

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

ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION. NO. 1138 OF 2025

MANOJKUMAR CHANDRAKANT PAWAR

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND ANOTHER

...

Mr. Prabhakar Manohar Jadhav, Advocate for Applicant
Mr. Anand S. Shalgaonkar, APP for the Respondent No.1/State

...

CORAM : NITIN B. SURYAWANSHI, J.

DATE : 17th FEBRUARY, 2026

PER COURT :

1. Applicant is apprehending arrest in C.R. No.339/2024, registered with Akluj Police Station, District Solapur for offences punishable under Sections 420, 406 r/w 34 of the Indian Penal Code. Applicant is accused No.1 in the said crime, whereas brother of the applicant namely Rupesh Chandrakant Pawar is accused No.2.

2. Heard learned advocate for applicant and learned APP for respondent No.1/ State. Perused the investigation papers.

3. Charge-sheet in the present crime is filed on 26/04/2025. Accused No.2 was arrested and is released on bail as the informant has given 'no objection' for his release. According to learned APP, since accused No.2 had repaid amount of Rs.39 Lakhs

received from informant and since informant is closely related to him, no objection was given by the informant for release of accused No.2.

4. It is the case of applicant that since last 20 years he is resident of Uganda. Informant has alleged that thrice he has paid Rs.10 Lakhs in cash in front of some of the witnesses to the applicant and he has not returned the said amount. Applicant contends that he has not received any amount and only with a view to pressurize accused No.2 to return the amount given to him by the informant, applicant is implicated in the present crime.

5. *Prima facie*, there appears substance in the contention of applicant. There is delay of 2 years in lodging the FIR. Investigating officer has not verified as to from where cash of Rs.30 Lakhs was raised by the informant which was allegedly handed over to the applicant.

6. On 09/06/2025 investigating agency assured that the applicant will not be arrested in the present crime till the next date. The said statement is continued from time to time.

7. In view of the fact that charge-sheet is filed against accused No.1 and as against present applicant it is filed under Section 299 of the Cr.P.C., custodial interrogation of applicant is not

necessary. Learned APP, on instructions from the investigation officer present in the Court, submits that the applicant needs to be interrogated.

8. In the result, the application is allowed. In the event of arrest of applicant Manojkumar Chandrakant Pawar in connection with C.R. No.339/2024, registered with Akluj Police Station, District Solapur, applicant be released on executing personal bond of Rs.1,00,000/- with one or more sureties in the like amount.

9. Applicant shall attend the concerned police station from 09/03/2026 to 13/03/2026 everyday between 10:00 a.m. to 02:00 p.m. and shall co-operate in the investigation. Applicant shall not tamper with the prosecution evidence and shall attend the trial.

(NITIN B. SURYAWANSHI, J.)