

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO.1367 OF 2024**

Vaibhav Laxman Katap

... Applicant

versus

State of Maharashtra

... Respondent

Ms. Ankita P. Pai i/by Mr. Ritesh Thobade, for Applicant.

Ms. Mahalaxmi Ganpathy, for State.

CORAM: N.J.JAMADAR, J.

DATE : 18 JUNE 2024

P.C.

1. Heard the learned Counsel for the parties.
2. This is an application for pre-arrest bail in connection with C.R.No.194 of 2023 registered with Vijapur Naka Police Station for the offences punishable under Sections 409, 420 of the Indian Penal Code.
3. Learned Counsel for the Applicant invited attention of the Court to an order dated 20 September 2023 passed by this Court granting pre-arrest bail to the co-accused Bhimashankar Vijaykumar Birajdar.
4. Learned APP seeks time to take instructions as the Investigating Officer is not present.
5. The role attributed to the applicant appears to be, by and large, identical with the role attributed to Bhimashankar, co-accused. Therefore, till the application is heard after providing an effective opportunity of hearing to the prosecution, liberty of

the applicant deserves to be protected.

ORDER

(i) In the event of the arrest of the Applicant – Vaibhav Laxman Katap in connection with C.R.No.194 of 2023 registered with Vijapur Naka Police Station, Solapur City, the Applicant be released on bail on furnishing a PR bond in the sum of Rs.30,000/- with one or two sureties in the like amount.

(ii) The Applicant shall co-operate with the investigation and report to Vijapur Naka Police Station, Solapur City on 25 and 26 June 2023 in between 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., and thereafter, as and when directed.

(iii) The Applicant shall not tamper with the prosecution evidence and/or give threat or inducement to the first informant or any of the prosecution witnesses or any of the persons acquainted with the facts of the case.

(iv) Stand over to 16 July 2024.

(N.J.JAMADAR, J.)