URMILA PRAMOD INGALE
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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

BAIL APPLICATION NO. 3346 OF 2026

Mr. Bhiharilal Ramswaroop Kumar @ Manoj Maharaj ...Applicant

V/s.

The State of Maharashtra ...Respondent

Mr. Sachin Desai, for Applicant.
Ms. S.K. Gajare, APP for the Respondent-State.

CORAM: SHYAM C. CHANDAK, J.
DATED : 22 October, 2026

P.C. :-

1. Mr. Desai, learned Counsel for the applicant tendered an Affidavit affirmed by the wife of the applicant about 'Nil' criminal antecedent. The Affidavit is taken on record and marked 'X'.

2. Heard learned Counsel for the parties. Perused the record.

3. The applicant seeking his release on bail in connection with Cr. No. 123 of 2025 registered with DCB CID Unit -XII, Mumbai, for the offence punishable under Sections 178, 179, 180, 61(2) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 which was earlier registered at Crime No.534 2025 earlier registered with Vanrai Police Station on the report lodged by Mr. Santosh Rane, PSI.

4. The prosecution case is that acting on a secret information on 17th December 2025, the police team of said DCB CID Unit -XII carried out a raid at Western Express Highway, Goregaon East at about 2:15 am and apprehended accused no.1 when he came there for distributing fake Indian Currency Notes. Further, during the search of the bag carried by accused no. 1, fake Indian Currency

Notes of Rs.500 denomination, totalling to Rs.2,75,000/- were found in the said bag. The said notes were seized under the panchanama. Accordingly, the aforesaid crime was registered. During investigation, accused no.1 and the statement of witnesses Nasim and Sana revealed the role of the other accused persons. It is alleged that the said fake currency notes of Rs.2,75,000/- were reached to accused No.1 by Noorjahan, through, accused No.2 (A2). In similar manner, Noorjahan had reached Rs.2,00,000/- to the applicant. Therefore, the applicant came be arrested. Investigation led to filing of charge-sheet. The trial Court declined to release the applicant on bail.

5. On the basis of the material on record, the learned APP tried to convince that there is *prima facie* case against the applicant of having committed the alleged offence. However, no fake currency notes were recovered from the applicant. Although the witness Nasim has claimed that the applicant had collected the fake currency notes from her, she has not informed the facts based on which she had ascertained that the currency notes handed over to the applicant by her, were fake. Her said assertion would have been significant, if, before handing over the alleged fake currency notes to the applicant, she had compared it with the genuine currency notes. As such, it is difficult to conclude that there is a *prima facie* case against the applicant of having committed the alleged offence. The applicant has no criminal antecedent. He is not likely to abscond and tamper with prosecution evidence.

6. In the wake of above, I am inclined to allow the application. Hence, following Order:-

(i) Applicant – Mr. Bhiharilal Ramswaroop Kumar @ Manoj Maharaj shall be released on bail in connection with

an FIR bearing Cr. No.123 of 2025 registered with DCB-CID Unit-XII, Mumbai on his furnishing P.R. Bond in the sum of Rs.50,000/- with one or two sureties in the like amount.

(ii) The applicant shall mark his attendance at DCB-CID Unit-XII, Mumbai on the 1st day of each calendar month between 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m., till the conclusion of the trial.

(iii) The applicant shall regularly attend the proceedings before the jurisdictional Court.

(iv) The applicant shall not tamper with the prosecution evidence and shall not directly or indirectly influence upon the prosecution witness to prevent them from deposing against him.

(v) On being released from jail, the applicant shall furnish his contact number and residential address to the Investigation Officer and shall keep him updated, in case there is any change.

(vi) The applicant shall not indulge in identical activities for which he has been arraigned in this case.

(vii) It is clarified that any observation made in the present order are for the purpose of deciding the present Bail Application. The trial Court shall decide the said case uninfluenced by any of the said observation.

7. Application stands disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

(SHYAM C. CHANDAK, J.)