

IN THE COURT OF SESSIONS, ERNAKULAM DIVISION

Present:-

Sri. K.K.Balakrishnan, Sessions Judge

Saturday, 7th day of March, 2026/16th Phalgun, 1947

BA No.464/2026

(Crime No.115/2026 of Ernakulam Town South Police Station)

**Petitioner/
Accused:**

Chidambaram.S.Poduval, aged 38 years,
S/o.Satheesh Poduval, 4, Kayaloram
Apartments, Thevara, Ferry Road, Kochi-
682013.

**By Advs. Benoj C Augustin, Nayana Baiju,
Sabitha B**

**Respondent/
Complainant:**

State of Kerala represented by Station House
Officer, Ernakulam Town South Police Station
through Public Prosecutor, District & Sessions
Court, Ernakulam-682 011.

By Public Prosecutor Sri. Manoj G Krishnan

This petition filed u/s.482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita praying this Court to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner.

This petition coming on for hearing on 06.03.2026 and the Court on 07.03.2026 passed the following:

ORDER

This petition is filed under Section 482 of BNSS by the sole accused in crime No.115/2026 of Ernakulam Town South Police Station. The offences alleged against him is punishable under Sections 354, 354A(1)(i) and 509 IPC.

2. The prosecution case, in nut-shell, as per the report of the

investigating officer is as follows:- The petitioner with an intention to outrage the modesty of defacto complainant in the first week of May 2022, trespassed into her bed room in the

and laying with her with nude and pressed on her breast.

On the basis of FI statement given by the defacto complainant, the respondent registered above said crime, alleging the above mentioned offences against the accused person.

3. Petitioner contends that he is a celebrated director in the Malayalam film industry. The Petitioner is a recipient of numerous accolades and awards inter alia including the prestigious Kerala State Film Award (2024) for 'Best Director', 'Best Screenplay (Original)', and 'Best Film'. Pertinently, the Petitioner's last movie titled 'Manjummel Boys' (released in 2024) is the second highest grossing Malayalam film in India earning a revenue of more than INR 200 Crores and it holds the record for the most number of state film awards in the Kerala film industry, i.e., 11 awards along with being the recipient of the 'Best Music Award' at the prestigious KinoBravo International Film Festival, Russia. It was during the production and shooting of the Film that the petitioner was introduced to and met the de facto Complainant, for playing a character in the Film. Pertinently, all the interactions of the Petitioner and the de facto Complainant were wholly professional and only in their

capacity as "director" and "actress" in the Film. Petitioner started writing the screenplay and began the shooting and production of his second film "Manjummel Boys" (Manjummel Boys), which was released on 22 February 2024. A systematic and malicious campaign done by de facto Complainant to intentionally tarnish the hard-earned reputation of the Petitioner. The de facto Complainant published a short video, also known as a "reel" on her Instagram profile, accessible to thousands of her followers, wherein she continued to make vile and baseless imputations of sexual assault against the petitioner. She has also made a 'highlight (feature on Instagram to pin pictures and videos on the page) on her Instagram profile titled "Rapey Dudes" wherein she had referenced Defamatory Imputation to tarnish and cause immense damage to the reputation of the petitioner. As if this were not enough, on 11 December 2025, she again published another highly defamatory video on her Instagram profile titled as "Men are trash: Dileep x Rahul Easwer edition". Defamatory imputations done by her had severe and far-reaching implications for the petitioner. This relentless dissemination of false information not only tarnished the Petitioner's esteemed reputation but also caused immense mental agony and emotional distress. Legal proceedings initiated by the petitioner against her. So the petitioner approached Bombay Hon'ble High Court by filing a damage suit

No.40787/2025 and passed an interim order against the defacto complainant restraining her publishing defamatory news in any media platform. The order was passed by the Hon'ble High Court on 15.12.2025. So the present case falsely created by defacto complainant to escape from the legal consequences of publishing defamatory new against the petitioner. As the alleged incident was in the year 2022 there is delay of four years in reporting it. He is ready to abide by any conditions imposed by this court while granting pre-arrest bail. Hence, sought to grant pre arrest bail to him..

6. The investigating officer submitted a report opposing the petition and stating that investigation is progressing. If the petitioner is released on bail it would affect the investigation. There is chance for influencing or intimidating defacto complainant and witness of the case. So pleaded to dismiss the petition.

7. Heard both sides and perused the case records.

8. The learned counsel for the petitioner repeated the contentions in the petition. Petitioner is innocent in this case. He is ready and willing to appear before the investigating agency as well as the court as and when directed. He had no intention to attack defacto complainant. He had no criminal antecedents. Since the defacto complainant is abroad no materials are collected. There is no need of custodial interrogation of

the petitioner in this case. He is ready to furnish sufficient sureties and ready to abide any conditions imposed by the court if pre-arrest bail is granted.

9. The learned Public Prosecutor opposed the petition highlighting the stage of investigation which is on the preliminary stage. If granted pre-arrest bail at this stage, there is possibility of influencing witnesses and thus cause hindrance to the investigation. So, pleaded for dismissal of the petition.

10. The allegation against the petitioner is that the petitioner with an intention to outrage the modesty of defacto complainant trespassed into her bed room and pressed on her breast. No criminal antecedents are pointed out against the petitioner. The nature of allegations does not suggest custodial interrogation of the petitioner. The incident was in the year 2022. There is a delay of 4 years in filing the petition. Moreover, Hon'ble Bombay High Court passed an order against the defacto complainant restraining her from publishing any defamatory content in any platform. The FIR is registered on 28.02.2026. The investigating officer reported that she is not cooperating with the investigation. Considering all the above said aspects, I am of the view that this is a fit case to invoke the jurisdiction vested u/s.482 of BNSS to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner. Therefore, considering the facts

and circumstances of the case, I am inclined to grant pre-arrest bail to the petitioner, but on conditions.

In the result, this petition is allowed on the following conditions:

- i. The petitioner shall be released on bail on his executing bond for ₹50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) with two solvent sureties each for the like sum, in the event of his arrest in crime No.857/2025 of Thadiyittaparambu Police Station.
- ii. He shall appear before the Investigating Officer as and when directed in writing by the investigating officer.
- iii. He shall not tamper the evidence or try to influence or intimidate the witnesses.
- iv. He shall not involve in any other offence.

Dictated to the Confidential Assistant, transcribed and typed by him, corrected by me and pronounced on this the 7th day of March, 2026.

Sd/-
K K Balakrishnan
Sessions Judge

Typed by: sm

Comp.by:

BA No.464/2026
Order dated: 07.03.2026