

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO.198 OF 2026

Vijaykumar Balaso Chougule ...Applicant
Versus
The State of Maharashtra ...Respondent

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Mr. Jayant Bardeskar, for the Applicant.
Ms. S. M. Yadav, APP, for the Respondent-State.
A.P.I. Sagar B. Patil, Sahakarnagar Police Station, Pune City,
present.

CORAM: MADHAV J. JAMDAR, J.
DATED: 22 JANUARY 2026

PC:-

1. Heard Mr. Bardeskar, learned Counsel appearing for the Applicant and Ms. Yadav, learned APP for the Respondent-State of Maharashtra.

2. By the present Anticipatory Bail Application filed under Section 482 of the *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023*, the Applicant is seeking pre-arrest bail in connection with CR No.469 of 2025 registered with the Sahakarnagar Police Station, Pune City, for the offences punishable under Sections 34, 406 and 420 of the *Indian Penal Code, 1860*.

3. The prosecution case is set out in Paragraph No.2 of the Order dated 5th January 2026 passed by the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Pune, Criminal Bail Application No.7703 of 2025, which reads as under :-

“2] As alleged in the FIR, in short, it is the case of the prosecution that, the present applicant and his associate induced the complainant to invest money in MS Global company, owned by co-accused Milind Gadhave, pretending that the said company would give double returns in one year of the amount invested. The applicant and his associate had given word to the complainant that if the said company fails to give double returns of the amount invested in one year, they would be responsible for repayment of the amount. Keeping belief on the words of the present applicant and his associate, the complainant invested amount of Rs.14,49,725/- in the said company. However, she did not get double returns of the said amount. On long persuasion, she got amount of Rs.10,38,588/- against the amount invested and still an amount of Rs.4,11,137/- is due to her. Thus, the owner of the said company MS Global Company, the present applicant and his associate committed the alleged offence. With these allegations, the FIR came to be lodged.”

4. It is the submission of Mr. Bardeskar, learned Counsel for the Applicant that the Applicant was working as an agent with Accused No.1 and, in fact, he is also a victim as he has also invested an amount of Rs.3,72,000/- and that he has also filed a Complaint on 16th April 2022. He submits that the Applicant is not involved in the crime.

5. On the other hand, Ms. Yadav, learned APP, strongly opposes the Anticipatory Bail Application. She submits that the Applicant is involved in the crime and that the Applicant induced the investors in investing amounts.

6. Mr. Bardeskar, learned Counsel for the Applicant, states that the Applicant will cooperate with the investigation.

7. Perusal of the record shows that the Applicant was working as an agent and he has induced the investors in investing money.

8. The Applicant is involved in the crime, however, as there is no other criminal antecedents and as the Applicant has undertaken to cooperate with the investigation, 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 - Vijaykumar Balaso Chougule, in connection with CR No.469 of 2025 registered with the Sahakarnagar Police Station,

Pune City, he be released on bail on his furnishing PR Bond in the sum of Rs.25,000/- with one or two solvent sureties in the like amount.

- (b) The Applicant shall attend the concerned Police Station on 29th January 2026 and 30th January 2026 between 11:00 am to 02:00 pm and thereafter as and when necessary, till filing of the Charge-sheet and shall cooperate with the investigation.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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.
- (e) The Applicant shall not tamper with the prosecution evidence and shall not contact or influence the Complainant or any witness in any manner.

(f) The Applicant shall not leave India without prior permission of the Court.

10. The Anticipatory Bail Application is disposed of accordingly.

[MADHAV J. JAMDAR, J.]