IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD

930 BAIL APPLICATION NO. 2015 OF 2026

Ajay Ashok Kolekar
VERSUS
The State of Maharashtra

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Mr. Deshmukh Vijay Vasantrao, Advocate for Applicant
Mr. S. D. Ghayal, APP for the Respondent - State

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CORAM : HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR, J.
DATE : 27.10.2026

PER COURT :

1. Heard the learned Advocate for the Applicant and the learned APP for the Respondent – State.

2. The present application is filed seeking regular bail by the Applicant, who has been arrested in connection with Crime No.363/2026 registered with Newasa Police Station, District Ahilyanagar, for the offences punishable under Sections 143 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and Sections 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. The investigation is complete and the charge-sheet has already been filed.

3. The learned Advocate for the Applicant submits that there are, in all, ten accused persons, including the present Applicant. Out of the said ten accused persons, three are hotel owners who have already been released on bail by this Court. The principal contention raised on behalf of the Applicant is that he is also a hotel owner and that the role attributed to him is similar to that of

the other hotel owners who have already been enlarged on bail.

4. The learned APP opposed the application on the ground that the present Applicant has one criminal antecedent of a similar nature. He submits that the Applicant is a habitual offender and, therefore, if released on bail, is likely to indulge in similar offences. He further submits that specific allegations have been levelled against the Applicant and a distinct role has been attributed to him. The statements of the victims have been recorded, wherein they have specifically named the Applicant and stated that he used to collect money on their behalf and retain a portion thereof for himself. The statements further indicate that the victims were compelled to engage in prostitution by the present Applicant. He, therefore, prays that the application be rejected.

5. Without entering into the merits of the case, the learned Advocate for the Applicant invited my attention to the order dated 21.07.2026 passed by this Court in Bail Application No. 1183 of 2026 pertaining to accused Sachin Suresh Kolekar, who was also a hotel owner and was arraigned as an accused in connection with a raid conducted simultaneously at another hotel. The role attributed to the said accused and that attributed to the present Applicant appear to be similar in nature. The observations made by this Court in paragraph No. 5 of the said order squarely apply to the case of the present Applicant. Therefore, on the ground of parity, the Applicant deserves to be enlarged on bail.

ORDER

[I] Application is allowed.

[II] The Applicant shall be released on bail in connection with Crime No.363/2026, registered with Newasa Police Station, District Ahilyanagar, for the offences punishable under Sections 143 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 and Sections 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, on furnishing a personal bond of Rs. 15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand only) with one solvent surety in the like amount, subject to the following conditions :

a) The applicant shall not tamper prosecution evidence.

b) The applicant shall not leave the area of jurisdiction of the concerned police station till conclusion of trial.

c) The applicant shall attend the concerned police station twice in every week i.e. on every Wednesday and Saturday and maintain personal diary of his attendance till committal of case and thereafter, shall regularly attend each and every effective date before the trial court.

[III] The Bail Application is accordingly disposed of.

[HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR, J.]

Sameer/Oct-2026