HC-KAR

NC: 2026:KHC:62411
CRL.P No. 16717 of 2026

CNR: KAHC010759242026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 11TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 16717 OF 2026

BETWEEN:

SRI SHASHANTH GOWDA
S/O T.V. SHIVANNA
AGED ABOUT 28 YEARS
R/AT NO.16/29-1, 6TH CROSS
4TH BLOCK, NEAR RAJAKUMAR SAMADI
NANDINI LAYOUT, BENGALURU - 560 069.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI KALYAN R, ADV.)

AND:

THE STATE OF KARNATAKA
GOVINDAPURA POLICE STATION
BENGALURU, REPRESENTED BY
LEARNED STATE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR
CHIKKABALLAPURA.

...RESPONDENT

(BY SRI RAHUL RAI K, HCGP)

Digitally signed by NANDINI D
Location: HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

THIS CRL.P IS FILED U/S.439 (FILED U/S.483 BNSS) CR.P.C PRAYING TO ENLARGE THE PETITIONER ON BAIL IN CRIME NO.355/2026 REGISTERD BY THE GOVINDAPURA POLICE STATION FOR THE ALLEGED OFFENCE P/US/ 69,77,115(2),351(2) AND 352 OF BNS 2023, WHICH IS PENDING ON THE FILE OF THE LIII ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS SPECIAL JUDGE AT BENGALURU.

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR ORDERS, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

ORAL ORDER

1. Accused in Crime No.355/2026 registered by Govindapura Police Station, Bengaluru, for the offences punishable under Sections 69, 77, 115(2), 351(2) and 352 of BNS, 2023, is before this Court in this petition filed under Section 483 of BNSS, 2023, seeking regular bail.

2. Heard the learned counsel for the parties.

3. FIR in Crime No.355/2026 was registered by Govindapura Police Station, Bengaluru, for the aforesaid offences against the petitioner herein based on the first information dated 14.10.2026 received from the victim lady aged about 33 years. In the said case, petitioner was arrested on 15.10.2026 and remanded to judicial custody. His bail application filed before the jurisdictional Sessions Court in Crl.Misc.No.10506/2026 was rejected on 31.10.2026. Therefore, he is before this Court.

4. A reading of the first information as well as the statement of the victim lady recorded under Section 183 of BNSS, 2023, would reveal that petitioner and the victim lady were together working in a private company known as Concentric Pvt. Ltd. at

Manyata Tech Park, Bengaluru. Petitioner appears to be working as HR Manager and the victim lady was also working in the HR team. It is alleged that in the month of October, 2024, petitioner had proposed to the victim lady and she had agreed for the said proposal in the month of December, 2024. Thereafter, on 22.02.2025, petitioner allegedly had taken the victim lady to a Hotel at Nagavara in Bengaluru and had booked a room in the said Hotel. It is alleged that petitioner had sexual intercourse with the victim lady in the said hotel room against her wishes and he also had promised to marry her. It is further alleged that the petitioner had recorded certain videos and photographs of victim lady in his mobile phone and subsequently, he started threatening her stating that the said photographs and videos would be circulated in social media.

5. Records would reveal that in the month of July, 2026, victim lady and her brother had approached RT Nagar Police Station and the police, who had summoned the petitioner herein had recorded his undertaking that he would not follow or trouble the victim lady in future. Before RT Nagar Police

Station, it appears that allegations now made against the petitioner, were not made by the first informant and it is therefore, police who had summoned the petitioner had recorded his undertaking as aforesaid and closed the complaint of the alleged victim lady. Records would also reveal that subsequently victim lady and her sister had confronted the petitioner and had asked him not to follow or trouble the victim lady and in the first information, it is stated that petitioner had agreed for the same. In view of the aforesaid, the allegation now made against the petitioner that he has refused to marry the victim lady after having sex with her with a promise to marry her appears to be misconceived. Though there is an allegation that the petitioner has recorded the private photos and videos of the victim lady and has threatened to circulate the same, the fact remains that the offences punishable under the Information Technology Act, 2000, has not been invoked in the present case. Except the offence punishable under Section 69 of BNS, 2023, the other offences alleged are all triable by the Court of Magistrate. Petitioner, who is working as HR Manager in a reputed company is in custody from 15.10.2026.

Considering the aforesaid aspects of the matter and also the undertaking given by the petitioner that he will abide by the conditions that may be imposed on him, the following order:-

6. The petition is allowed. The petitioner is directed to be enlarged on bail in Crime No.355/2026 registered by Govindapura Police Station, Bengaluru, for the offences punishable under Sections 69, 77, 115(2), 351(2) and 352 of BNS, 2023, subject to the following conditions:

a) Petitioner shall execute a personal bond for a sum of Rs.1,00,000/- with two sureties for the likesum, to the satisfaction of the jurisdictional Court;

b) The petitioner shall appear regularly on all the dates of hearing before the Trial Court unless the Trial Court exempts his appearance for valid reasons;

c) The petitioner shall not directly or indirectly threaten or tamper with the prosecution witnesses;

d) The petitioner shall not involve in similar offences in future;

e) The petitioner shall not leave the jurisdiction of the Trial Court without permission of the said Court until the case registered against him is disposed off.

Sd/-
(S VISHWAJITH SHETTY)
JUDGE

DN
List No.: 1 Sl No.: 92