

Shubhada S Kadam

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
BAIL APPLICATION NO. 71 OF 2026**

Ajay Vijay Panchal

....Applicant

VERSUS

The State of Maharashtra

....Respondent

Ms. Indrayanee Pandit along with Mr. Satyavrat Joshi (through VC) i/b.
Mr. Priyesh More, Advocate for Applicant.
Mr. B. B. Kulkarni, APP for Respondent-State.

CORAM : SHIVKUMAR DIGE, J.

DATE : 11th FEBRUARY, 2026.

P.C. :

1. By this application, the applicant is seeking regular bail in Crime No. 326 of 2023 registered with Bharti Vidyapeeth Police Station, District Pune, for the offences punishable under Sections 385, 395, 504, 506 and 427 of the Indian Penal Code 1860 and Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

2. It is prosecution's case that on 24th May 2023, the applicant and co-accused entered the shop of the first informant and robbed an amount of Rs. 10,000/- by threatening him with sickle and sharp weapon.

3. It is the contention of the learned counsel for the applicant that, except the applicant, all co-accused have been released on bail. The applicant is behind bars for more than two years and eight months, there is no progress in the trial. Hence, requested to allow the application.

4. It is contention of learned APP that the applicant and co-accused barged into the shop of the first informant. They threatened him by showing a sickle, and the applicant took out Rs. 10,000 from the

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cash counter of the first informant's shop. There are eyewitnesses to the incident. If the applicant is released on bail, he may threaten the first informant and the prosecution witnesses. Hence, requested to reject the application.

5. I have heard both the learned counsel, perused charge-sheet and documents produced on record. Except the applicant, all the co-accused have been released on bail. The applicant is behind bars for more than two years and eight months. There is no progress in the trial. The applicant is entitled to bail on the principle of parity. Considering these facts, I pass following order:

ORDER

- (i) The applicant be enlarged on bail in Crime No. 326 of 2023 registered with Bharti Vidyapeeth Police Station, District Pune, on executing P.R.Bond in the sum of Rs.25,000/- with one or two sureties in the like amount to the satisfaction of the Additional Sessions Judge, Pune.
- (ii) The applicant shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with facts of accusation, so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer.
- (iii) The applicant shall not tamper with the prosecution witnesses and evidence in any manner.
- (iv) The applicant upon his release, within a period of three days from his release, shall furnish his cell phone number and residential address with proof to the Investigating Officer, Bharati Vidyapeeth Police Station, Pune City and shall keep the same updated, in case of any change thereto.

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- (v) The applicant shall co-operate in the conduct of the trial of Sessions Case No. 564 of 2024 and shall regularly attend the hearing of the case pending on the file of Additional Sessions Judge, Pune, on each and every date, unless exempted from appearance.
- (vi) The applicant shall report/attend before the Investigating Officer, Bharati Vidyapeeth Police Station, Pune City on 1st Saturday of every month from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon till framing of the charge by the learned Trial Court in the said case.
- (vii) The applicant Applicant shall not enter the territorial jurisdiction of Pune City, till conclusion of the trial of Sessions Case No. 564 of 2024, except for attending the hearing of the said case and for the purpose of reporting before the Investigating Officer, Bharati Vidyapeeth Police Station, Pune City.

The application is allowed in the aforesaid terms and is accordingly disposed of.

6. It is made clear that the above observations are made only for the purpose of granting bail and the Trial Court shall decide the case on its own merits in accordance with law and uninfluenced by the observations made in this order.

7. All concerned to act on the authenticated copy of this order.

(SHIVKUMAR DIGE, J.)