

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

Anticipatory Bail Application No. 1377 of 2024

1. Aparna Soni @ Aparna Thakur
Age 54 years, Occ. None

2. Shinova D/o. Ravindra Shyamnarayan
Shukla @ Ravikishan Shukla
Age 25 years Approx. Occ. Student

3. Rajesh Premnath Soni
Age 55 years, Occ. Self Employed.
All having permanent address at
701, Mangalam, Upper Sovind Nagar,
Near Hanuman Mandir, Malad (E),
Maharashtra – 400 097.

..Applicants

Vs.

1. The State of Maharashtra
(At the instance of Dindoshi Police Station)...Respondent No.1

2. The State of Uttar Pradesh
(At the instance of Hazratganj Police Station)
Having address at
03, Balmikey Marg, Hazratganj
Pin Code – 226 001 Lucknow.

...Respondent No.2

3. Priti Rani Shukla
LIG, 416, Lake View Apartment,
Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

..Respondent No.3/
first informant

Mr. Parth Sanghrajka, for the Applicants.

Mr. Aniket Nikam, Mr. Ameet Mehta, Ms. Digisha Modh, Mr.

Eshan Mishra i/b. Solicis Lex, for the Intervenor.
Ms. Anuja Gotad, APP for the Respondent – State.

Coram : R. N. Laddha, J.

Date : 9 July 2024

P.C.

. Leave to amend to add the first informant as a party respondent to this application. Amendment to be carried out forthwith. Mr. Nikam, learned counsel waives service of notice on behalf of newly added respondent.

2. Heard Mr. Parth Sanghrajka, learned counsel representing the applicants, Ms. Anuja Gotad, learned APP representing the respondent – State and Mr. Aniket Nikam, learned counsel for the respondent No.3.

3. In this application, the applicants have approached this Court projecting extreme urgency in the matter for the reason that they apprehended arrest in connection with C.R. No.102 of 2024 registered at Hazaratganj Police Station, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, for the offences punishable under Sections 120-B, 195, 386, 388, 504 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code.

4. The learned counsel for the applicants submits that applicants are seeking limited relief of protection until they can approach the competent Court of jurisdiction for seeking

anticipatory bail in connection with the aforesaid crime registered against them.

5. Learned APP has emphasized that since the FIR is registered at Hazaratganj Police Station, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, really speaking, the respondent – State would not have much to say in the matter. She suggests that even if this Court is inclined to grant relief, it may impose appropriate conditions to prevent misuse of the relief.

6. It is a settled position in law that the limited relief of protection can be granted to the applicants, only to facilitate approaching the competent Court of jurisdiction (N. K. Nair and Ors. Vs. State of Maharashtra and Ors. 1985 Cr.L.J. 1887, Shantanu Shivilal Mulak and Ors. Vs. State of Maharashtra 2021 ALL MR Cri. 1380 and Shrikant Gopilal Rath and Ors. Vs. State of Maharashtra and Ors. Criminal Writ Petition No.581/2021).

7. This Court is not going into the merits of the matter or entitlement of the applicants for grant of anticipatory bail in any manner. Since there is possibility of applicants' arrest in connection with the aforesaid crime, which cannot be said to be misplaced or imaginary, in the facts and circumstances of the case, it is appropriate to protect the applicants for a limited period to enable them to approach the competent Court. Hence, the

following order.

(i) The applicants are granted protection from coercive action or arrest only for a period of two weeks from today provided the applicants during this period shall not leave the State of Maharashtra except to travel to the State of Uttar Pradesh for moving such application before the competent Court of jurisdiction.

(ii) The applicants shall inform the concerned police station of State of Maharashtra about this order passed by the Court.

(iii) Needless to say that the applicants shall not act in any manner that would be prejudicial to the investigation that may be carried out by the concerned police officer in respect of aforesaid FIR.

8. The application stands disposed of accordingly.

R. N. Laddha, J.