

documents were inspected by Axis Bank at Akashwani Chowk, Nagpur, it was found that in 26 cases false documents were prepared and personal loans were disbursed in the names of customers. When the customers did not repay the loans from Wardha Branch, the Internal Vigilance Department of Axis Bank, inquired the matter and it was transpired that in the names of innocent persons, false salary slips, false statements, and forged documents were prepared and the loans were sanctioned. Thereafter, the Fraud Identification Council, Mumbai, constituted a committee of five persons, who after detailed inquiry and filed the report. It was transpired that the present applicants were instrumental in preparing the false documents. In pursuance of which the FIR was lodged and investigation commenced. The applicants were arrested and are now before the Court seeking bail.

3] It is the case of the applicants that they were arrested in the first week of September 2025. Nothing was seized at their instance. After investigation, the charge-sheet is filed, and there is no nexus with the crime. It is also alleged that there is not a single document in the charge-sheet showing that the applicants misappropriated single pie. The applicants are not beneficiaries and have not received any amount. It is further alleged that co-accused Ananta Ramdas Ingle and Anup Janak Bansod have already been released on bail by the Hon'ble High Court, and Ravindra Vijayrao Gomase has been released on bail by the Sessions Court, Wardha. Although the allegations levelled against them are more serious; therefore, the present applicants are entitled to bail on the ground of parity.

4] The application is opposed by the Investigating Officer by filing a say at Exhibit-7. According to the Investigating Officer, the

present applicants have cheated Axis Bank by fabricating 20 false cases, in whose favour loans were disbursed to the tune of Rs. 2,55,92,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Fifty-Five Lakhs Ninety-Two Thousand). It is also alleged that the some amount of loan which was disbursed in favour of customers were also taken by the applicants. Thus, the applicants have committed serious offences by fabricating documents. As regards the evidence founds, it is alleged that out of the 20 loan cases, 14 loan cases are prepared by the present applicants on the basis of fabricated and false documents. It is also alleged that Shashikant Dashrath Mandhare, who was earning salary of Rs. 12,000/- per month, however he has purchased a car worth Rs. 6,55,000/- and was paying monthly instalments of Rs. 14,000/- per month, which amount was from the misappropriated amount. It is also alleged that the applicants obtained Aadhaar Cards and PAN Cards of so-called customers and it was shows that they are paid employees. Thus they are committed serious offences. However, the Investigating Officer at last stated that the investigation is in progress and, unless and until it is completed, the applicants should not be released on bail.

5] Perused the application and the say. I have heard the learned counsel for the applicants. The learned counsel for the applicants submits that there is no document in the entire charge-sheet showing that the applicants benefited from the loan amount, and their role was only to collecting documents from customers and forwarded them to the bank.

6] The learned APP contends that loans were sanctioned solely on the basis of forged documents and that applicant Shashikant Dashrath Mandhare prepared 14 cases and applicant Pradip @ Jitu

Vinod Bhandekar prepared 4 cases without proper verification of documents. I have given anxious consideration of the made at bar, the voluminous documents in the case diary indicate that the applicants were appointed by the bank to facilitate needy persons to grant loan. But, during inquiry, it was found that the present applicants prepared forged documents and created bogus customers no doubt there is prima facie material reflected their involvement in defrauding Axis Bank. The documents were collected at the instance of the applicants although the documents were also seized the voluminous case diary shows that the investigation is now complete and the charge-sheet has been filed. The objection raised by the prosecution in the reply at Exhibit-7 that till the investigation is over applicants may not be released on bail. Thus say is filed on 27/01/2026 and more than one and a half months have passed since then. The applicants are in custody since September 2025. Nothing further remains to be seized from them, and custodial interrogation is no longer required. Therefore, under sub circumstances considering the fact that now nothing to be remains from seized from them the necessary inquiry regarding there role in the crime has already been completed applicants are entitled for bail. According to the fact that fraud was committed worth of Rs. 2,55,92,000/- cannot, automatically result in to refusal of the bail. The charge-sheet is also now filed, It clearly shows that the investigation is in the matter complete. The fact that some co-accused are absconding cannot be a valid ground to reject bail. The apprehension about the tampering with prosecution witnesses is baseless, because the entire entire evidence is against the applicants is in the documentary in nature on the details might have also the evidence in electronic form. Other co-accused have

already been released on bail by this Court as well as by the Hon'ble High Court. Moreover the voluminous charge-sheet, it is clearly shows that the trial will commence in the near future. under these circumstances the detention of the applicants would amount to pre-trial conviction. Hence, I am inclined to grant bail to the applicants.

ORDER

- I] The application (Exh.-1) is allowed.
- II] The applicant no. 1, **Shashikant Dashrath Mandhare**, applicant no. 2 **Pradip @ Jitu Vinod Bhandekar**, shall be released on bail upon executing a personal bond of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One lacs only) with each one solvent surety each in the like amount, in Crime No. 1351/2025 registered at Police Station Wardha (City), for the offences punishable under Sections 406, 408, 419, 420, 467, 468, 471, 472, 474, 475, 120(B) r/w 34 of IPC 1860.
- III] The applicants are directed not to influence the witnesses in any manner.
- IV] The applicants shall not leave the jurisdiction of this Court without the prior permission of the Court.
- V] Suerty be furnished before the Trial Court.
- VI] Case diary be returned back to the Investigation officer.

Date : 17/03/2026

(S.A.S.M. Ali)
Additional Session Judge,
Wardha.

CERTIFICATE

I affirm that the contents of this PD.F. file are the same word to word, as per the assigned order.

(Prashant U. Kawde)
Stenographer