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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL BAIL APPLICATION NO. 4878 OF 2025

Harishchandra Kashinath Bhandare .. Applicant

Versus

State of Maharashtra .. Respondent

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- Mr. Vivek Arote, for the Applicant.
- Mr. Amit Palkar, for the Respondent - State.

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CORAM : MILIND N. JADHAV, J.

DATE : OCTOBER 14, 2026

P.C.:

1. Heard Mr. Vivek Arote, learned Advocate for Applicant and Mr. Amit Palkar, learned APP for Respondent.

2. This is an Application under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 seeking bail in connection with C.R. No.09 of 2022 registered with Igatpuri Police Station for offences punishable under Sections 302, 307, 120(B), 452, 427, 143, 147, 148, 149, 323, 504 and 506 of Indian Penal Code, under Sections 37(3), 37(1) r/w Section 135 of the Mumbai Police Act, 1951 and under Sections 4, 25 of the Arms Act, 1999.

3. The Applicant has been incarcerated in jail for more than four years and seven months. The trial has commenced and 45 out of the 75 accused persons have been released on bail. The incident in

question was a fallout of a gang war between two groups, which occurred in January 2022. The co-accused persons who have been released on bail have an identical role to that of the present Applicant.

4. In that view of the matter, considering the twin reasons of parity and long incarceration pending trial, I am inclined to consider the request made by Mr. Arote for grant of bail.

5. Hence, in view of above *prima facie* observations and findings, Bail Application of Applicant is allowed subject to the following terms and conditions:-

(i) Applicant is directed to be immediately released from prison in connection with CR. No.09 of 2022;

(ii) Applicant is directed to be released on bail on furnishing P.R. Bond of Rs.25,000/- (Rs. Twenty-Five Thousand only) with one or two sureties in the like amount;

(iii) Applicant shall report to the Investigating Officer at concerned Police Station, once every month, on the first Monday of the month between 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. until commencement of trial and thereafter shall attend all dates of hearing before the Trial Court;

(iv) Applicant shall cooperate with the conduct of the trial

and remain present before the Trial Court on all dates, unless specifically exempted. Applicant shall not seek unnecessary adjournments. Any such conduct shall entitle the prosecution to apply for cancellation of bail;

(v) Applicant shall not leave the State of Maharashtra without prior permission of the Trial Court;

(vi) Applicant shall not influence any of the witnesses or tamper with the evidence in any manner;

(vii) Applicant shall keep the Investigating Officer informed of his current residential address and mobile telephone number and shall forthwith inform the Investigating Officer of any change in his residential address or mobile telephone number, as and when such change occurs; and

(viii) Any breach or infraction of any of the aforesaid conditions shall entail cancellation of the bail granted to the Applicant.

6. It is clarified that the observations made in this order are limited for the purpose of granting bail only and I have not made any observations on merits of the case. The trial shall be adjudicated on the strength of the evidence led and strictly on its own merits being

uninfluenced with any of the *prima facie* observations made hereinabove in this order.

7. Bail Application is allowed and disposed in the above terms.

[MILIND N. JADHAV, J.]