IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD

940 BAIL APPLICATION NO. 1435 OF 2026

Anil Bhimrao Ratnparkhe
VERSUS
The State Of Maharashtra And Another
.....
Mr. Mohammad Aamir, Through Legal Aid, Advocate for Applicant
Smt. Ashlesha Deshmuukh, APP for Respondent No.1 – State
Mr. M. B. Borse, Advocate for Respondent No.2
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CORAM : HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR, J.
DATE : 27.10.2026

PER COURT :

1. Heard the learned Advocate for the Applicant, learned APP for Respondent No.1 – State and the learned Advocate for the Informant.

2. The present application is preferred by the Applicant seeking regular bail in connection with Crime No.159/2026 registered with Badnapur Police Station, District Jalna, for the offences punishable under Sections 65(1) and 137(c) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Sections 4, 6, 8 and 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. The Applicant came to be arrested on 17.04.2026 and has been in custody since then. The investigation is complete and the charge-sheet has already been filed.

3. The prosecution story is that the informant, who is the mother of the victim, lodged a report on 11.04.2026 alleging the commission of an offence punishable under Section 137(1)(B) of the

BNS. It is alleged that the present Applicant, who is the husband of the informant and the stepfather of the victim, had abducted the victim from her school. Despite a search being conducted at the residences of relatives and friends, neither the victim nor the Applicant could be traced. During the course of inquiry, the victim's cousin, who was studying in the same class, disclosed that the Applicant had visited the school on 11.04.2026 and had taken the victim with him. Thereafter, both of them had left the place. On 17.04.2026, the victim and the Applicant were traced. Upon being brought home, the statement of the victim was recorded. The victim stated that on 11.04.2026, the Applicant had come to her school and asked her to accompany him. The victim further stated that the Applicant represented to her that they were in a love relationship, and therefore she accompanied him. It is alleged that the Applicant initially took the victim to a guest house, where they stayed for two days. During that period, the Applicant allegedly committed sexual intercourse with the minor victim on several occasions. Thereafter, they stayed at different places, where the victim was again subjected to sexual assault at the hands of the Applicant.

4. The victim was aged about 13 years at the relevant time, whereas the Applicant was 33 years old. Admittedly, the Applicant is the stepfather of the victim. The learned Advocate for the Applicant submits that the Applicant has been falsely implicated and has no connection with the alleged offence.

5. The learned Advocate for the Informant and the learned APP vehemently opposed the application. They submitted that the

victim was a minor aged 13 years. The Applicant had abducted her from school and thereafter repeatedly subjected her to sexual assault during the period from 11.04.2026 to 17.04.2026. The medical evidence supports the prosecution case. The statement of the victim also specifically narrates the incidents in question. On these grounds, it is submitted that the application deserves to be rejected.

6. I have carefully considered the charge-sheet and the submissions advanced on behalf of the respective parties. The prosecution case is prima facie supported by sufficient material on record indicating that the present Applicant, who is the stepfather of the victim, subjected his 13 years old stepdaughter to sexual assault. The allegations disclose repeated acts of sexual assault between 11.04.2026 and 17.04.2026. The medical evidence lends support to the allegations made by the victim. The learned APP has further pointed out that it was subsequently revealed that the victim had become pregnant. Having regard to the nature and gravity of the allegations and the material collected during the investigation, I am not inclined to grant bail to the Applicant. Hence, the Application stands dismissed.

[HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR, J.]

Sameer/Oct-2026