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HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

MCRCA No. 1868 of 2026

1 - Akil Ahmed Ansari S/o Shri Sheikh Karimuddin Ansari Aged About 47 Years Assistant Professor, Holy Cross Women's College, Ambikapur, R/o Mominpura, Mahamaya Road, Ambikapur, Police Station And Tehsil Ambikapur, District Surguja (C.G.)

... Applicant(s)

versus

1 - State Of Chhattisgarh Through Station House Officer, Police Station, Ambikapur, District Surguja (C.G.)

... Respondent(s)

For Applicant	**:**	Mr. Ajay Kumrani, Advocate
For State	**:**	Ms. Sunita Manikpuri, Dy.A.G.
For Objector	:	Mr. Manoj Paranjape, learned Senior Advocate appears along with Mr. Shakti Raj Sinha and Mr. Rishabh Gupta, Advocates

S.B.: Hon'ble Shri Parth Prateem Sahu, Judge

Order On Board

05/11/2026

1. Applicant has filed this application under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short "*BNSS*") for grant of anticipatory bail as he is apprehending his arrest in connection with Crime No.703 of 2026 registered at Police Station-

Ambikapur, District- Surguja (CG) for offence punishable under Sections 196(1), 352, 353(2) and 111 of the BNS.

2. Case of prosecution, in brief, is that the complainant Shailendra Sharma submitted a written complaint alleging that the applicant, co-accused Akansha Toppo and others had circulated social media material which allegedly affecting the identity/privacy of the victim, contained abusive language and promoted division or hatred between local residents and outsiders. The applicant is working as a Assistant Professor (Computer Science) at Holy Cross Women's College, Ambikapur, since the year 2009. He is a highly educated person and has an M.Phil. qualification relating to the role of information technology in crime investigation. He is also pursuing research leading to a Ph.D. on the subject "Role and Investigation of Digital Forensic in Crime Investigation". The applicant is also involved in social and public-interest activities. He has been publishing videos and posts concerning public issues, alleged irregularities and grievances brought to his notice by members of the public.

3. Learned counsel for the applicant would submit that the applicant is working as a Assistant Professor (Computer Science) at Holy Cross Women's College, Ambikapur and he is active in social media. He contended that the applicant has not uploaded any video or material in social media violating any provisions of law. He submits that the co-accused has lodged the report against the complainant Dheeraj Singh and thereafter as a counter blast, this FIR has been registered against the applicant and the co-accused

is also associated with the applicant. He further submits the there is no other antecedent against the applicant. Therefore, the applicant may be extended benefit of anticipatory bail.

4. On the other hand, learned State counsel opposes the submission of counsel for applicant and would submit that from the contents of the FIR, it is apparent that the applicant has taken the interview of one of the victim in other crime and had put the questions and thereafter uploaded it, which is affecting the privacy of the said victim. The objectionable questions have also been put to her which is also made publicly by uploading that video clip for interview on social media platform. The complainant after coming across that video clip and the interview uploaded by the applicant has reported the matter. In the report, there is also allegation that the material uploaded by the applicant in social media platform is provoking enmity between the different groups, religion, race and alarming and promoting the hatred between the different sects of the society. The allegations against the applicant is serious in nature, hence, he is not entitled for grant of anticipatory bail. She also pointed out that there is one criminal antecedent against the applicant which is also disclosed by the applicant in part D of the application.

5. Mr. Manoj Paranjape, learned Senior Counsel also raises an objection for grant of anticipatory bail to the applicant. He submits that even though the applicant is working as a Assistant Professor (Computer Science) at Holy Cross Women's College, Ambikapur as disclosed in the application, but he is involved in uploading

video clips and projecting him to be the social media influencer, which cannot be the conduct of the Assistant Professor. He also contended that in the FIR, there is specific mention about the activity, in which the applicant is involved as also the conduct, which is serious in nature and therefore, he is not entitled for grant of anticipatory bail.

6. At this stage, learned State counsel also submits that at the time of arrest of co-accused from her possession, one pen drive was seized on 08.10.2026. Upon putting query to the learned State counsel as to whether there is any document to show that police persons have seen or hear the contents of the pen drive, she submits that there is no such proceeding available in the case diary nor transcription of its contents.

7. Upon further putting specific query to the learned counsel for the State as to what is the material to show that the applicant has uploaded the unwanted objectionable video clip based upon which, the report has been lodged, she submits that as of now, there is no electronic evidence produced by the complainant along with the complaint.

8. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the documents available on record.

9. Taking into consideration the facts and circumstances of the case, nature of allegation, further taking note of the fact that though the report has been lodged based upon the video clip uploaded in the social media, however, there is no electornic evidence on record

produced along with the complaint and the applicant is working as a Assistant Professor (Computer Science) in the College, without commenting anything on merits of the case, I am inclined to allow this anticipatory bail application.

10. Accordingly, application is allowed and it is directed that in the event of arrest of applicant in connection with the aforesaid crime, he shall be released on anticipatory bail by the Officer arresting him on his executing a personal bond in the sum of Rs.25,000/- with one surety in the like sum to the satisfaction of the concerned arresting officer. Applicant shall also abide by the following conditions :-

> “(i) that the applicant shall remain available for interrogation before the Investigating Officer as and when required;
>
> (ii) the applicant 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 facts to the Court or to any police officer.”

Certified copy as per rules.

Sd/-

(Parth Prateem Sahu)

Judge

sunita