CGHC010413262026

NAFR

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

MCRC No. 9919 of 2026

1 - Karan Batra S/o Mahesh Batra, Aged About 29 Years R/o Ward No. 3, Near Godhdidham, Tilda Neora, District - Raipur (C.G.)

... Petitioner(s)

versus

1 - State Of Chhattisgarh Through Station House Officer, Police Station - Tilda Neora, District - Raipur (C.G.)

... Respondent(s)

(Cause title taken from CIS)

For Petitioner(s)	:	Mr. Veer Verma, advocate along with Mr. Ankush Borkar, Advocate
For State	:	Ms. Supriya Upasane, Govt. Advocate

S.B. Hon'ble Shri Justice Ravindra Kumar Agrawal

Order on Board

05.11.2026

1. This is the first bail application filed by the applicant under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (in short "BNSS") for grant of regular bail to the applicant, who have been arrested on 07-09-2026 in Crime No. 125 of 2025, registered at Police Station Tilda-Nevra, District- Raipur for the offence under Sections 318(4), 61(2),

112(2) of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (in short "BNS") and Sections 4-A and 7 of the Chhattisgarh Gambling (Prohibition) Act, 2022.

2. The prosecution's case in brief is that, on 03-04-2025, the police received secret information that the co-accused Harsh Panjwani is engaged in online gambling through the "Gajanand App" in his house. During a raid, he was intercepted by the police. Upon interrogation, he disclosed that he engaged in online gambling through "fair-play gaming panel No. 07, 12 and 13 of Gajanand App". From him, 04 mobile phones, cash of Rs. 3,400/-, 05 Bank-passbooks, 08 cheque-books, 08 ATM cards, 06 account books, Aadhar Card, Pan Card and Passport, have been seized. From the mobile phone of the co-accused, Harsh Panjwani, the data was extracted, in which it was found that he was running a mobile group in the name of "New Feedback". The involvement of the other accused persons namely Shiva Sen, mobile number 9630118110, Khubi Ram Patel, mobile number 7733995585 and Shailendra, mobile number 7415942378, was found, who were actively involved in the running of said "New Feedback" group and fair play gaming panel numbers 7,12 and 13. They used the mule bank account for the transaction of money received through online gambling. From the analysis of the mobile phone of Harsh Panjwani, the SDR mobile number of Govind Lalwani was recovered and found that he also involved in online gambling. From the memorandum statement of Sonu Shiva Sen, Khubi Ram Patel and Shailendra @ Sonu, it comes that the present applicant, Nandu Lalwani, took the SIM card of mobile Nos. 7415942378, 7733995585 and 9630118110, in their names fraudulently, and engaged in playing online gambling through panels No. 7, 12 and 13. During the investigation, the details of the suspected

bank account were obtained, and it was frozen. After the due process of investigation, charge sheet is filed before the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Tilda, showing the applicant absconding and subsequently he surrendered on 07.09.2026.

3. Learned counsel appearing for the applicant would submit that the investigating agency has acted most arbitrarily, and it had nothing but an ill-motivated and mala fide intention to implicate the applicant in the offence. They have no connection or association in any way, either with the affairs of the business of "Gajanand App" or have receiving the proceeds of crime. He would further submit that the prosecution has failed to establish the link between the present applicant with the alleged offence and other accused persons. Expect from the memorandum statement of other co-accused persons, there is no other incriminating evidence which implicate him with the offence. Even in the mobile phones of other accused persons there is no connection expected with the offence and the applicant. There is no evidence collected by the prosecution that the mobile phones and SIM cards, which are allegedly seized from the other accused persons, are actually used in an online betting app and the present applicant is also involved in the said activities. The electronic evidence collected by the prosecution are inadmissible in evidence and there is no ingredience of cheating in material collected during the investigation. In view of material collected during the investigation, there is no possibility of sustaining a conviction of the applicant. The other accused persons have been released on bail by learned trial Court or by the Hon’ble Supreme Court. There is no criminal antecedent of the applicant,

charge-sheet has been filed and final adjudication of the case will take its own time, therefore, he may be released on bail.

4. On the other hand, learned State counsel opposes the submissions made by learned counsel for the applicant and would submit that during the investigation, from the mobile phone of the co-accused Harsh Panjwani and others, the involvement of the other accused persons Shiva Sen, Khubi Ram Patel and Shailendra were found, and from them, the connection of the present applicant with the alleged "Gajanand App" and fair play gaming panel No. 7, 12 and 13 were found. From the analysis of their mobile phones, the active engagement of the present applicant is also in online gambling was also extracted, which was running through money transactions in mule bank accounts. The present applicant was remain absconding for a considerable period and he could only be arrested on 07.09.2026, though, he is said to have been surrender before the learned trial court. During the investigation, he remained absconding and the charge-sheet has been filed, showing him absconding. There is sufficient evidence available against the present applicant in the charge-sheet that he along with other accused persons engaged in commission of the alleged offence of online gambling through batting app and looking to the seriousness of the offence, he is not entitled to be released on bail.

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

6. Considering the submission made by learned counsel for the parties, material collected during the investigation and the allegation of online gambling through "Gajanand App and Fair Play App" and the money fail through Mule bank account. There is prima facie sufficient material

available in the charge-sheet regarding the involvment of the present applicant in the sindicate of accused persons for online gambling activities. Further that the applicant is remain absconding for a considerable period and he could be arrested only on 07.09.2026 and the charge-sheet has also filed against him, showing him absconding, this Court is not inclined to release him on bail.

7. Accordingly, the present bail application, filed by the applicant is **dismissed.**

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
JUDGE

sagrika