

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

CRIMINAL BAIL APPLICATION NO. 1223 OF 2025

Pravin Dharyadhar Bandiwdekar ...Applicant

VERSUS

The State of Maharashtra ...Respondent

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Mr. Gaurav Parkar, Advocate for the Applicant

Mr. T. G. Khan, A.P.P. for the Respondent – State.

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CORAM : N. R. BORKAR, J.
DATE : 06.05.2025.

P.C.:

1. This is an application for regular bail.
2. The applicant came to be arrested in Crime No. 17 of 2025 registered at Panvel City Police Station, Dist- Raigad for the offences punishable under Sections 3(5), 3(6), 3(7), 3(8), 316(5), 318(4), 178, 179, 183, 45(C), 59, 60, 238, 239, 335, 336(1), 336(2), 337, 338, 339 & 341 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.
3. The applicant is accused No.4 in the aforesaid crime. The applicant was working as an Assistant Superintendent on the establishment of the civil court senior division, Panvel. The allegations are of preparing forged E-challans in respect of Court fee and forged legal heir certificate.

4. I have heard the learned counsel for the applicant and the learned APP for the respondent/State.

5. The learned counsel for the applicant submits that the allegations of forgery are against the accused No.1 who was working as junior clerk. It is submitted that the allegations against the applicant are of suppressing the said crime despite having knowledge about it. It is submitted that prior to the registration of present crime the applicant himself has lodged the report in relation to a similar crime against the accused No.1. It is submitted that there is no incriminating evidence on record to connect the applicant with the crime in question. The learned counsel for the applicant submits that prior to the registration of crime, the applicant has rendered unblemished 30 years of service.

6. On the other hand, the learned APP for the Respondent/State submits that the applicant is involved in serious crime. It is submitted that the applicant tried to suppress the information in relation to the alleged forgery. It is submitted that considering the nature of crime the applicant may not be released on bail.

7. I have perused the charge-sheet. The allegations of forgery are against the accused No.1. *Prima-facie*, the evidence against the applicant appears to be of very weak nature. Considering the overall facts and circumstances, I am inclined to release the applicant on bail. In the result, the following order is passed:

ORDER

A] The Application is allowed.

B] The applicant be released on bail in Crime No. 17 of 2025 registered at Panvel City Police Station, for the offences punishable under Sections 3(5), 3(6), 3(7), 3(8), 316(5), 318(4), 178, 179, 183, 45©, 59, 60, 238, 239, 335, 336(1), 336(2), 337, 338, 339 & 341 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, on furnishing P.R Bond in the sum of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand) with one or two sureties in the like amount.

8. Application stands disposed of accordingly.

(N. R. BORKAR, J.)