

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO. 124 OF 2026

Govind Omprakash Soni
V/s.
The State of Maharashtra & Anr.

...Applicant
...Respondents.

.....

Mr. Ashok M. Saraogi a/w. Adv. Aahana Srivastava for the Applicant.
Ms Supriya Kak, APP for the Respondent/State.
Mr. Sunny Jain for Respondent No.2.
PI Ajay Ghosalkar and PSI Kalidas N. Dhaware (Pairavi), L.T. Marg Police Station is present.

.....

CORAM : N.R. BORKAR, J.
DATE : 03.02.2026.

P.C. :

1. This is an application for anticipatory bail.
2. The applicant is apprehending his arrest in Crime No. 762 of 2025 registered at L.T Marg Police Station, Mumbai for the offences punishable under Sections 409 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
3. It is a case of the prosecution that on 19th April 2024 the first informant, who is a jeweller, had handed over 2720.720 grams of gold worth Rs.2.47 Crores to the present applicant for the purpose of making ornaments. The allegations against the present applicant are that he failed to return the gold ornaments as promised.

4. I have heard the learned counsel appearing for the applicant, the learned APP for the respondent/ State and the learned counsel for the respondent No.2/first informant.

5. Learned counsel for the applicant submits that false allegations are made against the applicant with some ulterior motive. In support of the said submission, the learned counsel for the applicant has drawn my attention to the various documents including Whatsapp Chats between the first informant and the present applicant. It is further submitted that there is a considerable delay of more than one year in lodging an FIR. Learned counsel for the applicant submits that there is no need of custodial interrogation of the applicant and the applicant is ready and willing to cooperate with the investigation.

6. On the other hand, learned APP for the respondent/State and learned counsel for respondent No.2/first informant submit that there are enough incriminating documents to connect the applicant with the crime in question. It is submitted that to recover the gold in question, custodial interrogation of the applicant is necessary.

7. I have perused the first information report. *Prima facie*, there appears to be delay in lodging the first information report. Even assuming that the gold in- question was handed over to the present applicant for preparing the gold ornaments, *prima facie*, the dispute between the parties appears to be of a civil nature. In

that view of the matter, I am inclined to release the applicant on anticipatory bail. In the result, the following order is passed.

ORDER

- A) The Application is allowed.
- B) In the event of arrest of the applicant in C.R. No. 762 of 2025 registered at L.T Marg Police Station, Mumbai for the offences punishable under Sections 409 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), he be released on bail on executing P.R. Bond in the sum of Rs.25,000/- with one surety or two sureties in the like amount.
- C) The applicant shall attend the concerned police station as and when called by the Investigating Officer and shall cooperate in the investigation.

[N.R.BORKAR, J.]