

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

**INTERIM APPLICATION NO.2621 OF 2022
IN
CRIMINAL APPEAL (ST) NO.12950 OF 2022**

Prashant Maruti Gurav

.... Applicant

versus

State of Maharashtra & Anr.

.... Respondents

.....

- Mr.Amit Mane, Advocate for Appellant.
- Smt. J. S. Lohokare, APP for the State/Respondent No.1.

**CORAM : SARANG V. KOTWAL, J.
DATE : 23rd AUGUST, 2022**

P.C. :

1. This is the application for condoning the delay of 175 days in filing the Appeal against the conviction and sentence of the Appellant/Applicant u/s 376 of the Indian Penal Code and u/s 4 r/w 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The Applicant was sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment 10 years as maximum punishment. The order was passed by Sessions Court at Ratnagiri, in Special Case No.21 of 2021. It is mentioned in the application and it is also

submitted by learned counsel for the Applicant that the Applicant is from a poor financial background. He was not aware of the procedure to file Appeal and in the interest of justice, the Appeal needs to be decided on merits.

2. Considering these submissions, in the interest of justice, the delay of 175 days in filing the Appeal is condoned. The Appeal be processed further.

(SARANG V. KOTWAL, J.)