2026:AHC:228503

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

CRIMINAL MISC. BAIL APPLICATION No. - 28821 of 2026

Amit Rana

…..Applicant(s)

Versus

State of U.P.

…..Opposite Party(s)

Counsel for Applicant(s) : Mohnish Chandra, Pranvesh, Vineet Pandey

Counsel for Opposite Party(s) : G.A.

Along with :

1. Criminal Misc. Bail Application No. 28016 of 2026:

Amit Rana

Versus

State of U.P.

Court No. - 68

HON'BLE KRISHAN PAHAL, J.

1. List has been revised.

2. Heard Sri Vineet Pandey, learned counsel for applicant, Sri Arvind Kumar, learned A.G.A. for the State and perused the material placed on record.

3. The present bail application has been filed by the applicant in Case Crime No..104 of 2026, under Sections 338, 336(3), 340(2) B.N.S., 10(1), 318(2), 61(2) BNS and 13(4) and 13(5) of U.P. Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 and 66/65 of I.T. Act and 11(1) of U.P. Public Examination Bill, 2024, Police Station Knowledge Park, District Gautam Buddh Nagar, with the prayer to enlarge him on bail.

PROSECUTION STORY IN BRIEF:

4. On 22.5.2026, the applicant along with seven accused persons, was arrested. The FIR was instituted by the informant, who is the Sub-

Inspector Akshay Parveer Kumar Tyagi with the allegations that he recovered five laptops, one phone router, eleven mobile phones along with two admit cards and Rs. 50 lakhs and four entry/identity cards along with other things.

5. The applicant and seven accused persons were found involved in mass copying in the SSC (GD) Constable Examination on 22.5.2026. Certain international mobile numbers were also found being operated by the applicant, which were recovered from him at the time of his arrest.

ARGUMENTS ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

6. The applicant is absolutely innocent and has been falsely implicated in the present case. He has nothing to do with the said offence. He has no criminal antecedents to his credit. Learned counsel has further argued that :-

a. None of the alleged students have made any allegations of giving any money to the applicant or applicant having assisted them in cheating.

b. No mark sheet has been recovered from the applicant.

c. The applicant has been arrested 40 kms away from the place of examination.

d. The money belonging to the applicant has been shown as tainted money by the police to show good work. The said money was t taken by the applicant on loan from his near and dear ones.

e. Learned counsel has placed reliance on three receipts worth Rs. 21 lakhs, 12 lakhs and Rs. 15 lakhs totaling Rs. 48 lakhs before the Court at the time of argument. The said receipts in original are taken on record.

f. The name of applicant has come up in the statement of the co-accused person Pradeep Chauhan, which has no evidentiary value in the eyes of law.

g. No incriminating material has been recovered from the possession of the applicant. The material shown recovered, if any, has been foisted on him except the money which belong to him, as such, he is entitled for bail.

h. The applicant has been made an accused on account of competition between the colleges/computer labs for getting their examination centers authorized from the Government and the applicant has been made a scapegoat by the police at the behest of his competitors.

i. The applicant is in jail since 23.5.2026 and is ready to cooperate with trial. In case, the applicant is released on bail, he will not misuse the liberty of bail, as he is not a flight risk.

ARGUMENTS ON BEHALF OF STATE/INFORMANT:

7. The applicant is the kingpin of a larger network and committed mass cheating. The *modus operandi* of the applicant was that the applicant used mobile phones to communicate and exchange information, evidence of it was present in his mobile data.

8. The data of the WhatsApp virtual number +1(667)514-6560) was present in the mobile phone recovered at the time of arrest of co-accused person Pradeep and the said number was reflected under the name of Om Singh and the virtual number +447400658194 was saved under the name of A. Bhaiya, which belongs to the applicant Amit Rana. When the said data was examined, the following chats were found in it:-

> “i. It appears that discussions are taking place from 08.04.2026 in which documents like admit cards, roll numbers and lab slips of various people have been shared.
>
> ii. During the discussion, there was talk of restarting the proxy server. Links to candidates' computers were created and shared on various dates.
>
> iii. Regarding candidates Vivek Kumar and Shakir, on 22.05.2026 at 06.57 am, Pradeep says that "Yes brother, there is work for two in the morning".
>
> iv. On 22.05.2026 at 06.58 am Amit says, "Let's check Server 2 also."
>
> v. On 22.05.2026 at 08.09 am Amit asks "Tell me Anydesk, maybe he has reinstalled it".
>
> vi. On 22.05.2026 at 08.11 am, Pradeep shares the photo.
>
> vii. On May 22, 2026, at 8:37 a.m., Pradeep stated, "Both are in Lab 1 and Lab 6." Pradeep then shared a photo of the details of both candidates.
>
> viii. On 22.05.2026 at 08.43 am Pradeep says "Switch on server 1, the boy seat number 90 has arrived".
>
> ix. On 22.05.2026 at 08.50 am Amit says that "Look, it is not booting, get it done now, its boot has failed".
>
> x. On 22.05.2026 at 08.51 am Pradeep says "Ok I am leaving".
>
> xi. On 22.05.2026 at 08.52 am Amit says, "Wait, the IP has arrived, it's done Vivek Kumar ok".
>
> xii. On 22.05.2026 at 08.54 am, Pradeep says, "Now start the second one".
>
> xiii. On 22.05.2026 at 09.08 am Pradeep says "Saqib Malik".
>
> xiv. On 22.05.2026 at 09.09 am Pradeep says "what happened Saqib".
>
> xv. On 22.05.2026 at 09:10 am, Amit says, "It's Shakir, brother, Shakir Malik, check the admit card." Pradeep says OK.

xvi. On 22.05.2026 at 09.16 am, Amit says that "Yogi is coming and telling me which one is his and which one is yours".

xvii. On 22.05.2026 at 09.17 am Pradeep says that "give me Shakir Malik, give it to Vivek Yogi".

xviii. On 22.05.2026 at 09.47 am Pradeep says "Give me your ID".

xix. On 22.05.2026 at 09.53 am, Amit shares an ID which has Shakir mentioned at the end."

9. During the course of investigation, the following facts were also revealed:-

i. Chats from 08.04.2026 onwards were found, in which admit cards of various persons, their roll numbers, slips mentioning laboratories and other documents had been shared.

ii. During the conversations, there were discussions regarding restarting the proxy server. On various dates, links to candidates' computers were generated and shared.

iii. On 22.05.2026 at 06:57 hours, Pradeep stated regarding candidates Vivek Kumar and Shakir: "Haanbhaiyakaamhai do subahke" ("Yes brother, there are two jobs in the morning").

iv. On 22.05.2026 at 06:58 hours, Amit stated: "Server 2 bhidekhnaphir" ("Check Server 2 as well then").

v. On 22.05.2026 at 08:09 hours, Amit asked: AnyDeskbatanauskashayadusnedobara install kiyahai" ("Tell me about AnyDesk; perhaps he has installed it again").

vi. At 08:11 hours, Pradeep shared a photograph.

vii. At 08:37 hours, Pradeep stated: "Dono par hai lab 1 aur lab 6" ("Both are there, Lab 1 and Lab 6"). Thereafter, Pradeep shared photographs containing the details of both candidates.

viii. At 08:43 hours, Pradeep stated: "Server 1 karo ON aagayaladka seat number 90" ("Turn Server 1 ON; the candidate has arrived, seat number 90").

ix. At 08:50 hours, Amit stated: "Dekho Boot nahi ho rahaabkarvaouska boot fail ho gaya" ("See, it is not booting; get it booted now, the boot has failed").

x. At 08:51 hours, Pradeep stated: "OK jarahahoon" ("OK, I am going").

xi. At 08:52 hours, Amit stated: "Rukoaagayi IP, ho gayaVivek Kumar OK" ("Wait, the IP has arrived; Vivek Kumar is done, OK").

xii. At 08:54 hours, Pradeep stated: "2nd walachala do ab" ("Start the second one now").

xiii. At 09:08 hours, Pradeep stated: "Sakib Malik".

xiv. At 09:09 hours, Pradeep stated: "Sakibhuakya" ("Is Sakib done?").

xv. At 09:10 hours, Amit stated: "Sakirhaibhai, Sakir Malik check karo admit card mein" ("It is Sakir, brother; check Sakir Malik in the admit card"). Pradeep responded "OK".

xvi. At 09:16 hours, Amit stated: "Ekkaam Yogi aanabatarahahai, uskakaunsaterakaunsa" ("One thing, Yogi is saying he is coming; which one is yours and which one is mine?").

xvii. At 09:17 hours, Pradeep stated: "Sakir Malik mujhe de do, Vivek Yogi ko de do" ("Give Sakir Malik to me and give Vivek to Yogi").

xviii. At 09:47 hours, Pradeep stated: "De do ID" ("Give the ID").

xix. At 09:53 hours, Amit shared an ID in which "Shakir" was mentioned at the end.”

10. In the data provided by SSC, 30 logs have been found to be compromised through proxy server. The logs of the computers Saqir and Vivek Kumar were found illegitimate.

11. The links relating to facilitating cheating in the examination were sent from the mobiles to Inderjeet @ Yogi through WhatsApp and Jangi application.

12. From Amit’s iphone XS was cloned during the investigation and it was found on examination that the Amit’s virtual number +447400658194 appearing under the name “Sunny” had chats with two mobile numbers of Indarjeet. One of these numbers was saved as Sunny and another was saved as Mr. Jack.

13. From 22.1.2026 to 15.2.2026, the applicant had shared 179 links relating to the Delhi Police Examination with Indarjeet. The conversations belonging to the Delhi Police Examination were also present in the chat.

14. The applicant had also sent thirteen links relating to physical cheating in SSC (GD) Constable Examination to his associate Pradeep Chauhan on +1(6675146560) from his virtual WhatsApp number +447400658194 during the intervening period from 6.5.2026 to 22.5.2026.

15. He had also sent several links to his Associates at different numbers, as such, applicant, being the kingpin of the gang involved in mass cheating, is not entitled for bail.

CONCLUSION:

16. This Court had perused the three money receipts produced before this Court by the counsel for applicant. In the first receipt, the applicant is stated to have taken Rs. 12 lakhs from Nitin Bharadwaj S/o Rajpal Shama R/o Patti Mehar, Tehsil Baraut, Distict Baghpat on 27.2.2026.

17. The second receipt is regarding receiving Rs. 15 lakhs from Kapil Dev Bharadwaj S/o Dev Kumar Sharma S/o Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad on 24.3.2026 and it also accompanies a notarial affidavit to the effect that was notarized on 24.3.2026 itself.

18. The third receipt is of Rs. 21 lakhs from his real brother Vineet Rana on 21.4.2026. It is also supported by a notarial affidavit. The said stamp paper indicates the date of purchase of stamp to be 21.4.2026 but ironically, the date put by public notary is 24.3.2026, which is anti-time and indicates forgery. Producing and filing such forged documents before this Court also tantamounts to purgery.

19. The modus operandi of the applicant prima facie indicates that he is a kingpin of a larger network involved in cheating, thereby ruining the careers of bona fide candidates. It casts a stigma on the invigilation system at large. Hence, he does not deserve any leniency.

20. After hearing learned counsel for the parties and taking into consideration the fact that applicant seems to be involved in mass copying and is one of the main architects of the larger network of mass cheating; that the receipts produced before the Court do not seem to be genuine and the recovery of Rs. 50 lakhs from the applicant also indicates his involvement, I do not find it a fit case for grant of bail to the applicant. The bail application is found devoid of merits and is, accordingly, ***rejected***.

21. However, it is directed that the aforesaid case pending before the trial court be decided expeditiously as early as possible, if there is no legal impediment.

22. It is clarified that the observations made herein are limited to the facts brought in by the parties pertaining to the disposal of bail application and the said observations shall have no bearing on the merits of the case during trial.

23. The Registrar Compliance is directed to transmit a copy of this order to the trial court concerned for necessary compliance.

(Krishan Pahal,J.)

October 30, 2026
Shalini

Digitally signed by :-
SHALINI JAISWAL
High Court of Judicature at Allahabad