

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

CRIMINAL BAIL APPLICATION NO. 5217 OF 2024

Vikas Ramavatar Khandewal	...Applicant
Versus	
The State of Maharashtra	...Respondent

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Mr. Ramanik Pawar a/w Ms. Samiksha Pawar, Ms. Arti Bajpai Mr. Rahul Gupta, Advocate for the Applicant.

Ms. Veera Shinde, A.P.P. for the Respondent – State.

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CORAM	:	N. R. BORKAR, J.
DATE	:	12th MARCH, 2025

P.C.:

1. This is an application for regular bail.
2. The applicant came to be arrested in Crime No. 482 of 2019 registered at Shivaji Nagar Police Station, District : Kolhapur, for the offences punishable under Sections 364 (A), 395, 386, 323, 506 of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 3(1) (ii), 3(2) and 3(4) of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999.
3. The allegations against the present applicant and other co-accused are of abduction for ransom.
4. The learned counsel for the applicant submits that the applicant is in jail for five years and six months. It is submitted

that except the applicant, all other co-accused are released on bail. It is further submitted that the trial has not commenced and is not likely to be concluded in near future. It is submitted that considering the over all facts and circumstances, the applicant be released on bail.

5. On the other hand, the learned A.P.P. for the Respondent-State submits that the applicant is a gang leader. It is submitted that the main allegations are against the present applicant. It is submitted that applicant is involved in 13 crimes for serious offences including the offences punishable under the NDPS Act. Learned A.P.P. on instructions submits that the trial has commenced and at this stage, the application may not be entertained.

6. Considering the fact that the applicant is involved in 13 crimes for the serious offences and as the trial has commenced, I am not inclined to release the applicant on bail. The application is rejected.

7. The trial Court shall endeavour to conclude the trial as early as possible.

(N. R. BORKAR, J.)