



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO(S). _____ OF 2026
(@ SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRL.) NO(S). 18345/2025)

PRAVEEN MANIK KADAM

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF MAHARASHTRA & ANR.

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

Leave granted.

This appeal challenges the order dated 15.10.2025 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay in Anticipatory Bail Application No. 1495 of 2025.

Apprehending arrest in connection with crime registered pursuant to FIR No. 56 of 2025 lodged with P.S. Lonavala City, District Pune Rural in respect of the offences punishable under Sections 69, 318(4), 3(5), 316(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 ("BNS" for short) and under Section 66E of the Information Technology Act, 2000, the appellant preferred an application before the High Court seeking anticipatory bail in terms of Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 ("BNSS" for short).

The application for anticipatory bail having been rejected by the High Court *vide* the impugned order

dated 15.10.2025, the instant appeal has been preferred.

By order dated 17.11.2025, this Court passed the following order:

"Issue notice to the respondents, returnable on 12.12.2025.

Petitioner's counsel is also permitted to serve the standing counsel for the first respondent-State.

Mr. Shishir Pinaki, learned counsel, who is on caveat, accepts notice for the second respondent.

Till the next date of hearing, no coercive steps shall be taken as against the petitioner herein vis-a-vis FIR No.56 of 2025 of Lonavala City, Pune Rural District."

We have heard learned counsel for the appellant in support of the appeal; learned counsel appearing for the first respondent-State and learned counsel for the second respondent and perused the material on record.

Learned counsel for the appellant submitted that the appellant is residing overseas and is an Information Technology professional while the complainant is a practising advocate; that the allegations made as against the appellant herein are wholly false and frivolous and the appellant has been dragged into this controversy for reasons which are not true and correct; that the second respondent-complainant was consensually in a relationship with the appellant which no longer subsists; that neither of the parties intend to marry each other. In the

circumstances, the filing of the complaint itself was wholly unwarranted. He further submitted that this Court by interim order dated 17.11.2025 has granted interim protection and having regard to the facts of this case the said interim order may be made absolute by allowing this appeal.

Per contra, learned counsel for the first respondent-State with reference to his counter affidavit contended that there is no merit in this appeal; that already a blue corner notice; non-bailable warrant; proclamation proceedings; and look out notice have been issued or initiated as against the appellant. Therefore, this Court may not grant any relief to the appellant herein.

Learned counsel for the second respondent-complainant also supported the arguments of learned counsel for the first respondent-State and contended that the allegations as against the appellant herein are true and serious. Therefore, the relief of anticipatory bail may not be granted to the appellant herein.

Considering the circumstances on record, in our view, the appellant is entitled to the relief claimed under Section 482 of BNSS.

We, therefore, allow this appeal and set aside the order passed by the High Court on 15.10.2025.

We direct that in the event of arrest of the appellant, the Arresting Officer shall release the appellant on bail, subject to furnishing cash security in the sum of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand only) with two like sureties.

It is directed that the appellant shall extend complete cooperation in the ensuing investigation. The appellant shall not misuse his liberty and shall not in any way influence the witnesses or tamper with the material on record.

Since the appellant is presently residing in London and he is directed to cooperate with the investigation, in the event he returns to India for the purpose of cooperating with the investigation or for any other purpose, this order shall protect him insofar as the present offences alleged against him.

The intimation of the date of investigation shall be made known to the appellant herein well in advance so as to enable him to travel to India.

IA NO.320537 of 2025:

Since we have granted the relief of anticipatory bail to the appellant herein, notices issued to the appellant viz., 1) Look out notice dated 24.03.2025, 2) Blue corner Notice, BN-13052025-000429, and 3) order dated 12.06.2025 declaring the appellant as Proclaimed

Offender, shall be kept in abeyance.

With the aforesaid directions, IA No.320537 of 2025 and the appeal are allowed.

....., J
(B.V. NAGARATHNA)

....., J
(UJJAL BHUYAN)

NEW DELHI
JANUARY 7, 2026

ITEM NO.18

COURT NO.4

SECTION II-A

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

PETITION(S) FOR SPECIAL LEAVE TO APPEAL (CRL.) NO(S).18345/2025
[ARISING OUT OF IMPUGNED FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER DATED
15.10.2025 IN ABA NO. 1495/2025 PASSED BY THE HIGH COURT OF
JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY]

PRAVEEN MANIK KADAM

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF MAHARASHTRA & ANR.

RESPONDENT(S)

(IA NO. 320537/2025 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA NO. 292435/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED
JUDGMENT
IA NO. 292434/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 07-01-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Rishi Malhotra, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Ansuiya, Adv.
Mr. Shivaansh Maini, Adv.
Mr. Prem Malhotra, AOR

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Shishir Pinaki, AOR
Mr. Dhanaeswar Gudapalli, Adv.
Mr. Satyeyu Veer, Adv.

Mr. Raman Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR
Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

Leave granted.

IA No.320537 of 2025 and the appeal are allowed in

terms of the signed order, which is placed on file.

Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(B. LAKSHMI MANIKYA VALLI)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(DIVYA BABBAR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)