

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO.3105 OF 2025**

Vrushab Rajendra Bhatewara	...Applicant
<i>Versus</i>	
The State of Maharashtra	...Respondent

Mr. Ganesh Bhujbal, for the Applicant.
Ms. R.V. Newton, APP, for the Respondent-State.
Mr. Govind Khating, PSI, attached to Shirur Police Station, Pune (Rural), present.

**CORAM: MADHAV J. JAMDAR, J.
DATED : 12th NOVEMBER 2025**

PC:-

1. Heard Mr. Bhujbal, learned Counsel appearing for the Applicants and Ms. Netwon, learned APP appearing for the Respondent-State.

2. By the present Application, the Applicant is seeking pre-arrest bail in connection with C.R. No.538 of 2025 registered on 22nd July 2025 with Shirur Police Station, District Pune for the offences punishable under Sections 30(2)(a), 27(3)(d), 26(2)(iv), 26(2)(ii) 26(2)(i) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006

(“FSSAI”) and under Sections 223, 275, 274, 123 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (“BNS”).

3. It is the submission of Mr. Bhujbal, learned Counsel that except the offence under Section 123 of BNS, all other offences are bailable offences. He submits that as far as Section 123 of BNS is concerned, the Supreme Court is considering the applicability of Section 123 (i.e. Section 328 of IPC) to the similar cases. He therefore, states that the Anticipatory Bail be granted.

4. On the other hand, Ms. Newton, learned APP strongly opposes the Anticipatory Bail Application. She submits that the offence is very serious and therefore, the Anticipatory Bail Application be rejected. On instructions learned APP submits that there are no antecedents.

5. Learned APP submits that if this Court is inclined to grant Anticipatory Bail then the Applicant be directed to give undertaking in terms of order of the Supreme Court in the case of *Abhijit Jitendra Lolage vs State of Maharashtra*¹ and more

¹ SLP (Crl.) Diary No.2806/2023

particularly relies on following condition imposed by the Supreme Court in case of similar offences :-

*“It is deemed appropriate to impose the condition – “I, Abhijeet Jitendra Lolage do undertake to **not deal with Gutkha, that is, Pan Masala with Tobacco**”. In case, the appellant – Abhijeet Jitendra Lolage **violates the terms and conditions of bail, including the undertaking imposed, it would be open to the prosecution to seek cancellation of bail**”.*

(Emphasis added)

6. Mr. Bhujbal, learned Counsel appearing for the Applicant after taking the instructions submits that the Applicant will give the undertaking.

7. The Supreme Court in the said order has imposed the above condition in case of similar offence.

8. Perusal of the record shows that except the offence under Section 123 of BNS the other offences are bailable offences. The issue whether Section 123 of BNS will apply to similar cases is pending before the Supreme Court. As the Applicant is ready to give the undertaking that he will not deal with Gutkha and

Tobacco products in any manner whatsoever, the case is made out for grant of Anticipatory Bail.

9. In view thereof, the following order is passed:

ORDER

- (a) In the event of arrest of the Applicant- Vrushab Rajendra Bhatewara in connection with C.R. No.538 of 2025 registered with the Shirur Police Station, District Pune the Applicant is directed to be released on bail on his furnishing P.R. Bond in the sum of Rs.1,00,000/- with one or two solvent sureties in the like amount.
- (b) The Applicant shall attend the concerned Police Station on every Monday between 11:00 a.m. to 02:00 p.m.
- (c) The Applicant to furnish an undertaking that he will not deal with banned products i.e. Gutkha, Pan Masala with Tobacco products in any manner whatsoever. Such undertaking is to be filed in this Court within a period of two weeks from today. The Applicant to strictly comply with the said undertaking.

- (d) The Applicant shall furnish his cell phone number and residential address to the Investigating Officer and shall keep the same updated, in case of any change thereto.
- (e) The Applicant shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat, or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade such a person from disclosing the facts to the Court or to any Police personnel.
- (f) The Applicant shall not tamper with the prosecution evidence and shall not contact or influence the Complainant or any witness in any manner.
- (g) The Applicant shall not leave India without prior permission of the Court.
- (h) In case, the Applicant violates the terms and conditions of bail, including the undertaking, it would be open to the prosecution to seek cancellation of bail.

10. The Anticipatory Bail Application is disposed of accordingly.

[MADHAV J. JAMDAR, J.]