IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIRCUIT BENCH AT KOLHAPUR

CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL BAIL APPLICATION NO. 784 OF 2026

Vishal Rajendra Chavan ...Applicant

Versus

The State Of Maharashtra And Ors. ...Respondents

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Adv. Sandeep Salunkhe (through V.C.) a/w Adv. Sachin M. Bhavar, for Applicant.
Ms. Ashvini A. Takalkar, learned APP for the Respondents-State.
Ms. Janhavi Dudhwadkar, for Respondent No.3- Appointed through Legal Aid.
Mr. Balbhim S. Waghmare, Pandharpur Police Station, Solapur, present.

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CORAM : SHAILESH P. BRAHME, J.

DATE : 29th OCTOBER, 2026.

P.C. :

Heard.

2. By this application, the applicant is seeking regular bail in connection with Crime No.0122 of 2026, registered with Pandharpur City Police Station, Solapur, for the offences punishable under Sections 351(2), 351(3), 352, 64(1), 64(2) and 78(1) of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Sections 4, 6, 8 and 12 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

3. The applicant is behind bars since 10.03.2026. The charge-sheet

is filed on 18.04.2026. It is reported to the police by the respondent No.3 - victim herself that she was staying away from her parents for education at Mangalwedha. She was staying in a room and attending the classes as she was in 12th standard. The applicant is alleged to have been following her and given her his mobile number. It is further alleged that when the victim refused to respond him, he persistently was contacting her and insisting her to come with him. The first episode of sexual assault is reported to be of November 2025 which is followed by further episodes. She was being threatened and emotionally blackmailed.

4. Learned counsel for the applicant submitted that the relationship between applicant and the victim was consensual. The applicant is falsely implicated in the offence. There is no criminal antecedents against him. The investigation is over, the charge-sheet has been filed and he is ready to abide by the conditions.

5. Learned APP, Dr. Takalkar would submit that the applicant is the minor. Her statement under section 183 has been recorded which is consistent with the prosecution case. My attention is adverted to the medical report which clearly shows the signs of the assault.

6. Learned counsel Ms. Janhavi Dudhwadkar appearing for the respondent No.3 adopts the submissions. Additionally, it is submitted that the applicant has repetitively threatened and emotionally

blackmailed the victim. Because of the terror, she was unable to report the incident. She was compelled to surrender. The offence is stated to be serious one.

7. The papers of the investigation would disclose that the victim when the offence was registered was of 17.11 months old. The first episode of sexual encounter is reported to be of November 2025. Thereafter there are couple of episodes between the parties. Considering the age of the victim at the relevant time and physical relations between them, the consensual relations cannot be discarded. Though the victim was minor, she was of the understandable age.

8. I have gone through the medical report as well as statement under section 183. In view of the given facts and circumstances of the case and possibility of love affair between them, I find that it is desirable to enlarge the applicant on bail. His further custody is not required. No antecedents are reported against him. Hence, I therefore, pass following order :

::ORDER::

(i) Bail Application is allowed.

(ii) Applicant shall be released on bail in Crime No.0122 of 2026, registered with Pandharpur City Police Station, Solapur, for the offences punishable under Sections 351(2), 351(3), 352, 64(1), 64(2) and 78(1)

of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Sections 4, 6, 8 and 12 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 on furnishing P.R. bond of Rs.50,000/- with one or more solvent sureties of like amount on the following conditions :

(a) The applicant shall not tamper with the prosecution evidence and contact the prosecution witnesses.

(b) The applicant shall furnish contact number of himself or his close relative/friend.

(c) The applicant shall furnish his contact number and address to the Investigating Officer.

(d) The applicant Shall surrender his Aadhar Card and PAN Card to the Investigating Officer, if any.

(e) The applicant shall co-operate for expeditious disposal of the trial and attend the dates punctually.

(iii) The fees of the counsel, Ms. Janhavi Dudhwadkar, appearing for respondent No.3 is quantified at Rs.7,000/- for assisting the Court.

(iv) Bail application is disposed of accordingly.

[SHAILESH P. BRAHME, J.]