



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE OF BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD**

906 ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO. 542 OF 2026

Udaykumar Balwant Sonawale,
Age; 58 years, Occ; Nil,
R/o; Kanhur Pathar,
Tq. parner, Dist. Ahmednagar.

...**APPLICANT.**

VERSUS

1. The State of Maharashtra,
Through its investigating Officer,
Parner Police Station, Tq. Parner,
District Ahmednagar.

2. The Superintendent of Police,
Ahmednagar.

...**RESPONDENTS.**

...
Advocate for Applicant : Mr. Hrishikesh Mundorgi , Mr. Pravada Raut
and Ms. Shital Tanpure i/b Mr. S. B. Pawar
APP for Respondents/State : Mr. P.J. Bharad.

...
AND

906 ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO. 635 OF 2026

Santosh s/o Gulabrao Thube,
Age; 49 years, Occ; Agri,
R/o; Kanhur Pathar,
Tq. Parner, Dist. Ahmednagar.

...**APPLICANT.**

VERSUS

1. The State of Maharashtra,

2. The Superintendent of Police,
Ahmednagar.

...**RESPONDENTS.**

...
Advocate for Applicant : Mr. A.M. Gaikwad
APP for Respondents/State : Mr. P.J. Bharad.

...

AND
906 ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO. 637 OF 2026

Bhagwant s/o Chandrakant Thube,
Age; 58 years, Occ; Agri,
R/o; Kanhur Pathar,
Tq. Parner, Dist. Ahmednagar.

...**APPLICANT.**

VERSUS

1. The State of Maharashtra,
2. The Superintendent of Police,
Ahmednagar.

...**RESPONDENTS.**

...
Advocate for Applicant : Mr. A.M. Gaikwad
APP for Respondents/State : Mr. P.J. Bharad.

...

CORAM : MEHROZ K. PATHAN, J.
DATE : 24.04.2026.

PER COURT :

1. Heard the learned counsels appearing for applicants and the learned APP for Respondents-State.
2. Issue notice to the respondents, returnable on **05.06.2026.**
3. The learned APP waives service of notice for the

respondents-State.

4. The Anticipatory Bail Application No. 635 of 2026 and Anticipatory Bail Application No. 637 of 2026 are not on board, after mentioning they are taken on board.

5. The applicants have approached this Court in connection of Crime No. 532 of 2024, registered at Parner Police Station, Tq. Parner, District Ahmednagar, for the offences punishable under Sections 409, 420, r/w 34 of the Indian Penal Code and under Section 3 of the MPID Act, 1999.

6. The learned counsel appearing for the applicants submit that in the identical applications the other Directors who were implicated in the First Information Report (for short "FIR"), on the basis of Audit Report were protected by this Court in Anticipatory Bail Application No. 227 of 2026, vide order dated 12.02.2026 and other Bail Applications Nos. 929 of 2025, 75 of 2026, 362 of 2026 and 53 of 2026 and other connected applications, Hence, the applicants may also be released on ad-interim anticipatory bail.

7. The learned counsel for the applicants further submits that although the present applications are the successive bail

applications. The earlier bail applications were withdrawn as this Court was not inclined to grant bail, on the ground that the applicants were Directors and since the applications of other Directors co-accused in the same Crime were rejected. The present applications are filed on the ground of change in circumstances, as the report under Section 88 of the Maharashtra Co-Operative Societies Act has been submitted by the Divisional Joint Registrar, who was appointed by the Government to conduct inquiry into the affairs of the society. In the said report, Azad Thube - Chairman, and Sambhaji Bhalkar - the then Chief Manager, are only indicted for misappropriation and fraud committed. The Applicants are not held responsible for the alleged misappropriation. A copy of the chart as prepared by the Enquiry Committee showing the responsibility and recovery of amount to be recovered from the other co-accused has been placed on record and marked as 'X' for identification.

8. The perusal of Section 88, inquiry report and the tabular chart would show that the applicants herein who were the then Directors of the Society, are not held responsible for misappropriating any amount nor any recovery is shown on their behalf.

9. Thus, taking into consideration prima facie submissions which are based upon the subsequent event of the inquiry conducted under Section 88 of the Maharashtra Cooperative Societies Act, I am

inclined to protect the Applicants till the further instructions of progress in the investigation is received, however, subject to certain conditions. Hence the following order :

ORDER

(1) In the event of arrest of the Applicants - Udaykumar Balwant Sonawale in ABA No. 542 of 2026, Santosh s/o Gulabrao Thube in ABA No. 635 of 2026 and Bhagwant s/o Chandrakant Thube, in ABA No. 637 of 2026, in connection with Crime 532 of 2024, registered at Parner Police Station, Tq. Parner, District Ahmednagar, for the offences punishable under Sections 409, 420, r/w 34 of the Indian Penal Code and under Section 3 of the MPID Act, 1999, they be released on bail on furnishing P.R. bond of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousands) each with two solvent sureties each in the like amount, on the following conditions:

(i) The Applicants are directed to attend the Parner Police Station, District Ahilyanagar on 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th of May, 2026 in between 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m. and co-operate with the Investigating Officer.

(ii) The Applicants shall not tamper with the evidence and shall appear before the Investigating Officer as and when required, apart from the days already mentioned above.

(iii) The Investigating Officer shall make the investigation papers available for perusal of this Court on next date.

(MEHROZ K. PATHAN, J.)