

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO. 370 OF 2026

Vikas J. Sonawale ...Applicant
V/s.
The State of Maharashtra ...Respondent.

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Mr. Manas N. Gawankar for the Applicant.
Mr. P.H. Gaikwad, APP for the Respondent/State.
API Sandip Gore, Manpada Police Station is present.

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CORAM : N.R. BORKAR, J.
DATE : 11.02.2026.

P.C. :

1. This is an application for anticipatory bail.
2. The applicant is apprehending his arrest in Crime No. 96 of 2026 registered at Manpada Police Station, Thane City for the offences punishable under Sections 118(2), 115(2), 352 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.
3. The first informant and the applicant's father are real brothers. There is a dispute between them on account of ancestral land. It is alleged that on account of said dispute on the date of incident which took place on 14th January 2026, the present applicant and the other co-accused assaulted the first informant by iron rod due to which he sustained grievous injuries.

4. I have heard the learned counsel appearing for the applicant and the learned APP for the respondent / State.

5. Learned counsel for the applicant submits that there is a cross FIR in relation to the alleged incident. It is submitted that there is a delay of 7 days in lodging the FIR. It is submitted that the applicant is a student and there are no other criminal antecedents against him.

6. On the other hand, learned APP for the respondent/State submits that the present applicant assaulted the first informant by iron rod. It is submitted that the first informant was in hospital for seven days and he lodged the report after he got discharged from the hospital. It is submitted that considering the nature of crime, the applicant may not be released on anticipatory bail.

7. I have perused the FIR. Admittedly, there is a cross FIR in respect of the alleged incident. There are no other criminal antecedents against the applicant. Considering the overall facts and circumstances of the case, 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. 96 of 2026 registered at Manpada Police Station, Thane City for

the offences punishable under Sections 118(2), 115(2), 352 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, 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.

D) The applicant shall not tamper with the prosecution evidence.

[N.R.BORKAR, J.]