

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

**INTERIM APPLICATION NO.2935 OF 2025
IN
CRIMINAL APPEAL (ST) NO.16039 OF 2025**

Shantaram Mohan Mali

.... Applicant

versus

The State of Maharashtra & Anr.

.... Respondents

.....

- Mr. Shridhar Patil, Advocate for Applicant.
- Mr. Vishwajit N. Sagare, APP for the State/Respondent.

**CORAM : SARANG V. KOTWAL, J.
DATE : 11th AUGUST, 2025**

P.C. :

1. This is an application for condonation of delay of 3 years and 175 days in filing Appeal against the Judgment and Order dated 17/11/2021 passed by the learned Special Judge (POCSO), Nashik, in Sessions Case (POCSO) No.374/2017.

2. Learned counsel for the Applicant submitted that he was in custody since 2017. The impugned Judgment and Order was passed in November 2021. The Applicant is from very poor

financial background. He could not engage a private Advocate. He was not aware that he could file the Appeal with the assistance of a Legal Aid Counsel. Therefore, there is delay of 3 years and 175 days in filing the Appeal.

3. Learned APP does not have serious objection for condonation of delay.
4. Considering these submissions and in the interest of justice, the delay of 3 years and 175 days in filing the Appeal is condoned.
5. The Appeal be processed further.
6. The Application is disposed of.

(SARANG V. KOTWAL, J.)