SL. No.	Date	Office Notes, reports, orders or proceedings or directions and Registrar's order with Signatures	COURT'S OR JUDGE'S ORDERS
			BA1/1451/2026 Lavkush --Applicant **Versus** State Of Uttarakhand --Respondent **Hon'ble Alok Mahra, J.** Mr. Harshpal Sekhon, learned counsel for the applicant. Mr. Akshay Latwal, learned A.G.A. for the State of Uttarakhand. 2. The present bail application has been filed by the applicant, who is in judicial custody in connection with FIR No. 144 of 2026, dated 14.05.2026, registered at Police Station Transit Camp, District Udham Singh Nagar, for the offences punishable under Sections 137(2), 64 and 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), and Sections 5/6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act). 3. Heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the record. 4. The FIR was lodged by the mother of the victim, alleging that the victim, aged about 17 years and 6 months, had gone to coaching classes at about 5:30 a.m. on 13.05.2026 but had not returned home. Consequently, the FIR was lodged on 14.05.2026. During the course of investigation, the victim returned on her own on 20.05.2026, after five days. 5. Learned counsel for the applicant submits that the applicant and the victim had been in a relationship for quite some time and that the victim had, of her own wish, left her home and gone to stay with the applicant's family. It is further submitted that this fact is corroborated by the victim's

statement recorded under Section 180 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), as well as by the statement made by her before the doctor at the time of her medical examination. The applicant has been in judicial custody since 26.05.2026.

6. Per contra, learned State Counsel submits that the victim has supported the prosecution case in her statement recorded under Section 183 of the BNSS, as well as in her subsequent statement recorded under Section 180 thereof.

7. Be that as it may.

8. Having heard learned counsel for the parties and upon perusal of the material available on record, this Court finds that the victim was aged about 17 years and 6 months at the relevant time. The material on record, including the statements of the victim recorded under Sections 183 and 180 of the BNSS, *prima facie* indicates that the applicant and the victim were in a relationship. In the facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is of the view that the applicant deserves to be enlarged on bail.

9. Accordingly, the bail application is allowed.

10. Let the applicant be released on bail upon furnishing a personal bond and two reliable sureties, each in the like amount, to the satisfaction of the court concerned.

11. It is made clear that any observations made hereinabove are confined to the adjudication of the present bail application and shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

12. All pending applications, if any, stand disposed of accordingly.

(Alok Mahra, J.)
27-10-2026

SHEETAL BINJOLA