

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
BAIL APPLICATION NO. 1451 OF 2025

Prashant S. Hegde ...Applicant
V/s.
The State of Maharashtra ...Respondent.

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Mr. Pranav Borgave i/b Mr. Dhananjay Bhosale for the Applicant.
Mrs. P.S. Rane, APP for the Respondent/State.
API Sarika Zanjurne, Panvel City Police Station is present.

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CORAM : N.R. BORKAR, J.
DATE : 09.05.2025.

P.C. :

1. This is an application for regular bail.
2. The applicant came to be arrested in Crime No. 420 of 2024 registered at Panvel City Police Station, Navi Mumbai for the offences punishable under Sections 370(2) read with 34 of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (PITA Act).
3. The applicant is the accused No.2 in the aforesaid crime. The allegations against the applicant and other co-accused are that they were running a brothel.
4. I have heard the learned counsel for the applicant and the learned APP for the respondent – State.
5. Learned counsel for the applicant has drawn my attention to the order passed by this Court dated 21.1.2025 in Criminal Bail

Application No. 4520 of 2024. By the said order, this Court has released the accused No.1 on bail. Learned counsel for the applicant submits that the main allegations of inducing the victims are against the accused No.1 and the allegations against the applicant are that he had provided room for the alleged prostitution activity. It is submitted that the applicant is in jail for about 1 year and there are no other criminal antecedents.

6. On the other hand, learned APP for the respondent/State submits that considering the nature of crime, the applicant may not be released on bail.

7. The applicant is in jail for about 1 year. There are no other criminal antecedents. Considering the said facts and as this Court has granted bail to the accused No.1, I am inclined to release the applicant on bail. In the result, the following order is passed.

ORDER

A] The Application is allowed.

B] The applicant be released on bail in C.R. No. 420 of 2024 registered at Panvel City Police Station, Raigad for the offences punishable under Sections 370(2) of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the PITA Act on furnishing P.R Bond in the sum of Rs.15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand) with one or two solvent sureties in the like amount.

C] The applicant shall not direct or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case, as also shall not tamper with the prosecution evidence.

D] The applicant shall not enter into the limits of Panvel City Police Station till the charge is framed.

[N.R.BORKAR, J.]