

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO. 455 OF 2026

Ashok B. Kale ...Applicant
V/s.
The State of Maharashtra ...Respondent.

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Mr. Shrirang Katneshwarkar a/w. Mr. Sandeep Gupta for the Applicant.
Ms S.M. Yadav, APP for the Respondent/State.

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CORAM : N.R. BORKAR, J.
DATE : 12.03.2026.

P.C. :

1. Mentioned out of turn.
2. This is an application for anticipatory bail.
3. The applicant is apprehending his arrest in Crime No. 65 of 2026 registered at Nigdi Police Station, Pimpri-Chinchwad for the offences punishable under Sections 3,4,5 and 7 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and Sections 3(5) and 143(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS).
4. It is the case of the prosecution that on 20th January 2026, on the basis of secrete information, a raid was conducted at Sai Krupa Lodge and during the said raid the applicant and other co-accused were found to be running a brothel.

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

6. Learned counsel for the applicant submits that the applicant has nothing to do with the alleged crime. It is submitted the applicant has already sold the said Lodge to one Pawan Nudnure by Sale Deed dated 27th March 2025. It is submitted that there is no need of custodial interrogation and the applicant is ready and willing to cooperate in the investigation.

7. On the other hand, learned APP for the respondent/State submits that during the course of investigation, the victim has revealed the name of the present applicant. It is submitted that considering the nature of crime, the applicant may not be released on anticipatory bail.

8. During the course of investigation, the victim has revealed that she was brought to the said Lodge by one Ajit Seth. There is no material to show that said Ajit Seth and the present Applicant is one and the same person. 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.65 of 2026 registered at Nigdi Police Station, Pimpri-Chinchwad

for the offences punishable under Sections 3,4,5 and 7 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and Sections 3(5) and 143(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), 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.]