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HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

MCRC No. 6176 of 2026

Vinod Verma S/o Shri Hariram Verma Aged About 32 Years R/o Jaitkham Ke Paas Wali Gali, Jhanda Chowk Pandri P.S. Pandri, District- Raipur (C.G.)

... Applicant

versus

State Of Chhattisgarh Through Police Station Civil Lines, District- Raipur (C.G.)

... Non-Applicant

For Applicant	:	Shri Pragalbha Sharma, Advocate.
For Non-Applicant	:	Shri Soumya Rai, Deputy GA.

Hon'ble Shri Ramesh Sinha, Chief Justice
Order on Board

04/08/2026

1. This is the first bail application filed under Section 483 of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for grant of regular bail to the applicant who has been arrested in connection with Crime No.452/2025 registered at Police Station Civil Lines, District Raipur (C.G.) for the offence under Section 111 read with Section 3 (5), 317 (2) read with Section 3 (5), 317 (4) read with Section 3 (5) & 317 (5) read with Section 3 (5) of the BNS.

2. Case of the prosecution is that the Cyber Police received information regarding 17 bank accounts in DCB Bank, Raipur being used for cyber fraud. The co-accused (Ajay Kumar, Manoj Verma, and Prakash Singh) were specifically implicated as "account brokers" who traded mule bank accounts, handled ATM kits, and facilitated financial transactions running into crores. Only the applicant, Vinod Verma, is alleged to have activated SIM cards. Thereafter the offence was registered against the present applicant and co-accused persons. Hence the bail application.

3. It has been argued by learned counsel for the applicant that the applicant is innocent and has been falsely implicated in the crime. The applicant has been working in a Jio mobile company since 2023. He strictly followed company protocols, issuing SIM cards only after proper Aadhar verification and biometric (fingerprint and eye scan) authentication of the actual purchasers. The applicant has no knowledge or control over how a customer utilizes a SIM card post-activation. The applicant is not part of any syndicate and the invocation of Section 111 BNS is entirely unjustified. No incriminating documents, fraudulent passbooks, or illegal gains have been recovered from the applicant to connect him with the alleged cyber fraud racket. The applicant did not gain any financial benefit in his favor, neither the applicant used any fake identity for issuance of sim cards nor the bank accounts linked for this particular cyber fraud. The case of the present applicant is entirely distinguishable from the co-accused persons, namely Ajay Kumar, Prakash Singh, and Manoj Verma, whose bail applications have been rejected by this Court. The co-accused were found to be directly operating 17 mule accounts in DCB Bank, actively possessing ATM/Cheque kits, and facilitating transactions worth lakhs and crores. Conversely, the present applicant is nowhere linked to the said bank accounts, nor has any bank kit or defrauded money been recovered from his conscious possession. The trial Court erred in relying on the prosecution's narrative regarding the non-compliance of the notice under Section 94 BNSS. The applicant had categorically clarified to the police that he had no such documents to produce, as he was merely discharging his duties as a Jio employee by activating SIM cards strictly through authorized biometric verification (fingerprint and eye scan), and he holds no record of the subsequent unauthorized use of those SIM cards by third parties. The invocation of Section 111 of the BNS is fundamentally flawed and legally unsustainable against the applicant. The applicant is a regular employee working to sustain his family and has no nexus, financial or otherwise, with any organized crime syndicate. Activating a SIM card following requisite KYC norms does not constitute membership in a cyber-fraud racket. The applicant is in jail since 10.4.2026. Therefore, the applicant may be released on bail.

4. On the other hand, learned counsel appearing for the State/non-applicant would oppose the bail application and submit that the applicant has activated 15 Sim Cards. From perusal of the case-diary, it transpires that the material collected during investigation clearly reveals a deep-rooted, structured and profit-oriented criminal conspiracy in which the present applicant has played an indispensable and conscious role in facilitating the commission of large-scale cyber frauds affecting numerous innocent citizens across the country. Therefore, the present bail application may be rejected.

5. I have heard learned counsel appearing for the parties and perused the case diary.

6. However, with regard to personal affidavit of the IO, as directed by this Court vide order dated 13.7.2026, learned State Counsel refers to paras-5 to 11 of the affidavit sworn in by the IO which are mentioned in bail rejection order passed by this Court in MCRC No.1339/2026, which read as under:-

> "5. That, on the basis of the information received from the Cyber Crime Reporting Portal Coordination, there are 17 bank accounts of Bank of DCB, Branch at Raipur have been opened, which were being used for receiving the money of cyber fraud, therefore, the details of the aforesaid bank accounts have been sent to the Police Station Civil Lines, Raipur for further necessary action and accordingly, the FIR under Crime No. 452/2025 has been registered against the aforesaid bank account holders for the offence punishable under aforesaid Sections of the BNS, 2023 and the same was forwarded to the Police Station Range Cyber, Raipur for further necessary investigation in the matter. Thereafter, the details of aforesaid bank account holders, their linked registered mobile numbers,

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KYC and other relevant information have been obtained from the concerned Bank and the matter was taken into investigation.

6. That, during the course of investigation, it was found that, the said DCB Bank Account No. 21214700000435 was found in the name of Gul Hamza and the said Gul Hamza has stated in his statement that, he has given the aforesaid bank account kit to the accused Ajay Kumar, Mobile Number 7489502938. In the aforesaid DCB Bank Account number, the Mobile Number 8359055160 is linked and registered in which, within a short span of time, financial transactions of Rs. 1,29,88,840/- has been found to be transacted illegally through cyber fraud/crime since its opening date.

7. That, the complainant Shankar Kharade has registered online reports regarding the online cyber fraud of Rs. 10,000/- on 09.07.2024 and the account has been found to be used to receive the money from online cyber fraud vide Complaint Acknowledgement Number 31907240098050 in National Cyber Crime Reporting Coordination Portal/1930, hence, the crime was registered against the different mule bank account holders and the investigation was taken into investigation.

8. That, thereafter, during investigation, the accused/aforesaid mule bank account holder Gul Hamza was summoned and questioned and his memorandum statements was taken infront of the relevant witnesses wherein he has categorically deposed that, he has given the aforesaid Bank Account kit to the accused Ajay Kumar. Thereafter, the said accused Ajay Kumar was summoned and interrogated wherein, he has deposed in his statement that, he has got opened the aforesaid bank account in the name of Gul Hamza and has handed over the said bank account KIT, ATM Card, Passbook to the present accused applicant Prakash Singh and in exchange of which, the present accused applicant Prakash Singh's friend has

provided the accused Ajay Kumar with a loan of Rs. 2 Lacs. The present accused Prakash Singh reportedly possessed Gul Hamza's Cheque Book and ATM and he has admitted to having made all the transactions in the aforesaid bank account.

9. That, during the course of investigation, the preset accused applicant was summoned and questioned and his memorandum statement was taken infront of the relevant witnesses wherein he has categorically deposed that, he had lent the accused Ajay Kumar Rs. 60,000/- once and Rs. 90,000/- in exchange for gold and there was a mutual monetary transaction.

10. That, the present accused Applicant has been arrested on 21.12.2025 by the police of Police Station Civil Lines, Raipur/Range Cyber Raipur, in connection with Crime No. 452/2025, registered at Police Station Range Cyber, Raipur, District Raipur (C.G.) against the accused Applicant and other accused persons for the offence punishable under Sections 317 (2), 317 (4), 317 (5), 111 and 3 (5) of the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023 and was sent on judicial remind. However, the matter is still under investigation and after due completion of the investigation, the charge sheet would be filed against the present accused applicant and other accused persons before the concerned Jurisdictional Magistrate below.

11. That, if the present accused applicant is granted bail, he will certainly abscond which will have an adverse effect on the investigation of the case and his morale will be boosted and he will again form his own gang and repeat the serious crime like cyber fraud which will create resentment in the society. Therefore, if he is granted bail, he will certainly abscond and influence the evidence, as he has been arrested after considerable efforts made by the concerned police authorities.”

7. Considering the gravity and nature of the offence, the magnitude

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of the defrauded amount, the organized modus operandi adopted by the accused persons, and the existence of cogent evidence including memorandum statements and financial records, this Court is of the opinion that the applicant was an integral part of the fraudulent scheme. Moreover, bail applications of co-accused persons have already been rejected by this Court vide orders dated 9.4.2026 passed in MCRC Nos.1339/2026, 1525/2026 & 1718/2026. In such circumstances, and keeping in view the possibility of the applicant tampering with evidence or influencing witnesses if released on bail, this Court is not inclined to grant bail to the applicant.

8. Accordingly, this first bail application of applicant – **Vinod Verma**, involved in Crime No.452/2025 registered at Police Station Civil Lines, District Raipur (C.G.) for the offence under Section 111 read with Section 3 (5), 317 (2) read with Section 3 (5), 317 (4) read with Section 3 (5) & 317 (5) read with Section 3 (5) of the BNS, is **rejected** at this stage.

9. Needless to say that the trial Court concerned is at liberty to proceed with the trial and conclude the same, expeditiously.

10. Office is directed to send a certified copy of this order to the trial Court concerned for necessary information and compliance forthwith.

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice

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