

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

BAIL APPLICATION NO. 4269 OF 2023

SANTOSH  
SUBHASH  
KULKARNI

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Sudipkumar Raju Ravidas ...Applicant  
Versus  
State of Maharashtra ...Respondent

Mr. Sandeep Mishra, i/b Rajesh Kukmar, for the Applicant.  
Mrs. Geeta Mulekar, APP for the State/Respondent.

CORAM: N. J. JAMADAR, J.  
DATED: 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2024

PC:-

1. Heard the learned Counsel for the parties.
2. The applicant is arraigned for the offences punishable under Sections 120B and 302 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ("the Penal Code") and Sections 25 and 27 of the Indian Arms Act, 1969.
3. The learned Counsel for the applicant submitted that the applicant is in custody since 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. There is no substantive evidence against the applicant.
4. The learned APP invited the attention of the Court to the observations of the learned Additional Sessions Judge in the order dated 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2023. The learned Additional Sessions Judge, *inter alia*, observed that 10 witnesses have

already been examined and the trial would conclude within a short span of time.

5. At this stage, since the trial has reached an advance stage, it may not be expedient to delve into the submissions as regards the adequacy of the evidence against the applicant. Since the trial court has recorded that the trial was likely to be concluded shortly, it may be appropriate to request the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Thane, to conclude the trial as expeditiously as possible and preferably within a period of six months from today.

6. In the event the trial is not concluded within the said period, the applicant shall have the liberty to renew the prayer for bail before this Court.

7. Application stands disposed.

**[N. J. JAMADAR, J.]**