

MHRG170002992026



**IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL JUDGE
AT PANVEL, DISTRICT- RAIGAD**

SPECIAL CASE NO.25/2026

The State of Maharashtra --- Prosecution

Vs.

Vasant Ganesh Shetty & Ors. --- Accused

Corum - Santosh C. Shinde

Date - 12th March 2026

Appearance-

Ld. advocate Mr. D. S. Patekar for accused.

Ld. Spl. P. P Smt. Wade for the State.

Investigation officer in person.

Order Below Exh.3

1. Heard Ld. advocate Mr. D. S. Patekar for accused & Ld. Spl. P. P Smt. Wade for the State.
2. Application is filed by accused for regular bail.
3. Notice was issued to State of Maharashtra & investigation officer. Say is filed at exh.8 and application is strongly objected.
4. Perused charge-sheet.
5. FIR shows that on 21st December 2025, Anti Human Trafficking

Branch of Crime Branch, Navi Mumbai received credible information that in Hotel Navnath Inn lodge situated at Taloja MIDC prostitution is carried out with the help of manager of that lodge therefore, with the help of panchas, trap was arranged and fake customer was sent in that lodge. An amount of Rs.2,000/- was given to fake customer after noting numbers of currency notes. At about 11:55 AM, fake customer sent pre-decided signal and police team & panchas who were waiting outside went inside the hotel.

6. FIR further shows that person on counter took the police team in room No.201 on first floor and when the door was knocked, same was opened by fake customer. Upon inquiry, fake customer told that when he inquired at counter about service, accused No.3 brought him on first floor, shown girls and asked to choose one of them. When he chose one girl, accused accused No.3 took Rs.2,000/- from the fake customer.
7. FIR further shows that when police team went inside the room, two unused condoms were found. Fake customer told them that those condoms were given to him by accused No.3. Amount of Rs.2,000/- was recovered from pocket of accused Roshan Yadav and number of currency notes which were given to fake customer were matching. Then police asked to accused No.3 as to where other girls are? That time, he took them in room No.205 where five girls were found.
8. FIR further shows that it was asked to accused No.3 as to from where condoms were brought and he showed one plastic carry bag on teapoy which was near the staircase wherein 28 unused

condoms were found. Those condoms were then seized. Girls found in the lodge were taken in custody for further inquiry. It was also found that entries regarding customers who had taken rooms in lodge were not taken in the register. It was revealed that accused No.1 is the owner of that lodge. Thereafter, FIR is registered.

9. Ld. advocate for accused submitted that accused is not involved in the offence. Victim who is shown as minor is not minor and she is major which is clear from her birth date on her Adhar Card therefore, provisions of POCSO Act are not applicable to him. Only provisions of Immoral Traffice Prevention Act will be applicable.
10. Ld. advocate for accused further submitted that accused No.1 & 2 were not running the hotel and they are not the owner of hotel. Accused are falsely implicated. Now, statements of all victims are recorded. Investigation is completed and charge-sheet is filed. Futher custody is not required. Accused are ready to abide by any condition.
11. Ld. Spl. P. P submitted that accused No.1 & 2 werr running the lodge and they were aware as to what is going on in that lodge. Accused No.1 & 2 are residents of Karnataka and if release on bail they may abscond. Offence is serious in nature. Accused may tamper the evidence & threaten the witnesses.
12. Record shows that on 12th December 2025, Anti Human Trafficking Branch of Crime Branch, Navi Mumbai had conducted raid on Navnath Inn lodge situated at Taloja MIDC. Before raid, fake customer was sent for confirmation and fake

customer had sent pre-decided signal. When police team with panchas entered the lodge, fake customer with one girl was found in one room of that lodge. Seven girls were also found in another room of said lodge. One of them was minor. Minor victim & one girl citizens of Bangladesh.

13. In investigation, it is revealed that accused No.1 has entered into leave & license agreement with owner of the lodge which shows that accused No.1 & 2 are not owner of the said lodge and they were running the said lodge. It has come on record that call girls had made calls to accused No.1 for providing his lodge to carry out prostitution and accused No.1 was taking 50% prostitution amount from them.
14. In investigation, it is revealed that accused No.3 was showing girls to customers, providing condoms and taking amount from customers. If allegations against accused are considered then from allegations it becomes clear that accused had knowledge that prostitution is going on in the lodge.
15. If nature & gravity of offence is considered then offence is serious in nature. Now, investigation is completed and charge-sheet is filed. No recovery or discovery is pending. Bail is rule and jail is exception. Object of bail cannot be ignored. Bail cannot be withheld as punishment.
16. It will take time to commence & conclude the trial therefore it would not be proper to keep accused behind bars for indefinite period otherwise it will amount to pre-trial conviction. Accused can be released on bail by imposing certain conditions. As a result, I pass the following order.

ORDER

1. Application is allowed.
2. Accused Vasant Ganesh Shetty, Girish Vithal Shetty & Roshan Ramjit Yadav be released on furnishing PB & SB of Rs.30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand) each with one or two sureties in like amount in crime No.440/2025 registered at Taloja Police Station, Navi Mumbai for offences punishable u/s.143(3), 143(4) r/w 3(5) of the BNS, 2023, u/s.3, 4 & 5 of the Prevention of Immoral Traffic Act (PITA) Act, 1956, u/s.4, 8 & 12 of the POCSO Act, 2012 if they is not required in any other offence.
3. Accused by any mode of communication shall not contact to victims or their family members and till further orders, they shall not enter the area where victims & their family members ordinarily reside or works for gain.
4. Accused shall not, directly & indirectly, make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with facts & circumstances of case so as to dissuade them from disclosing such facts to the police & Court.
5. Accused shall not leave India without previous permission of the Trial Court.

6. Accused shall furnish their permanent & temporary residential proof, valid e-mail ID and mobile number.
 7. Registry is directed to inform accused about this order by e-mail.
 8. Bail before Ld. Magistrate.
- (Application is disposed of accordingly)

Panvel
Date - 12/03/2026

(Mr. S. C. Shinde)
Special Judge, Panvel,
Dist.-Raigad