HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

CRIMINAL MISC. ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION U/S 482 BNSS No. - 10245 of 2026

Pulkit Kumar

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

State of U.P.

.....Opposite Party(s)

Counsel for Applicant(s)	:	Pranshu Gupta
Counsel for Opposite Party(s)	:	G.A.

Court No. - 71

HON'BLE VIVEK KUMAR SINGH, J.

1. Heard learned counsel for the applicant and learned A.G.A for the State and perused the record.

2. Supplementary affidavit filed today is taken on record.

3. The present application has been filed on behalf of the applicant in Case Crime No. 143 of 2026, under Sections 318(4), 316(3), 338, 340(2), 61(2), 111, 115(2), 351(3), 336(3), 319(2) B.N.S., Police Station Sardhana, District Meerut with a prayer to grant him anticipatory bail.

4. Learned counsel for the applicant submits that the applicant is absolutely innocent and has been falsely implicated in the present case. He has nothing to do with the alleged offence in spite of that the police are trying to arrest the applicant. It is further submitted that the first information report was lodged after an inordinate and unexplained delay, which raises a strong suspicion towards the entire prosecution case. During the course of investigation, on 28.2.2026, the co-accused Jasveer @ Sharma Ji, Deepak @ Rohit and Gulshan @ Gulfam @ Ravi were arrested and their confessional statements were recorded, wherein they did not take name of the applicant rather they stated that their associate Jagmohan had shown his land. There is no call detail record between the applicant and the aforesaid co-accused. The Investigating Officer concluded the investigation against the aforesaid co-accused and submitted charge-sheet on 20.5.2026.

5. It is further submitted by learned counsel for the applicant that allegations pertaining to impersonation and cheating have been found against the other co-accused. The applicant has no concern with the arrested co-accused persons. If the applicant had participated in the alleged offence, his name would have been taken by the aforesaid co-accused persons. It is further submitted that the applicant did not receive any money from the first informant, who concocted the entire story against the applicant in order to extract money from him. The criminal antecedent of applicant has been explained in the supplementary affidavit. Learned counsel for the applicant further submits that the applicant undertakes to cooperate during investigation and trial and shall appear as and when required by the Investigating Agency or the Court concerned. It has also been stated that, in case the applicant is granted anticipatory bail, he shall not misuse the liberty of bail, shall cooperate with the investigation, and shall abide by all the conditions that may be imposed by the Court.

6. On the other hand, learned A.G.A. has opposed the application for anticipatory bail. It is further submitted that the charge-sheet has been submitted against the other co-accused on 20.5.2026 and the applicant is not cooperating in the investigation rather he is absconding, therefore, no charge-sheet could be filed against the present applicant. The offences are punishable upto life imprisonment and the applicant is a member of an organized syndicate. The earnest money of the informant has been usurped by the applicant and the other co-accused. The investigation is going on and the Investigating Officer is collecting evidence against the applicant. It is further submitted that the present anticipatory bail application is not maintainable in view of the judgment of Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of **Srikant Upadhyay and Others vs. State of Bihar and Another, (2024) 12 SCC 382**.

7. I have heard the rival submissions of both sides and perused the record.

8. It is claimed by the learned counsel for the applicant that he is innocent since his name was not taken by the co-accused in their confessional statements. The argument advanced by learned counsel for the applicant is misconceived; firstly, the confessional statement of a co-accused is not admissible in evidence; secondly, an accused cannot claim innocence

solely on the ground that a co-accused has omitted to name him. The offences are punishable upto life imprisonment. Serious allegations have been levelled by the first informant in the first information report. When statement of the informant was recorded during the course of investigation, he reiterated the version of the first information report. At this stage, it cannot be said that no prima facie offence is made out against the applicant or he is innocent of the charges levelled against him. It has been held in various judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court that bail is a rule but jail is an exception, but so far as anticipatory bail is concerned, it ought to have been granted in exceptional cases since it is an extraordinary power.

9. In the case of **Srikant Upadhyay and Others vs. State of Bihar and Another, (2024) 12 SCC 382**, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the power to grant anticipatory bail is an extraordinary power. While called upon to exercise the said power, the Court has to be very cautious as the grant of interim protection or protection to the accused in serious cases may lead to miscarriage of justice. When warrant of arrest or proclamation is issued, the applicant is not entitled to invoking extraordinary power. The relevant paragraph no. 30 of **Srikant Upadhyay (supra)** is quoted as under:

> *"30. We have already held that the power to grant anticipatory bail is an extraordinary power. Though in many cases it was held that bail is said to be a rule, it cannot, by any stretch of imagination, be said that anticipatory bail is the rule. It cannot be the rule and the question of its grant should be left to the cautious and judicious discretion by the Court depending on the facts and circumstances of each case. While called upon to exercise the said power, the Court concerned has to be very cautious as the grant of interim protection or protection to the accused in serious cases may lead to miscarriage of justice and may hamper the investigation to a great extent as it may sometimes lead to tampering or distraction of the evidence. We shall not be understood to have held that the Court shall not pass an interim protection pending consideration of such application as the Section is destined to safeguard the freedom of an individual against unwarranted arrest and we say that such orders shall be passed in eminently fit cases. At any rate, when warrant of arrest or proclamation is issued, the applicant is not entitled to invoke the*

extraordinary power. Certainly, this will not deprive the power of the Court to grant pre-arrest bail in extreme, exceptional cases in the interest of justice. But then, person(s) continuously, defying orders and keep absconding is not entitled to such grant."

10. In the case of **P. Chidambaram vs. Directorate of Enforcement, (2019) 9 SCC 24**, the Hon'ble Apex Court has held that arrest is a part of procedure of the investigation to secure not only the presence of the accused but several other purposes. The power under Section 438 of Cr.P.C./482 of B.N.S.S. has to be exercised sparingly. The privilege of the pre-arrest bail should be granted only in exceptional cases. The relevant paragraph no. 69 of **P. Chidambaram (supra)** is reproduced as under:

"69. Ordinarily, arrest is a part of procedure of the investigation to secure not only the presence of the accused but several other purposes. Power under Section 438 Cr.P.C. is an extraordinary power and the same has to be exercised sparingly. The privilege of the pre-arrest bail should be granted only in exceptional cases. The judicial discretion conferred upon the court has to be properly exercised after application of mind as to the nature and gravity of the accusation; possibility of the applicant fleeing justice and other factors to decide whether it is a fit case for grant of anticipatory bail. Grant of anticipatory bail to some extent interferes in the sphere of investigation of an offence and hence, the court must be circumspect while exercising such power for grant of anticipatory bail. Anticipatory bail is not to be granted as a matter of rule and it has to be granted only when the court is convinced that exceptional circumstances exist to resort to that extraordinary remedy. "

11. It would be apposite to refer herein to a judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court titled as **Kishor Vishwasrao Patil vs. Deepak Yashwant Patil and another, 2022 SCC OnLine SC 2528**, relevant paragraph nos.14 and 15 whereof read as under:

"14.....

74. Ordinarily, arrest is a part of the process of the investigation intended to secure several purposes. There may be circumstances in which the accused may provide

information leading to discovery of material facts and relevant information. Grant of anticipatory bail may hamper the investigation, Pre-arrest bail is to strike a balance between the individual's right to personal freedom and the right of the investigating agency to interrogate the accused as to the material so far collected and to collect more information which may lead to recovery of relevant information.....

6.....

75. Observing that the arrest is a part of the investigation intended to secure several purposes, in ***Adri Dharan Das v. State of W.B. [Adri Dharan Das v. State of W.B., (2005) 4 SCC 303: 2005 SCC (Cri) 933]****, it was held as under: (SCC p. 313, para 19)*

> *"19. Ordinarily, arrest is a part of the process of investigation intended to secure several purposes. The accused may have to be questioned in detail regarding various facets of motive, preparation, commission and aftermath of the crime and the connection of other persons, if any, in the crime. There may be circumstances in which the accused may provide information leading to discovery of material facts. It may be necessary to curtail his freedom in order to enable the investigation to proceed without hindrance and to protect witnesses and persons connected with the victim of the crime, to prevent his disappearance, to maintain law and order in the locality. For these or other reasons, arrest may become an inevitable part of the process of investigation. The legality of the proposed arrest cannot be gone into in an application under Section 438 of the Code. The role of the investigator is well defined and the jurisdictional*

> *scope of interference by the court in the process of investigation is limited. The court ordinarily will not interfere with the investigation of a crime or with the arrest of the accused in a cognizable offence. An interim order restraining arrest, if passed while dealing with an application under Section 438 of the Code will amount to interference in the investigation, which cannot, at any rate, be done under Section 438 of the Code."*

76. In ***Siddharam Satlingappa Mhetre v. State of Maharashtra and Others, (2011) 1 SCC 694: (2011) 1 SCC (Cri) 514]****, the Supreme Court laid down the factors and parameters to be considered while dealing with anticipatory bail. It was held that the nature and the gravity of the accusation and the exact role of the accused must be properly comprehended before arrest is made and that the court must evaluate the available material against the accused very carefully. It was also held that the court should also consider whether the accusations have been made only with the object of injuring or humiliating the applicant by arresting him or her.*

77. After referring to ***Siddharam Satlingappa Mhetre [Siddharam Satlingappa Mhetre v. State of Maharashtra, (2011) 1 SCC 694: (2011) 1 SCC (Crl) 514]*** *and other judgments and observing that anticipatory bail can be granted only in exceptional circumstances, in* ***Jai Prakash Singh v. State of Bihar [Jai Prakash Singh v. State of Bihar, (2012) 4 SCC 379: (2012) 2 SCC (Cri) 468]****, the Supreme Court held as under: (SCC p. 386, para 19)*

> *"19. Parameters for grant of anticipatory bail in a serious offence are required to be satisfied and further while granting such relief, the court must record the reasons therefor. Anticipatory bail*

can be granted only in exceptional circumstances where the court is prima facie of the view that the applicant has falsely been enroped in the crime and would not misuse his liberty. ***(See D.K. Ganesh Babu v. P.T. Manokaran [D.K. Ganesh Babu v. P.T. Manokaran, (2007) 4 SCC 434 :(2007) 2 SCC (Cri) 345], State of Maharashtra v. Mohd. Sajid Husain Mohd. S. Husain [State of Maharashtra v. Mohd. Sajid Husain Mohd. S. Husain, (2008) 1 SCC 213: (2008) 1 SCC (Cri) 176] and Union of India v. Padam Narain Aggarwal [Union of India v. Padam Narain Aggarwal, (2008) 13 SCC 305: (2009) 1 SCC (Cri) 1].)****"*

Economic offences

78. Power under Section 438 CrPC being an extraordinary remedy, has to be exercised sparingly; more so, in cases of economic offences. Economic offences stand as a different class as they affect the economic fabric of the society. In ***Directorate of Enforcement v. Ashok Kumar Jain [Directorate of Enforcement v. Ashok Kumar Jain, (1998) 2 SCC 105: 1998 SCC (Cri) 510]****, it was held that in economic offences, the accused is not entitled to anticipatory bail."*

15. In ***Sushila Agrawal and others v. State (NCT of Delhi) and Another reported in (2020) 5 SCC 1****, Constitution Bench of this Court held that while considering an application for grant of pre-arrest bail the Court has to consider the nature of the offence, the role of the person, the likelihood of his influencing the course of investigation, or tampering with evidence or likelihood of fleeing justice. The Court held:-*

"92.4. Courts ought to be generally guided by considerations such as the nature and gravity of the offences, the role attributed to the applicant, and the facts of the case, while considering whether to grant anticipatory bail, or refuse it.

> *Whether to grant or not is a matter of discretion; equally whether and if so, what kind of special conditions are to be imposed (or not imposed) are dependent on facts of the case, and subject to the discretion of the court."*

12. As per the allegations put forth in the FIR, serious allegations have been levelled against the applicant. The investigation is at a preliminary stage, and the custodial interrogation of the applicant is necessary to unearth the truth. Learned counsel for the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the case registered against him is false. At this stage, there is no material on record to hold that a prima facie case is not made out against the applicant. The material that has come on record and the preliminary investigation, appear to establish a reasonable basis for the accusations.

13. In view of this Court, the parameters of granting regular bail and anticipatory bail are different and it is not necessary that the grounds which are sufficient to enlarge an accused on regular bail must also be sufficient to enlarge him on anticipatory bail. Further, the Constitution Bench of the Apex Court in the case of **Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia and others Vs. State of Punjab, (1980) 2 SCC 565** also observed that the power to grant anticipatory bail is an extraordinary power and therefore in view of this Court being extraordinary power it cannot be used in routine manner.

14. Therefore, considering the facts and circumstances of the case discussed above, in my view, applicant is not entitled to be released on anticipatory bail.

15. Accordingly, the instant anticipatory bail application stands **dismissed**.

16. Interim order, if any, stands vacated.

17. Registrar (Compliance) is directed to send a copy of this order to the learned court concerned through fastest mode.

(Vivek Kumar Singh,J.)

October 27, 2026
Lalit Shukla

Digitally signed by :-
LALIT KUMAR SHUKLA
High Court of Judicature at Allahabad