

Amberkar

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

BAIL APPLICATION NO. 1682 OF 2025

Sohrab Muntaz Qureshi

.. Applicant

Versus

State of Maharashtra

.. Respondent

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- Ms. Sana Shaikh a/w Ms. Nisha Lakariya, Mr. Vipul Ghate & Ms. Maya Updeshe, Advocates for Applicant
- Mr. Dinesh J. Haldankar, APP for Respondent - State
- Mr. S. Jadhav, PSI, Sir J.J. Police Station

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CORAM : MILIND N. JADHAV, J.

DATE : APRIL 28, 2025

P. C.:

1. Heard Ms. Shaikh, learned Advocate for Applicant and Mr. Haldankar, learned APP for Respondent - State.

2. Applicant stands indicted for the offences punishable under Section 302 and other allied Sections of IPC.

3. Ms. Shaikh would draw my attention to the order dated 02.04.2024 passed in previous Bail Application filed by Applicant appended at page No. 166 of the Application by which trial Court was requested to make an endeavour to commence and conclude the trial in the said case as expeditiously as possible. She would submit that Applicant has been incarcerated for the past more than 2 years 8 months. Though the case of the prosecution is based on direct evidence and the trial has commenced, Ms. Shaikh would inform the

Court that the progress of the trial is abysmally slow and only 5 witnesses out of probable 18 witnesses as stated in the chargesheet have been examined.

4. Mr. Haldankar, learned APP on instructions from the concerned Investigating Officer (IO) would submit that now prosecution intends to examine only 5 more witnesses out of 18 probable witnesses. If that be the case and in view of previous order passed by this Court, I am inclined to dispose of the present Bail Application by giving the following directions:-

- (i) Concerned learned Sessions Judge is directed to complete the trial within a period of 5 months from today as agreed on instructions by learned APP;
- (ii) If the trial is not completed within the aforesaid period, considering the previous bail order passed by this Court, it shall be open to the Applicant to approach this Court with a fresh Bail Application.

5. All contentions of the parties are expressly kept open without delineating any opinion on merits of the matter.

6. Bail Application is disposed.

[MILIND N. JADHAV, J.]