

HARSHADA H. SAWANT
(P.A.)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

BAIL APPLICATION NO.1495 OF 2025

Prashant Ganpat Gaonkar

.. Applicant

Versus

The State of Maharashtra and Anr.

.. Respondents

.....

- Mr. Mihir Govilkar, Advocate for Applicant.
- Mr. Rushikesh M. Pethe, APP for Respondent No.1.

.....

CORAM : MILIND N. JADHAV, J.

DATE : APRIL 16, 2025

P.C.:

1. Heard Mr. Govilkar, learned Advocate for Applicant and Mr. Pethe, learned APP for Respondent No.1.

2. Applicant is indicted under Sections 376 and 354 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Sections 4 and 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (for short '**POCSO Act**').

3. In view of the above, issue notice to Respondent No.2. Humdast permitted. In addition to Court's notice, Applicant is directed to serve a copy of this order and copy of the Application on the Investigating Officer directly.

4. Mr. Pethe, learned APP appears for Respondent – State of Maharashtra and waives service on behalf of State.

5. Investigating Officer is directed by this Court to depute a responsible lady Police Officer from concerned Police Station to serve

copy on Respondent No.2 and obtain her consent as to whether she requires legal representation through legal aid. The consent of Respondent No.2 shall be apprised to the Court on the next adjourned date through the learned APP. Let the aforesaid exercise be carried out before the next adjourned date.

6. Stand over to **23rd April, 2025.** To be placed under the caption '**For Directions**'.

H. H. SAWANT

[MILIND N. JADHAV, J.]

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