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NAFR

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

MCRC No. 9006 of 2026

- Akash Kumar Sahu S/o Shri Bhagat Ram Sahu Aged About 35 Years R/o Bagdai Mandir Near D. L. S. College Ashok Nagar P.S. Sarkanda District Bilaspur Chhattisgarh.

--- **Applicant**

versus

- State Of Chhattisgarh Through- Police Station Sarkanda District Bilaspur Chhattisgarh.

--- **Non-applicant**

WITH

MCRC No. 9351 of 2026

- Heera Prasad Khandekar S/o Bhagatram Khandekar Aged About 51 Years R/o Akash Vihar Colony, Ashok Nagar, Plot No. 7, Sarkanda, Thana Sarkanda, Bilaspur, Tahsil And Distt. Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

---**Applicant**

Versus

- State Of Chhattisgarh Through Police Station Sarkanda- District – Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

--- **Non-applicant**

WITH

MCRC No. 9327 of 2026

- Harishankar Rathore S/o Late Shri Tikaram Rathore Aged About 27 Years R/o 101, Madhuban Road Dayalband, Tehsil And Distt-Bilaspur (C.G.)

---**Applicant**

Versus

- State Of Chhattisgarh Through P.S. Sarkanda, District – Bilaspur (C.G.)

--- **Non-applicant**

For Applicants	:	Mr. Ravish Verma, Advocate **(in MCRC/9006/2026)** Mr. Sumit Jhawar, Advocate along with Ms. Yatika Verma, Advocate **(in MCRC/9351/2026)** Mr. Shyam Kumar, Advocate **(in MCRC/9327/2026)**
For Non-applicant	:	Mr. Jitendra Shrivastava, G.A.

Hon'ble Shri Justice Rakesh Mohan Pandey

Order On Board

08.10.2026

1. Since these bail applications arise out of the same Crime Number, they are being heard together and disposed of by this common order.

2. The applicants have preferred these First Bail Applications under Section 483 of Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for grant of regular bail, as they have been arrested in connection with Crime No. 938/2026 registered at Police Station : Sarkanda District : Bilaspur (C.G.) for the offences punishable under following following Sections :

Case No.	**Offence u/s**
MCRC/9006/2026	Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 34 and 120-B of IPC
MCRC/9351/2026	
MCRC/9327/2026	Sections 420, 467, 468, 471 and 34 of IPC

3. The prosecution case, in brief, is that a report was lodged by Daulat Ram Thakur, Naib Nazir Grade-II, Office of the Tahsildar, Bilaspur (C.G.), alleging that the applicants, along with other co-

accused persons, prepared forged documents and fabricated medical records to fraudulently obtain financial assistance of ₹4,00,000/- under the Government Snake Bite/Poisonous Animal Bite Death Assistance Scheme, thereby causing loss to the State exchequer. It is further alleged that the applicants manipulated official records in connection with the incident. On the basis of the said allegations, afore-stated crime was registered against the applicants, and they were subsequently arrested.

4. Learned counsel appearing for the respective applicants submits that the applicants are earning their livelihoods working as Computer Typist, Advocate, and Reader, and they have been falsely implicated in this case. They further submit that the applicants have neither committed any offence nor played any role in obtaining the financial assistance in question by fraudulent means, and the amount was sanctioned and disbursed by the competent Government authorities only after due scrutiny and verification of the relevant documents; therefore, the applicants cannot be held responsible merely because the financial assistance was subsequently questioned. They contend that the Post-Mortem Report itself records the cause of death as "snake bite", which squarely falls within the scope of the aforesaid scheme, and there is no material on record to show that the applicants fabricated any document or practised deception at the inception of the claim. They further contend that even assuming there is any dispute regarding entitlement or eligibility for

obtaining the financial assistance, the same is essentially administrative in nature and, in the absence of the essential ingredients of cheating, would not constitute an offence punishable under Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code; thus, the continued incarceration of the applicants is wholly unwarranted. The applicants have been in jail since 11.08.2026, 11.07.2026, and 18.07.2026 respectively, and have 06, 09, and 02 criminal antecedents respectively in connection with the same episode; therefore, they may be enlarged on bail.

5. On the other hand, learned State counsel opposes the bail applications and submits that the allegations against the applicants are serious in nature. It is alleged that the applicants, in connivance with other co-accused persons, concealed the actual cause of death and fraudulently obtained financial assistance to the tune of ₹4,00,000/- under the Government's Snake Bite/Poisonous Animal Bite Death Assistance Scheme, thereby causing wrongful loss to the State exchequer; thus, no case is made out for grant of regular bail to the applicants.

6. I have heard learned counsel appearing for the parties and perused the case diary.

7. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, the nature and gravity of the allegations, the material collected during the course of investigation, the fact that the Post-Mortem Report reflects the cause of death as "snake bite", and taking into

account the detention of the applicants since 11.08.2026, 11.07.2026, and 18.07.2026 respectively, as well as the absence of previous criminal antecedents excluding the cases registered against them in connection with the same episode, this Court is of the opinion that the applicants have made out a case for the grant of regular bail. The allegations levelled against the applicants are matters to be tested during the course of trial, and the continued pre-trial detention of the applicants would not serve any fruitful purpose, especially when the trial is likely to take some time to conclude.

8. Accordingly, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the cases, the present bail applications are **allowed**.

9. It is directed that in the event of the applicants executing a personal bond for a sum of **Rs. 50,000/-** to the satisfaction of the concerned trial Court, they shall be released on bail on the following conditions:-

(a) they shall make themselves available for interrogation by the police officer as and when required;

(b)they 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 from disclosing such fact to the Court; and

(c) they shall not act in any manner which will be prejudicial to a fair and expeditious trial.

The observation made hereinabove is for the purpose of deciding these bail applications only, the learned trial Court shall decide the case on its own merits.

Sd/-
(Rakesh Mohan Pandey)
JUDGE

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