

Criminal Bail Application No.147/2026

(CNR-MH-DH-01-000651-2026)

Jitendra Vijay Sonawane. Applicant.

-Versus-

The State of Maharashtra. Respondent.

Order Below Exh.1

Applicant has sought regular bail under Section 483 of Bhartiya Nagarik Surksha Sanhita, 2023, in connection with Crime No.43/2026 registered with City Police Station, Dhule for the offences punishable under Sections 74, 75, 76, 78, 351(2), 351(3), 351(4), 352, of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

2] Brief facts of the prosecution case are as under;

On 09/02/2026 informant lodged FIR that, in the month of June-2025 she was working as loan officer at ICICI Bank, Dhule. At that time accused came to her for home loan and took her mobile number. Thereafter after 2 to 3 days when she was returning home, accused stopped her near Khandel Vipra Bhavan and proposed her and demanded sexual pleasure from her, to which informant refused clearly and told the accused not to follow her. Thereafter often accused used to follow the informant from Khandel Vipra Bhavan to ICICI Bank. He also used to make phone calls to the informant to persuade her. Therefore on 21/06/2025 informant resigned from her job due to the harassment of accused. On 28/01/2026 informant got job as relationship manager at Piramal Finance, Dhule. On 29/01/2026 at about 10:00 a.m. when she was going to her office, accused obstructed her near Khandel Vipra Bhavan. At that time informant shouted on him and told him not to follow her. At that time

accused held informant's left hand, forcibly made her to get down from her scooty and embraced her and started touching on her belly and chest due to which she felt ashamed. When informant restrained the accused, he tore her top from neck to her shoulder in order to disrobe her. Accused also threatened the informant to accept his love otherwise he would make viral her edited photos and videos with him. When informant shouted loudly accused ran away from the spot. Thereafter informant narrated the incident to her parents. When informant's father confronted the accused and requested him not follow the informant, accused threatened informant's father to kill and to make viral the photos of informant. On these allegations F.I.R. was lodged against accused vide section 74, 75, 76, 78, 351(2), 351(3), 351(4), 352, of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Applicant was arrested on 10/02/2026 and since then he is in custody.

3] The State has opposed bail application on various grounds.

4] Ld. Advocate Shri. M. B. Salunkhe for the applicant submitted that, the applicant is falsely implicated in the alleged crime. There are vague allegations against him. Applicant and informant was having love affair and her parents were against it, therefore she is compelled to lodge false complaint. There is delay in lodging F.I.R. The investigating officer himself has sought magistrate custody of applicant. The investigation is almost completed. Applicant is the sole bread earner of his family. He has no criminal antecedents. The applicant is ready to abide by the conditions imposed by the Court.

5] Ld. A.P.P. Shri. N. B. Kalal has opposed the application on the ground that specific and serious allegations are levelled against the applicant, including outraging the modesty of a woman. The gravity of the allegations and the manner in which the offence was committed warrant rejection of bail. With this the Ld. APP submitted to reject this application.

6] On perusal of the documents filed by the state, it appears that an offence punishable under section 74, 75, 76, 78, 351(2), 351(3), 351(4), 352, of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 has been registered against the applicant. Considering the allegations in the F.I.R. and the material placed on record, it appears that the alleged harassment initially commenced in the month of June-2025 and thereafter the present incident is alleged to have taken place on 29/01/2026, whereas the F.I.R. came to be lodged on 09/02/2026. The applicant was arrested on 10/02/2026 and since then he is in custody. The investigation appears to be almost complete. The mobile phone of the applicant has already been seized, panchnamas have been prepared and statements of the material witnesses have been recorded. Thus, further custodial interrogation of the applicant does not appear to be necessary. In these circumstances, the applicant deserves to be released on bail on appropriate conditions. Hence I pass following order.

ORDER

- 1] The application is allowed.
- 2] The applicants Jitendra Vijay Sonawane, be released on bail

in connection with Crime No.43/2026 registered with City Police Station, Dhule for the offences punishable under Sections 74, 75, 76, 78, 351(2), 351(3), 351(4), 352, of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, he be released on executing PR bond of Rs.25,000/- (Rs. Twenty five thousand only) with one local surety for the like amount on the following conditions :-

- a) Applicant shall attend the concern police station on every Sunday between 01:00 p.m. to 03:00 p.m. till filing of charge-sheet and shall remain present as and when required by the investigating officer.
 - b) Applicant shall not, directly or indirectly, make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade them from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer.
 - c) He shall not pressurize the prosecution witness and shall not tamper with prosecution evidence.
 - d) Applicant shall not leave India without permission of the court.
 - e) The applicant shall not change his residential address without prior intimation to the Investigation Officer and to the Court.
 - g) The applicant shall not visit the village of informant, and he shall not contact her through mobile, SMS, or any other social media.
- 3] A soft copy of this order be sent to accused Jitendra Vijay Sonawane, by e-mail through the Superintendent of Jail, Dhule in view of directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Suo Moto W. P. (Cri) No.4/2021 (SC) dated 03.01.2023.
- 4] Bail before Ld. Lower Court.

Date:- 11.03.2026.

[Yasmin G. Deshmukh]
Addl. Sessions Judge, Dhule.

Certificate

I certify that the contents of this PDF file are word to word as per Original Judgment/order.

Name of the Steno : T.R.Pankhedkar.
Name of the Court : Court of District Judge-3 & Addl. Sessions Judge, Dhule.
PDF Uploading Date : 11-03-2026.

Sd/-...
Stenographer(Gr-I).