HC-KAR

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT DHARWAD

DATED THIS THE 1ST DAY OF JULY, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANANT RAMANATH HEGDE

CRIMINAL PETITION NO.101220 OF 2026

(439(Cr.PC)/483(BNSS))

BETWEEN:

RAGHAVENDRA MARUTI SAVALEKAR
S/O. MARUTI SAVALEKAR,
AGE. 40 YEARS, OCC. BUSINESS,
R/O. MUDALAGI-591312,
MUDALAGI TQ., BELAGAVI DIST.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI. RAVI B.NAIK, SENIOR COUNSEL FOR
SRI. J. BASAVARAJ, ADVOCATE)

AND:

THE STATE OF KARNATAKA,
(THROUGH MUDALAGI P.S.)
R/BY ITS STATE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA,
AT DHARWAD-580011.

...RESPONDENT

(BY SMT. GIRIJA S.HIREMATH, HCGP)

Digitally signed by
CHANDRASHEKAR
LAXMAN KATTIMANI
Location: HIGH
COURT OF
KARNATAKA
DHARWAD BENCH
DHARWAD

THIS CRIMINAL PETITION IS FILED UNDER SECTION 483 OF BNSS (UNDER SECTION 439 OF CR.P.C.), PRAYING TO ALLOW THIS PETITION, ENLARGE THE PETITIONER ON REGULAR BAIL IN CRIME NO.121/2026 NOW ON THE FILE OF CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, MUDALAGI REGISTERED IN CRIME NO.121/2026 BY MUDALAGI P.S. BELAGAVI DISTRICT, FOR OFFENCES UNDER SECTION 64, 66, 318(4), 77, 308(4), 351(2) OF BNS AND UNDER SECTION 66E OF I.T. ACT 2000, PENDING INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL OF THE CASE.

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

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANANT RAMANATH HEGDE

ORAL ORDER

1. Heard the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner, learned High Court Government Pleader for respondent No.1-State and learned counsel for complainant.

2. The petition is filed seeking regular bail in connection with Crime No.121/2026 registered before Mudalagi Police Station, Belagavi District and pending before the JMFC, Mudligi.

3. The offences alleged are punishable under Sections 64, 66, 318(4), 77, 308(4) and 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023[1], and Section 66E of the Information Technology Act, 2000[2].

4. Learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner, at the outset, would submit that, the allegation of rape in the complaint and the FIR is wholly untenable. It is submitted that, the contents of the complaint indicate that the petitioner and the complainant had voluntarily visited a few places and came in physical contact.

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[1] For short 'the BNS, 2023'
[2] For short 'the I.T.Act,2000.

5. It is further submitted that, except the offence relating to rape, all the other offences alleged in the complaint are punishable with imprisonment for a maximum period of seven years and not beyond.

6. In support of his contentions, the learned counsel for the petitioner has also produced the flight tickets purchased by the petitioner and the complainant for travel from Belagavi to New Delhi, from New Delhi to Srinagar, from Srinagar to New Delhi.

7. It is also submitted that, the petitioner was aged more than 18 years at the time of alleged incident and no criminal antecedents are pointed out against the petitioner earlier to the incidents and the petitioner would abide by the terms and conditions for grant of bail. It is also submitted that, the petitioner would fully cooperate for the investigation and petitioner be enlarged on bail.

8. Learned High Court Government Pleader, as well as the learned counsel for the complainant/victim assisting the Court, would oppose the petition.

9. Learned counsel for the respondents would jointly submit that the petitioner has cheated the complainant and made a false promise of securing the Government job and on that pretext, had a physical relationship with the complainant and thereafter he has taken certain photographs of the complainant and threatened the complainant that he would circulate the same in the social media and has blackmailed the complainant.

10. The Court has considered the contentions raised and produced the records.

11. The charge sheet is not yet filed. The contents of the complaint, *prima facie*, indicate that the complainant went along with the petitioner may be on the assurance of the petitioner that he would secure the Government job. However, what is required to be noticed is that the complainant was a major at the time of the alleged incident.

12. At this stage, a doubt arises as to the applicability Section 64 of the BNS, 2023. The matter certainly requires investigation.

13. However, the other offences alleged are punishable with imprisonment for less than seven years. No criminal antecedents have been pointed out against the petitioner. The apprehension of the respondents that the petitioner may threaten or induce the complainant, or circulate her photographs, can be taken care of by imposing suitable conditions.

14. It is also noticed that the petitioner was arrested on 11.05.2026 and since then is in custody.

15. Hence the following:

ORDER

Petition is ***allowed*** subject to the following conditions:

i. Petitioner shall be enlarged on bail in Crime No.121/2026 on executing a personal bond for Rs.2,00,000/- with two sureties for the likesum, to the satisfaction of the Trial Court.

ii. Petitioner shall co-operate with the investigation or inquiry.

iii. Petitioner shall not threaten, induce, or promise anyone acquainted with the facts of the case, nor tamper with prosecution evidence or witnesses.

iv. Petitioner shall furnish current address, active mobile number, to the jurisdictional police and intimate any changes within 48 hours.

v. Petitioner shall not leave the jurisdiction of the police station without prior information and intimation to the jurisdictional police.

vi. The petitioner shall not circulate any photographs or videos of the complainant/victim to anyone in any mode.

vii. The petitioner shall not visit the campus in which the complainant is pursuing her studies.

viii. The petitioner shall not make any phone call or try to contact the complainant in any manner.

ix. Petitioner shall not commit any offences.

Sd/-
(ANANT RAMANATH HEGDE)
JUDGE

RHR/-
CT: UMD
List No.: 1 Sl No.: 24