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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO. 197 OF 2025

Shrikant Bhau Bhilare

..... Applicant

VERSUS

The State of Maharashtra & Anr.

..... Respondents

Mr.Bhushan Raut for the Applicant.

Ms.Supriya Kak, A.P.P. for the State.

CORAM : RAJESH S. PATIL, J.

DATE : 28th JANUARY, 2025

P.C. :-

1. The applicant is seeking anticipatory bail in connection with C.R No. 02/2005 dated 2nd January, 2025 registered with Poladpur Police Station, District Raigad under Sections 308(2), 308(3), 126(2), 115(2), 352, 351(2), 351(3), 3(5) of Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

2. It is the case of the applicant that he is an RTI Activist. The

complainant was carrying wood (Khair) cut from the forest area in a vehicle, when the present applicant was trying to take photograph due to which scuffle started between the complainant and the applicant. When according to the applicant he was manhandled and hence contacted the police to inform about the incident and take cognizance of the same. He also approached the hospital for treatment. After he attended the hospital, he again came in contact of the complainant when the complainant on account of medical expenses, paid a sum of Rs.5,000/- to the applicant by Google-pay. However, taking advantage of the situation, the complainant went ahead and filed FIR with the Poladpur Police Station.

3. It is submission of the learned counsel for the applicant that a sum of Rs.5,000/- was on account of the medical expenses which was tendered by Online method by the complainant. Though the case tried to be made out by the applicant is that it was an amount by way of extortion. According to him it is difficult to believe for an prudent man that extortion amount is as low as Rs.5,000/-.

4. The learned counsel for the applicant submitted that his client is ready to co-operate with the Police Department if they want to record his statement. In view of the same, the applicant is directed to visit the concerned Police Station (Poladpur Police Station) on 29th, 30th and 31st January 2025 from morning 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The applicant will co-operate with the police. The applicant will also submit his mobile instrument with the Poladpur Police Station on 29th January, 2025. The said phone snapchat is attached by way of photocopy at page 29 of the Anticipatory Bail Application.

5. Learned counsel for the applicant on behalf of the applicant undertakes that the applicant would not delete any kind of information storage from the said mobile instrument. Undertaking is accepted.

6. Place this matter on **5th February, 2025** under the caption '**Urgent Circulation**'.

[RAJESH S. PATIL, J.]