

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO.1415 OF 2026

Anis Sultan Tandel

...Applicant

Versus

The State of Maharashtra & Anr.

...Respondents

ARJUN
VITTHAL
KUDHEKAR

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Mr. Dinesh Adsule a/w Chinmay Bhole, for the Applicant.

Mr. S. V. Walve, APP, for the Respondent-State.

Mr. Mubin Solkar a/w Tahir Hussain, Anas Shaikh, Tahera Qureshi, Hemal Shah & Zahid Burud & Reyden Gonsalves i/b Eventa Gonsalves, for Respondent No.2-First Informant.

API Sujit S. Gadade, Revdanda Police Station, District-Raigad, present.

CORAM: MADHAV J. JAMDAR, J.

DATED: 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

PC:-

1. Heard Mr. Adsule, learned Counsel appearing for the Applicant, Mr. Walve, learned APP, for the Respondent-State of Maharashtra and Mr. Solkar, learned Counsel appearing for Respondent No.2-First Informant.

2. By this Anticipatory Bail Application filed under Section 482 of the *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023*, the Applicant is seeking pre-arrest bail in connection with CR No.64 of 2026 registered with Revdanda Police Station, District - Raigad, for the

offences punishable under Sections 308(2), 308(5) and 351(3) of the *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023* (“BNS”).

3. Mr. Adsule, learned Counsel appearing for the Applicant, submits that a false FIR has been filed against the Applicant. He submits that huge land of about 231 acres has been purchased by one Taijun N. Hassonjee, who is the Chairman and Managing Director of R. T. Tricon Design & Build Contractors Private Limited. He submits that the said huge property is agricultural and forest land and is Government land and, therefore, as the Applicant is filing various complaints with the authorities, false FIR is lodged. He submits that as the Applicant has filed various proceedings including a Public Interest Litigation, a false FIR has been filed against him. He submits that that even three criminal antecedents which have been disclosed in the Anticipatory Bail Application are also false complaints and, therefore, in one CR being CR No.126 of 2017 the Applicant has been acquitted, in CR No.109 of 2018 the Applicant is not even an Accused and insofar as CR No.37 of 2019 is concerned, the District Court has granted stay. He, therefore, submits that anticipatory bail be granted.

4. On the other hand, Mr. Walve, learned APP, for the Respondent-State, submits that this is a very serious case where false complaints/proceedings have been filed and thereafter for withdrawal of the said complaints/proceedings, huge amount of Rs.20 Crores was demanded. Out of which, Rs.18 Crores have been demanded from said R. T. Tricon Design & Build Contractors Private Limited and Rs.2 Crores have been demanded from the Original Owners, who have sold the land to said Taijun N. Hassonjee i.e. the Chairman and Managing Director of the said Company. He submits that insofar as the said threats and demand are concerned, material in form of a video is available. Learned APP tenders the transcript of the said conversation and submits that even the allegations have also been made against the Judges. He, therefore, submits that custodial interrogation is absolutely essential.

5. Mr. Solkar, learned Counsel appearing for Respondent No.2, supports the said contention. He submits that the offence has been registered under Sections 308(2) and 308(5) of BNS and reading of FIR clearly shows that the offence is made out.

6. Before considering the rival contentions, it is necessary to set out the statement of the First Informant on the basis of which the FIR has been lodged. The said statement is as under:

“आमचे आर. टी. ट्रायकॉन डिझाईन अँड बिल्ड कॉन्ट्रॅक्टर्स प्रा. लि., या कंपनीचे मुख्य कार्यालय साखर भवन, नरिमन पॉईंट, मुंबई येथे असून कंपनीचे अध्यक्ष तैजुन हसनजी हे आहेत. आमची कंपनी स्वतःच्या मालकीच्या महाराष्ट्र राज्यात असलेल्या विविध ठिकाणच्या प्रॉपर्टीज विकसीत करण्याचे काम करते. मी कंपनीच्या मालकीच्या विविध ठिकाणी असलेल्या प्रॉपर्टीजच्या सुरक्षेकरीता नेमलेल्या सुरक्षारक्षक यांचे कामावर नियंत्रण व देखरेख करण्याचे काम करतो. तसेच कंपनीचे अध्यक्ष तैजुन हसनजी हे मला इतर जे सांगतील ती कामे मी करित असतो. **आमचे कंपनीच्या मालकीची मौजे मांडला. ता. मुरुड, जि. रायगड येथे गट नं.188/4, 188/6/1, 188/6/2 (जुना गट नं. १८८/२/अ) अशी जमीन असून तेथे नोव्हेंबर २०२१ पासून कंपनी जमीन डेव्हलपींगचे काम करत आहे.** तेव्हापासून सदर ठिकाणी सुरक्षेकरीता नेमलेल्या सुरक्षारक्षक यांचे कामावर नियंत्रण व देखरेख करण्याचे काम मी करतो. तसेच कंपनीचे अध्यक्ष तैजुन हसनजी यांनी मला सदर प्रॉपर्टीच्या अनुषंगाने तयार होणारे स्थानीक प्रश्न हाताळणे, तसेच स्थानीक लोकांसोबतचे लिगल डिस्प्युट हाताळणे, तसेच सदर प्रॉपर्टीच्या अनुषंगाने कंपनीच्यावतीने कंपनीचा प्रतिनिधी म्हणून चर्चेत भाग घेणे व त्याबाबत कंपनीचे अध्यक्ष किंवा इतर वरिष्ठांना त्याची वेळोवेळी माहिती देणे इत्यादी कामे मी करत असतो.

मौजे मांडला येथे कंपनीच्या मालकीच्या सदर जमीन डेव्हलपींगचे काम चालू झाल्यानंतर सुरुवातीच्या काळापासून मांडला येथील स्थानीक रहिवासी अनिस सुलतान तांडेल याने आमच्या कंपनीच्या विरोधात वनविभाग स्थानीक तलाठी, मंडळ अधिकारी, तहसीलदार मुरुड, प्रांत अधिकारी अलिबाग तसेच जिल्हाधिकारी अलिबाग यांचे कार्यालयात विविध कारणे देवून तक्रारी अर्ज केलेले होते. तो मला माझे मोबाईल वरती कॉल करून विविध ठिकाणी बोलावून घेवून त्याने केलेल्या सदर तक्रारी अर्जांच्या कॉपी मला दाखवत असे व त्या तक्रारी मागे घेण्यासाठी माझ्याकडे पैशांची मागणी करत असे. सदरबाबत मी आमचे कंपनीचे अध्यक्ष तैजुन हसनजी व इतर वरिष्ठांना वेळोवेळी माहिती देत होतो. अनिस सुलतान तांडेल याचेबाबत मी स्थानीक लोकांकडून माहिती घेतली असता अनिस तांडेल हा आजुबाजुच्या परिसरातील लोकांच्या जागेच्या संदर्भात विविध कार्यालयात तक्रारी करून त्यांचेकडून पैसे घेतो अशी माहिती मिळाली त्यामुळे त्याने आमचे कंपनी विरोधात केलेल्या तक्रारी विराधात आम्ही संबंधित कार्यालयात आमचे म्हणणे सादर केलेले होते व त्याने माझ्याकडे केलेल्या मागण्यांकडे आम्ही दुर्लक्ष केले होते, त्यामुळे त्याने आमचे कंपनीचे अध्यक्ष यांच्याविरोधात सेशन कोर्ट, अलिबाग येथे वरील जमीन हि वनविभागाची असून ती बेकायदेशीररित्या खरेदी केलेली आहे अशा अशयाची केस केलेली होती. सदर केसची सुनावणी होवून निकाल कंपनीचे अध्यक्ष यांच्या बाजूने लागलेला आहे.

त्यानंतर त्याने त्याच विषयाच्याबाबत हायकोर्ट, मुंबई येथे आमचे कंपनीचे अध्यक्ष तसेच जिल्हाधिकारी, रायगड तसेच इतर शासकिय अधिकारी यांचेविरोधात रीटपिटिशन दाखल केली होती, त्यावर हायकोर्टात सुनावणी झाली असता ती रीटपिटिशन कोर्टाने फेटाळून लावली होती. त्यानंतर त्याच विषयाच्या अनुषंगाने अनिस सुलतान तांडेल याने हायकोर्ट, मुंबई येथे पी.आय.एल्. दाखल केलेली आहे असे मला त्याने साधारण एक महिन्यापुर्वी स्वतः फोन करून बोली, ता. मुरुड येथे बोलावून घेवून समक्ष सांगितले व सदरची हायकोर्ट, मुंबई येथे दाखल केलेल्या पी.आय.एल्. ची कॉपी दाखवली आणि त्यानंतर तो मला म्हणाला की, **पी.आय.एल्. मागे घ्यायची असेल तर मला पैसे द्या नाहीतर मी तुमच्या कंपनीची वाट लावून टाकेन अशी धमकी दिली**, तेव्हा मी त्याला सांगितले कि पैशाच्याबाबत मला आमच्या कंपनीच्या अध्यक्षांशी बोलावे लागेल त्यानंतरच मी तुला काय ते सांगेन.

आमचे कंपनीच्या वरिल नमूद प्रॉपर्टी मध्ये जाण्यासाठी कंपनीने बनवलेल्या रस्त्यामध्ये बारमाही वाहनारी नदी आडवी येत असल्याने कंपनीचे लोक तसेच सर्व ग्रामस्थांना येण्याजाण्यासाठी सोय व्हावी याकरिता सदर नदीवरती ब्रीज बांधण्यासाठी आम्ही ग्रुप ग्रामपंचायत, मांडला येथून नाहरकत दाखला घेण्यासाठी अर्ज केला होता. सदर कामासाठी नाहरकत दाखला देण्यात येवू नये यासाठी अनिस तांडेल याने सदर ग्रामपंचायतीकडे तक्रारी अर्ज केला व सदर कामात अडथळा निर्माण केला. त्यानंतर डिसेंबर २०२५ मध्ये नक्की तारीख आठवत नाही त्याने मला कॉल करून स्वागत हॉटेल, बोली येथे बोलावून घेतले त्यावेळी माझेसोबत आमचे कंपनीत काम करणारा अकाऊंटंट लवलेश चौवीसा हा सुध्दा होता तेव्हा अनिस तांडेल मला बोलला कि, मी स्थानीक आहे मला अडीच लाख रुपये द्या नाहीतर मी तुमचा ब्रीज होवू देणार नाही. तरी पण काम करायला गेलाच तर मी तुझे हातपाय तोडून कुठे फेकून देईन हे तुला कळणार पण नाही अशी धमकी दिली. त्यावेळी जीवाच्या भीतीने घाबरून गेलो व माझ्याजवळ असलेले पंचवीस हजार रुपये त्याच्या हातात दिले व राहिलेले पैसे मी कंपनीच्या अध्यक्षांशी बोलल्या नंतरच देतो असे बोलून कसेतरी तेथून माझी सुटका करून घेतली.

त्यानंतर त्याने दिनांक ११.०४.२०२६ रोजी मला फोन करून त्याचे मांडला येथील घरी त्याने दाखल केलेल्या पी.आय.एल्. च्याबाबत चर्चा करण्यासाठी बोलावून घेतले त्यामुळे त्या दिवशी दुपारी अंदाजे एक वाजण्याचे सुमारास मी तसेच आमचे कंपनीत काम करणारा अकाऊंटंट लवलेश चौवीसा असे दोघे अनिस तांडेल याचे घरी गेलो होतो. त्यावेळी त्याचे घरातील हॉल मध्ये अनिस तांडेल एकटाच बसलेला होता. सुरुवातीस किरकोळ चर्चा झाल्यानंतर तो आम्हाला म्हणाला कि, **आधी तुम्ही मला ब्रीज चे पैसे द्या त्यावेळी मी घाबरून माझेजवळचे पंचवीस हजार रुपये त्याच्या हातात दिले व त्याला म्हणालो कि, आताचे पंचवीस आणि यापुर्वी दिलेले पंचवीस असे पन्नास हजार रुपये पोहोचले. तेव्हा तो मला म्हणाला कि राहिलेले दोन लाख रुपये येणाऱ्या आठ दिवसात मला द्या.**

त्यानंतर अनिस तांडेल मला म्हणाला कि, **तुमच्या विरोधात हायकोर्ट, मुंबई येथे पी.आय.एल्. दाखल केलेली असुन ती मागे घ्यायला मी तयार**

आहे परंतु त्याबदल्यात मला तुम्ही मला अठरा करोड रुपये द्या आणि तुम्ही ज्यांच्याकडून ती जमीन खरेदी केली त्यांचेकडूनपण दोन करोड रुपये तुम्हीच त्यांचेकडून घेवून मला द्या, असे म्हणाला. त्यानंतर आम्ही घाबरून त्याच्या घरातून निघून गेलो.

अनिस तांडेल याने एकूण वीस करोड दोन लाख रुपयांची मागणी केली असलेबाबत मी कंपनीचे अध्यक्ष तसेच इतर वरिष्ठ यांना फोनद्वारे कळवले. त्याने केलेली वीस करोड रुपयांची मागणी मोठी असल्याने तसेच त्याने कंपनीची वाट लावतो अशी धमकी दिल्याने आम्ही सर्वजण घाबरून गेलो होतो. सदरची बातमी हि आमचे कंपनीत काम करणारे ठेकेदार, कामगार यांना देखील समजल्याने ते सुध्दा घाबरून आमचे कंपनीचे साईटवरती काम करत आहेत. अनिस तांडेल याने आमचेकडे केलेल्या खंडणीच्या मागणीमुळे भीतीचे वातावरण तयार झालेले असून त्यामुळे कंपनीत कामावर येण्यासाठी कामगार घाबरत आहेत.

तरी नोव्हेंबर २०२१ ते दिनांक ११.०४.२०२६ रोजी या काळात अनिस सुलतान तांडेल याने मला अडीच लाख रुपये द्या नाहीतर मी तुमचा ब्रीज होवू देणार नाही, तरी पण काम करायला गेलाच तर मी तुझे हातपाय तोडून कुठे फेकून देईन हे तुला कळणार पण नाही अशी धमकी देवून खंडणीची मागणी करून त्यापैकी पन्नास हजार रुपये स्विकारले तसेच आमचे कंपनीच्या विरोधात हायकोर्ट, मुंबई येथे त्याने दाखल केलेली पी.आय.एल्. मागे घेण्याच्या बदल्यात एकूण वीस करोड रुपयांची खंडणी मागीतली आणि पी.आय.एल्. मागे घ्यायची असेल तर मला पैसे द्या नाहीतर मी तुमच्या कंपनीची वाट लावून टाकेन अशी धमकी दिली म्हणून त्याचे विरुद्ध माझी तक्रार आहे.

अनिस तांडेल आणि माझे झालेले वरील बोलणे हे हिंदी भाषेत झालेले असून मी येथे मराठी भाषेत सांगितले आहे. दि.11/04/2026 रोजी अनिस तांडेल व आमच्यात झालेल्या संभाषणाची व्हीडीओ रेकॉर्डिंग माझ्याकडे असून ती मी सादर करणार आहे. सदरची तक्रार मी आमचे कंपनीच्या वरिष्ठांशी चर्चा करून आज रोजी पोलीस ठाण्यात तक्रार देण्यासाठी आलो आहे.”

(Emphasis added)

English translation of the same is as under:

The Head Office of our R.T. Tricone Design & Build Contractors Private Limited Company is located at Sakhar Bhavan, Nariman Point, Mumbai and Taizun Hassonjee serves as the President of this Company. Our company works to develop properties owned by the owners of the Company at various places in the State of Maharashtra. I work to control and supervise the work of

security guards appointed for the security of the properties owned by the owners of the Company at various places. Similarly, I do other works as directed by the President of the Company by name Taizun Hassonjee. **Our Company own a land bearing Gat Nos. 188/4, 188/6/1, 188/6/2 (Old Gat No. 188/2/A), situated at village Mandala, Taluka Murud, District Raigad and from the month of November, 2021, our Company is carrying out the development of the said land at the said place** and since then, I work to control and supervise the work of security guards appointed for the security of the said place. Moreover, as directed by the President of the Company by name Taizun Hassonjee, I do other works such as, to deal with the local issues arising in respect of the said property, to handle the legal disputes arising with local public and also, to participate in the discussions in connection with the said property in the capacity of the representative of the Company on behalf of the Company and to give information regarding the same to the President or other Superior Authority from time to time, etc.. to give information of the same from time to time.

Since the time, the development work of the said land has started in village Mandala, thereafter, from the beginning, Anis Sultan Tandel, resident of Mandala, had filed complaint applications against our Company in the Offices of the Forest Department, Local Talathi, the Circle Officer, the Tehsildar, Murud, the Sub Divisional Officer, Alibag and the Collector, Alibag on various grounds. He used to telephone me on my mobile, call me at various places and show me copies of the said complaint applications, which he had made and demand money from me to withdraw those complaints. Therefore, I used to inform the President of our Company by name Taizun Hassonjee and other Superior Authority in this regard, from time to time. When I enquired with the local people about Anis Sultan Tandel, I learned that Anis Sultan Tandel used to make complaints to various Offices regarding the land of the people in the surrounding area and extract money from them. Therefore, we had

submitted our say to the concerned Office against the complaints which he had made against our Company and we had ignored the demands he had made to me and therefore, he had filed a case against the President of our Company before the Hon'ble Sessions Court, Alibag, alleging therein that the aforesaid land belonged to the Forest Department and that the same had been purchased illegally. The trial of the said case has concluded and the decision was rendered in favor of the President of the Company. Thereafter, he had filed a Writ Petition on the same issue before the Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai against the President of our Company as well as the Collector, Raigad and other Government Officials and when the Petition came up for hearing before the Hon'ble High Court, the same was rejected by the Hon'ble Court. Thereafter, about a month ago, Anis Sultan Tandel himself telephoned and called me at Borli, Taluka Murud and he personally told me that he had filed a P.I.L. before the Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai in connection with the same issue and showed me a copy of the P.I.L. filed before the Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai and thereafter **he threatened me by saying : "If you want to get the P.I.L. withdrawn, give me money, otherwise I will ruin your Company"**. Thereupon, I told him : "I would have to talk to the President of our Company regarding the demand of money and only thereafter, I would inform you as to what has been decided".

As a perennial river crosses the access road constructed by our Company to reach the aforesaid property of our Company, we (our Company) had applied for a No-Objection Certificate from the Group Gram Panchayat, Mandala, to build a bridge over the river in order to facilitate the to and fro movement of Company staff as well as all the villagers. Anis Tandel filed a complaint application with the concerned Gram Panchayat to prevent the No-Objection Certificate from being issued for the said work and caused hindrance in the said work. **Thereafter, in the month of December, 2025, I do not remember the exact date, he telephoned and called me at Swagat Hotel, Borli. At that time, our Accountant**

Lavlesh Chauvisa, who worked in our Company, was accompanying me. At that time, Anis Tandel threatened me by saying : “I am a local resident and give me Rs. two and a half Lakhs, otherwise I will not let your bridge be built. However, even then if you try to start the work, I will cut off your limbs and throw them so far that you will not even realize as to where the same are thrown”. At that time, I got scared for my life and gave Rs. twenty-five thousands in his hands, which I had with me and said to him that I would give the remaining money only after talking to the President of the Company and somehow I got myself escaped from the said place.

Thereafter, on the date 11.04.2026, he telephoned and called me at his house at Mandala to discuss regarding the P.I.L. which he had filed and therefore, on the said day, at about one o'clock in the afternoon, I along with our Accountant Lavlesh Chauvisa, who works in our Company, thus we both of us went to Anis Tandel's house. At that time, Anis Tandel was sitting alone in the hall of his house. After a small discussion at the beginning, he said to us : “At first, you give me the money for the bridge”. At that time, I got scared and gave him Rs. twenty-five thousands in his hands, which I had with me and told him, “Including the Rs. twenty-five thousands paid now and the Rs. twenty-five thousands which were paid earlier, thus you received total Rs. fifty thousands”. Thereupon, he told me to give him the remaining amount of Rs. two lakhs within the next eight days.

Thereafter, Anis Tandel told me : “A P.I.L. has been filed against you before the Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai and I am ready to withdraw the same, but in lieu thereof, you give me Rs. eighteen crores and you yourself take Rs. two crores even from the people from whom you (the Company) bought the said land and give the same to me”. Thereafter, being scared, we left his house.

Thereafter, I informed the President of the Company and other Superior Authority on phone call about Anis Tandel's demand for a total amount of Rs. twenty crores,

two lakhs. As, his demand for Rs. twenty crores was of huge amount and he had also threatened that he would ruin the Company, we all got scared. The said news has also reached the contractors and workers working in our Company and they are also working in fear at our Company's site. Ransom demand made by Anis Tandel to us has created an atmosphere of fear and therefore, the workers are afraid to come to work in the Company.

Thus, during the period from November, 2021 to the date 11.04.2026, Anis Sultan Tandel, threatened me by saying : “Give me Rs. two and a half Lakhs, otherwise I will not let your bridge be built. However, if you try to start the work, I will cut off your limbs and throw them so far that you will not even realize as to where the same are thrown” and demanded ransom and extracted Rs. fifty thousands from me. Moreover, he demanded a total ransom of Rs. twenty crores for withdrawing the P.I.L. filed against our Company before the Hon’ble High Court, Mumbai and further threatened by saying : “If you want to get the P.I.L. withdrawn, give me the money, otherwise I will ruin your Company” and therefore, I have a complaint against him.

The aforesaid conversation between Anis Tandel and me took place in Hindi and I have stated the same here in Marathi. **I have with me the video recording of the conversation which took place between Anis Tandel and me, on the date 11/04/2026 and I am going to produce the same.** I have discussed regarding the said complaint with the Superior Authority of our Company and thereafter, today, I came in the Police Station to lodge this complaint.

(Emphasis added)

7. Thus, as per the prosecution case, the Applicant has filed complaints with various authorities including with the Forest Department, Talathi, Circle Officer, Tahsildar, Prant Officer as well

as Collector. The Applicant has also filed the proceedings in the Sessions Court as well as various proceedings including a PIL in the High Court. The allegation is that for withdrawal of all these complain/proceedings and PIL, total amount demanded is Rs.20 Crores. The FIR records that he has demanded Rs.18 Crores from the said Company or the purchaser and Rs.2 Crores from the Original Owners, who have sold the land to Taijun N. Hassonjee i.e. the Chairman and Managing Director of the said Company.

8. It is significant to note that in the FIR itself it is specifically stated that the conversation between the First Informant and the Applicant is recorded on video. The transcript of the same which is produced before this Court, *prima facie*, supports the prosecution case where there is a demand of Rs.20 Crores *inter alia* for withdrawal of PIL. In fact, the allegations are also made against the Judges. The offence is very serious. Threats are also given of assault if the said payment is not made. Thus, this is a case where custodial interrogation is absolutely essential.

9. The Supreme Court in the decision of *State Rep. by the C.B.I. v. Anil Sharma*¹, has held that the custodial interrogation is

¹ (1997) 7 SCC 187

qualitatively more elicitation-oriented than questioning a suspect who is well ensconced with a favourable order under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 i.e. Section 482 of BNSS. The effective interrogation of suspected person is of tremendous advantage in disinterring many useful information and also materials which would have been concealed. Success of such interrogation would elude if the suspected person knows that he is well protected and insulated by a pre-arrest bail during the time he interrogated. The said observations of the Supreme Court are squarely applicable to the present case. Thus, for effective interrogation in this serious case, custodial interrogation is necessary.

10. As stated above, the offence is very serious of extortion of huge amount of Rs.20 Crores as well as the allegations have been made against the Judges.

11. It is required to be noted that although it is the contention of the Applicant that insofar as CR No.126 of 2017 is concerned, where the allegations are of the same nature that complaints have been filed with the Circle Officer and Talathi and for withdrawal of the same Rs.50,000/- has been demanded from the First Informant

in said CR, Mr. Adsule, learned Counsel for the Applicant has very heavily relied on the Judgment and Order dated 1st June 2023 passed by the learned JMFC, Murud in Regular Criminal Case No.122 of 2018 concerning said crime. However, perusal of the said Order dated 1st June 2023, shows that the First Informant in that case i.e. PW-1 has been declared as hostile and during cross-examination conducted by the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor, said PW-1 admitted that the dispute is settled between the Applicant and him outside the Court. Thus, the said decision in fact shows that the acquittal is not clear acquittal and, therefore, not relevant.

12. In any case, the offence is very serious. There is strong *prima facie* material against the Applicant. Accordingly, no case is made out for grant of anticipatory bail. The Anticipatory Bail Application is rejected.

13. It is clarified that the Trial Court shall decide the case on its merits, uninfluenced by the *prima facie* observations made in this Order.

[MADHAV J. JAMDAR, J.]