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MCRC-23198-2026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH
AT INDORE

BEFORE

HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE PAVAN KUMAR DWIVEDI

ON THE 2nd OF JULY, 2026MISC. CRIMINAL CASE No. 23198 of 2026*VINAY ARORA**Versus**THE STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH*

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Appearance:

Shri Aman Malviya - Advocate for the applicant.

Shri Surendra Singh Alawa - G.A for the respondent/State.

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ORDER

This is first bail application under Section 482 of BNSS for grant of anticipatory bail in connection with crime No.205/2026 registered at Police Station Kotwali District Dewas (MP) for offence punishable under Sections 308 (5), 308(6), 61 (2) and 3 (5) of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

2. The applicant is a journalist associated with Tehelka Digital News and has been engaged in public interest journalism for several years. The applicant and his Media Team conducted Sting Operations exposing illegal Prenatal Sex Determination, unlawful Abortions and Female Foeticide being carried out in various Nursing Homes and Hospitals in District Dewas (MP), in violation of the provisions of Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 and Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

2.1 In the backdrop of these investigations, several First Information Reports were registered against the applicant bearing Crimes Number 194,



195, 204 of 2026 at Police Station Kotwali, Dewas, District Dewas. The present application is against order passed by the learned trial Court on 11.05.2026 (Annexure A/1) in Bail Application No.510 of 2026 with respect to Crime No.205 of 2026. The case was registered against the present applicant under Section 308 (6), 308(5), 61 (2) and 3 (5) of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The present applicant is innocent and has been falsely implicated in the present matter due to *mala fide* intentions, it amounts to abuse of criminal justice machinery and retaliatory actions initiated only after the applicant exposed a large illegal Female Foeticide Racket through investigative Journalism.

3. Learned counsel for the applicant submits that the present applicant, after conducting a Sting Operation, had provided the entire material of the operation including the Video Recording (s) to the concerned persons in her News Channel, who in turn on 06.04.2026, 07.04.2026 and 10.04.2026 sent those Videos to the Commissioner, Health Department, Madhya Pradesh, the Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Director General of Police (DGP) Madhya Pradesh and the Chief Medical & Health Officer (CM&HO), Dewas. It is only after sending the information and videos to these Officers on 07.04.2026, FIR at Crime No.205 of 2026 was registered against the present applicant and other persons by alleging that the applicant and other persons are hatching a conspiracy tried to extort money from the complainant. He submits that in fact before the registration of FIR, the information regarding Sting Operation with complete Video was already sent to the responsible officers. Thus,



there is no possibility of extorting money when the information was already sent to the Higher Officers of the State of Madhya Pradesh. He submits that one of the co-accused namely Shrikant @ Bhau has already been enlarged on bail by order dated 28.04.2026 (Annexure A/8) passed in Miscellaneous Criminal Case No.19820 of 2026. He further submits that one of the co-accused has approached the Hon'ble Apex Court by filing petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Criminal) No(s).9645 of 2026 (Anuj Agrawal v. The State of Madhya Pradesh & others) in which an interim order has been passed on 26.05.2026 whereby authorities are restrained from taking any coercive steps against the petitioner therein.

3.1 Learned counsel for the applicant further submits that the present applicant has been harassed for the reason that she acted in public interest and carried out Sting Operation against the complainant. On these grounds, learned counsel prays that the applicant deserves to be enlarged on bail.

4. Per contra, learned counsel for the respondent / State vehemently opposes the prayer for grant of bail by submitting that the allegation against the applicant is serious in nature, as she has tried to blackmail the complainant by recording video(s). Hence, it is submitted that application for grant of bail deserves to be rejected.

5. After considering the rival submissions made by the learned counsel for the parties and on perusal of the case diary, particularly taking into account the fact that on 06.04.2026 (Annexure A/2), the video of Sting Operation was already sent to the Commissioner, Health Department, Madhya Pradesh, Chairperson of NHRC, DGP of Madhya Pradesh as well as



CM&HO, Dewas and on 06/07.04.2026, it was sent to CMHO, Dewas and only after that FIR was registered on 07.04.2026, this Court is inclined to allow this application.

6. Accordingly, without commenting on the merits of the case, the bail application for grant of bail filed on behalf of applicant is **allowed**. It is directed that in the event of arrest, present applicant shall be released on bail, upon his executing a personal bond in the sum of **Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)** and furnishing one solvent surety in the like amount to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer (Investigating Officer).

7. The applicant shall make himself available for interrogation by a Police Officer, as and when required. He shall further abide by the other conditions enumerated in Sub Section (2) of Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

8. With the aforesaid, the application is **allowed and disposed of.**

Cc as per rules.

(PAVAN KUMAR DWIVEDI)
JUDGE

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