

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD

ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO. 743 OF 2026

Meraj Khan Jalil Khan
VERSUS
The State Of Maharashtra

...
WITH
CRIMINAL APPLICATION NO. 1796 OF 2026

...

- Mr. A. K. Bhosle, Advocate for Applicant
- Mr. K. K. Naik, APP for Respondent – State
- Mr. S. G. Ladda, Advocate for Assisting the Prosecution

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CORAM : MEHROZ K. PATHAN, J.

DATED : 05.05.2026

PER COURT :

1. Heard the learned counsel for the applicant and the learned APP for the respondent–State.
2. Issue notice to the respondent, returnable on 15.06.2026. The learned APP waives notice on behalf of the respondent–State.
3. The applicant has approached this Court apprehending arrest in connection with FIR No. 98 of 2026 dated 27.03.2026, registered with City Chowk Police Station, District Chh. Sambhajinagar, for the offences punishable under Sections 109(1), 118(1), 191(2), 191(3), 115(2), 351(2), 189(2) of the BNS, 2023.

4. Learned counsel for the applicant submits that the applicant is falsely implicated in the present crime. Even if the allegations are taken at their face value, the role attributed to the applicant is that of conspiracy, which is not borne out from the material collected by the prosecution. The applicant is a sitting Corporator from District Chh. Sambhajinagar, and the complainant is his political rival. It is submitted that several disputes pertaining to elections have arisen at the instance of the complainant. The complainant was an erstwhile Corporator of the Municipal Corporation. The present proceedings are initiated with an intention to wreak vengeance against the applicant and his family members. It is further submitted that the son of the applicant is also arrayed as an accused, who is alleged to have assaulted the complainant. The applicant has no criminal antecedents except those mentioned in the chart at page No. 9 of the present anticipatory bail application, wherein he has been acquitted of all offences. The applicant has deep roots in society, is not a flight risk, and is ready to abide by any conditions imposed by this Court. Hence, protection is sought.

5. Learned APP and Mr. Ladda, learned assisting counsel, strongly oppose the grant of ad-interim relief on the ground that there is a deep-rooted conspiracy hatched by the applicant along with co-accused Minaj, who is the real brother of the applicant. The injury

sustained by the complainant is grievous in nature. It is submitted that this Court has already shown its disinclination in a similar matter wherein co-accused Jahangir Khan had applied for anticipatory bail. By order dated 30.04.2026 passed in Anticipatory Bail Application No. 669 of 2026, the said application was permitted to be withdrawn as this Court was not inclined to grant relief. It is further submitted that, if released on bail, there is every likelihood that the applicant may tamper with evidence and influence witnesses, thereby prejudicing the prosecution case.

6. Taking into consideration the submissions advanced by the learned counsel for the applicant, the nature of allegations in the FIR, the chart showing acquittal of the applicant in previous cases, and the fact that the applicant is a sitting Corporator, I am inclined to protect the applicant till the investigation papers are seen. The apprehensions expressed by the learned APP and the learned assisting counsel can be addressed by imposing stringent conditions. Hence, the following order is passed:-

ORDER

- i. In the event of arrest of the Applicant – Meraj Khan Jalil Khan, he shall be released on bail on furnishing a P.R. bond of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) with one or two solvent sureties in the like amount, in connection with FIR No. 98 of 2026 registered with City Chowk Police

Station, District Chh. Sambhajinagar, for the aforesaid offences, on the following conditions:

- A) The applicant shall attend the concerned police station and report to the Investigating Officer on every Saturday and Sunday between 12:00 noon and 02:00 p.m. until further orders.
- B) The applicant shall not enter the jurisdiction of City Chowk Police Station without prior permission of the Commissioner of Police, Chh. Sambhajinagar, except for the purpose of attending the Investigating Officer.
- C) The Applicant shall also cooperate with the investigation.
- D) The Applicant shall not pressurize the prosecution witnesses and shall not tamper with the prosecution evidence, in any manner.

7. Needless to say, violation of any of the aforesaid conditions may entitle the prosecution to seek vacation of the interim relief granted herein above.

8. The Investigating Officer shall make available the investigation papers on the next date of hearing.

9. Stand over to 15.06.2026.

(MEHROZ K. PATHAN, J.)