

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

ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO. 1692 OF 2024

Ganesh Bhika More

...Applicant

Versus

The State of Maharashtra

...Respondent

- Mr. Amit C. Pradhan a/w Mr. Bhushan K. Bhutada, for Applicant.
- Mr. Bapu V. Holambe-Patil, APP for State.

CORAM : MANISH PITALE, J.

DATE : 27th JUNE, 2024.

P. C. :

1. Heard, Mr. Amit Pradhan, learned counsel for the applicant and Mr. Bapu Holambe-Patil, learned APP for the State.

2. The applicant has approached this Court apprehending arrest in connection with First Information Report No.0088 of 2024 dated 26th April, 2024, registered at Police Station Trimbakeshwar, District Nashik for offences under Section 370 read with 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956.

3. The learned counsel for the applicant submits that he is merely the owner of the hotel, where the alleged activities were carried out and that the hotel has been given on rent to the accused No.1. On this basis, it is submitted that there is nothing to link the applicant with the illegal activities and since the applicant is ready to cooperate with the investigation, the present

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application may be allowed.

4. The learned APP has invited attention of this Court to the statement of the informant, leading to registration of the FIR. It is submitted that there is enough material to link the applicant with the illegal activities.

5. This Court has perused the statement of the informant, leading to registration of the FIR. One of the victim girls has specifically stated the name of the applicant and she has alleged that the applicant was pushing her and other girls like her into prostitution. She has given further details of the manner in which the monies were exchanged for the activity taking place in the hotel in question, of which the applicant is the owner.

6. Considering the said material and the seriousness of the offences registered against the applicant, no case is made out for granting anticipatory bail.

7. The application is rejected.

(MANISH PITALE, J.)