRLP No. 4207/2025 passed by the High Court for The State of Telangana at Hyderabad]

T. PRABHAKAR RAO

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF TELANGANA

Respondent(s)

IA No. 162342/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

IA No. 123339/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

IA No. 162343/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 172402/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

IA No. 138491/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

IA No. 123340/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE LENGTHY LIST OF DATES

IA No. 237540/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

Date : 14-10-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Dama Seshadri Naidu, Sr. Adv.
Mr. S. Nagamuthu, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Anurag Kulharia, Adv.
Mr. Sumit Kumar Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Shanker Chhabra, Adv.
Ms. Aishwarya Jain, Adv.
Ms. Anisha Mahajan, Adv.
Mr. Deepak Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Aakriti Jain, AOR

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mr. Sidharth Luthra, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ramakant Reddy, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Kumar Vaibhaw, Adv.
Mr. Samba Siva Reddy, Adv.
Ms. Devina Sehgal, AOR
Mr. Mohit D Ram, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Shrivastav, Adv.
Mr. Kartikey Dang, Adv.
Ms. Somaya Gupta, Adv.

Mr. K Parameshwar, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Manish Tiwari , AOR
Mr. Basa Mithun Shashank, Adv.
Mr. Anthony Reddy Katakam, Adv.
Mr. Manish Tiwari, Adv.
Mr. Vinay Pratap Singh, Adv.
Mr. Rk Tanwar, Adv.

M/S. Godavari Law Associates, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

We have heard learned Solicitor General and learned senior counsel appearing for the respondent/State who has filed I.A.No.237540/2025 seeking the following reliefs -

"A. Issue Direction(s)/order(s) vacating the interim order dated 29.05.2025 as extended until date forthwith due to the conduct of Petitioner set out above; and

B. Strictly in the alternative, direct the Petitioner to furnish the true and correct ID passwords for iCloud/Cloud backups of digital devices submitted by him to the investigating agency, furnish the devices/drive details on which the backup of such digital devices was taken prior to formatting the submitted digital devices, and information sought in notice dated 03.09.2025 in the subject FIR No.243/2024;

C. Pass any other orders as deemed fit in the interest of justice."

We have also heard the reply arguments of learned senior counsel on such application at length.

During the course of submissions, learned Solicitor General appearing for the applicant/State has brought to our notice a note on the alleged formatting of digital devices and contended that as a result of the formatting of the digital

devices, there is no purpose in the investigation of the petitioner who has the protection of the interim orders of this Court. The investigation and interrogation have not progressed till date owing to the petitioner taking advantage of the interim order of this Court and not disclosing the true facts.

In this regard, the following table was submitted by learned Solicitor General to contend that owing to the alleged formatting of the devices and the report submitted by the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in that behalf, there has been no meaningful investigation into the matter. He therefore, contended that custodial interrogation is required and therefore, the interim order dated 29.05.2025 as extended from time to time may be vacated, or alternatively a direction may be issued to the petitioner to furnish the true and correct passwords for iCloud/Cloud back-ups of digital devices submitted by him to the investigating agency, furnish the devices/drive details on which the back-up of such digital devices was taken prior to formatting them and furnish the information sought in the notice dated 03.09.2025 in FIR No.243/2024.

The relevant portions of the note/table is extracted as under -

Sl.No.	Name of device and IMEI/Sl. No. of device	Date of submission before the IO	Date of formatting as per FSL and reference	Duration of use
1	1 st iphone	19.06.2025 at 1100 hours by A-I	05.04.2025 Device formatted on 05.04.2025 during pendency	13.01.2023 to 04.03.2024 [as per CDR] Data is not

			of Anticipatory Bail before HC.	retrievable through FSL prior to formatting on 05.04.2025.
2	2 nd iphone	On 15.07.2025 at 1115 hours by A-I	15.07.2025 at 0908 hours During operation & in contravention of SC interim order dt. 29.05.2025.	04.06.2022 to 13.01.2023 [as per CDR] Data is not retrievable through FSL prior to formatting on 15.07.2025.
3	Samsung Galaxy	22.07.2025 at 1100 hours by A-I	FSL Report COM 219/2025 inter alia for Samsung phone states; Factory Reset on 06.10.2024 at 21:06:53 Factory Reset on 04.08.2024 at 04:27:05 Formatted twice during the time when Petitioner, through his counsel, was participating in proceedings before the Ld. Trial Court in the instant FIR.	22.11.2023 to 11.03.2024 [as per CDR] Data not retrievable from date prior to reset. Factory reset when he was absconding, staying in the US.
4.	Official laptop- MacBook Pro	19.06.2025 at 1100 hours by A-I	Operating system was installed on 10.06.2025 implying reformatting that day. Device formatted during operation & in contravention of SC interim order dt. 29.05.2025.	Data is not retrievable through FSL prior to formatting on 10.06.2025. x Issuance of Laptop to Petitioner by SIB on 27.03.2023. This was his official laptop & was not returned by him upon his

				resignation on 04.12.2024.
--	--	--	--	-------------------------------

In response to the said submission, learned senior counsel Shri Dama Seshadri Naidu appearing for the petitioner in the SLP/respondent in the application submitted on instructions that he would further co-operate in the investigation inasmuch as he would re-set and activate the password in the presence of the forensic experts insofar as his personal devices are concerned, in order to retrieve data stored in the iCloud/Cloud. He contended that whatever has been stored in the iCloud/Cloud has not been erased and therefore an opportunity may be given to the petitioner so as to further cooperate with the investigating agencies, by providing the requisite information with regard to aforementioned devices as well as by re-setting and activating the password of his personal devices in the presence of forensic experts, in order to locate the iCloud/Cloud backups of the personal digital devices.

It is needless to observe that as and when the petitioner in the special leave petition/respondent in the application is summoned, he shall take steps to re-set and activate the password in the presence of forensic experts, as submitted by learned senior counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner.

In the circumstances, we are inclined to grant only the second prayer sought for by the respondent-State/applicant in the aforesaid application.

Liberty is also reserved to the applicant/respondent-State in the special leave petition to seek information with regard to the following phone -

`Samsung Z Fold IMEI NO.354156122432885/359662902432880'

It is further observed that since the aforesaid exercise is to be carried out by the State, we deem it just and proper to extend the protection that we have granted to the petitioner vide order dated 29.05.2025 and which has been extended from time to time till the next date of hearing.

List on 18.11.2025 at 2.00 P.M as a part-heard matter.

(NEETU SACHDEVA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(DIVYA BABBAR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)