HC-KAR

NC: 2026:KHC:63760
CRL.P No. 17184 of 2026

CNR: KAHC010782322026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

CRIMINAL PETITION NO. 17184 OF 2026

BETWEEN:

1. MR SHREYAS @ SHREYAS KULAL
S/O. SRI. JAGADISH KULAL
AGED ABOUT 22 YEARS
R/AT 4-149C, THANISHREE NILAYA
ODDEDA GULI, HAREKALA, MANGALURU
DAKSHINA KANNADA-574 199.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI NISHIT KUMAR SHETTY, ADV.)

AND:

1. STATE OF KARNATAKA
BY BARKE POLICE STATION
STATE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR
HIGH COURT BUILDING
BANGALORE - 560 001.

...RESPONDENT

Digitally signed by NANDINI D
Location: HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

(BY SRI CHANNAPPA ERAPPA, HCGP FOR R-1)

THIS CRL.P FILED U/S 439 CR.PC (FILED U/S 483 BNNS) PRAYING TO ENLARGE THE PETITIONER ON REGULAR BALL IN CRIME NO.96/2026 OF BARKE POLICE STATION REGISTERED FOR THE OFFENCE PUNISHABLE UNDER SECTION 75(2), 79 OF BNS, 2023 R/W SECTION 67(A) OF 1.T. ACT, 2000, BEFORE THE COURT OF VI JMFC, MANGALURU, D.K.

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

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S VISHWAJITH SHETTY

ORAL ORDER

Accused No.1 in Crime No.96/2026 registered by Barke Police Station, Mangaluru City for the offences punishable under Section 75(2) and 79 of BNS, 2023 and 67(A) of Information Technology Act, 2000, 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.96/2026 was registered by Barke Police Station, Mangaluru City for the aforesaid offences against the petitioner herein, based on the first information dated 19.10.2026 received from the victim lady, aged 32 years. In the said case, the petitioner was arrested on 21.10.2026 and remanded to judicial custody. His bail application filed before the jurisdictional Sessions Court in Crl.Misc.No.904/2026 was rejected on 07.11.2026. Therefore, he is before this Court.

4. In the first information dated 19.10.2026, the victim lady has alleged that on 18.10.2026, she received a WhatsApp message from mobile phone bearing No.9591356193 and the person who had forwarded the whatsapp message had also forwarded a obscene video with a text message stating that "I am interested in it, whether you can do it for me". Immediately thereafter, the first informant had blocked the said number and thereafter she had approached the

police. Based on her first information, FIR was registered against the petitioner for the aforesaid offences.

5. During the course of investigation, it was found that the aforesaid mobile phone number from which the WhatsApp message was received by the first informant belongs to the petitioner and it is under these circumstances, he has been arrested in the present case and remanded to judicial custody.

6. Material made available to this Court by the learned counsel for the petitioner would go to show that the petitioner is a student pursuing his MBA course in Srinivas Institute of Technology, Mangalore. The maximum punishment for the alleged offences is imprisonment for a period of five years. The petitioner is in custody in the present case for the last more than 50 days. Major portion of the investigation is already completed.

7. Under the circumstances, I am of the opinion that the prayer made by the petitioner for grant of regular bail needs to be answered affirmatively, subject to appropriate conditions. Accordingly, the following:

ORDER

i) The Criminal Petition is ***allowed***.

ii) The petitioner is directed to be enlarged on bail in Crime No.96/2026 registered by Barke Police Station, Mangaluru City for the offences punishable under Section 75(2) and 79 of BNS, 2023

and 67(A) of Information Technology Act, 2000, subject to the following conditions:

a) The petitioner shall execute personal bond for a sum of Rs.1,00,000/- with one surety 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

SHS/List No.: 1 Sl No.: 11