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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
BAIL APPLICATION NO. 960 OF 2026**

Nitin Dattatray Aatkar	...	Applicant
Versus		
The State Of Maharashtra	...	Respondent

Mr. Kuldeep Nikam a/w. Ms. Nishi Singhvi, Advocate for Applicant.
Mr. S.M.Mangaonkar, APP for Respondent-State.
Mr. Sachin Sangle, PSI, Hadapsar Police Station, Pune, present.

CORAM : SHIVKUMAR DIGE, J.
DATE : 15th APRIL, 2026.

P.C. :

1. By this application, the Applicant is seeking regular bail in C.R.No. 635 of 2025 registered with Hadapsar Police Station, Pune, for the offences punishable under Sections 140(2) r/w. 3(5) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short “BNS Act”), Section 142, 137(1)(3) r/w. 135 of the Maharashtra Police Act.

2. It is prosecution’s case that on 04.07.2025, around 7:30 p.m. applicant and co-accused kidnapped the first informant in car for ransom and assaulted him.

3. It is contention of learned counsel for the applicant that applicant has been falsely implicated in this case. As per Section 140(2) of BNS Act, demand of ransom should be to the third person. In this case,

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ransom was made to the first informant. The applicant is behind bars for around nine months. The applicant has no antecedents. It may take time to conclude the trial. Hence, requested to allow the application.

4. It is contention of learned APP that the applicant and co-accused kidnapped the first informant for ransom and assaulted him. If the applicant is released on bail, he may abscond or threaten prosecution witnesses. Hence, requested to reject the application.

5. I have heard both the learned counsel. Perused chargesheet and documents produced on record. The applicant is behind bars for more than nine months. The applicant has no antecedents. Though there are allegations of ransom against the applicant, it appears that the ransom was not made to third party, it was made to the first informant. To prove the allegations against the applicant, evidence is required. Considering these facts, I pass following order.

ORDER

- i. The applicant be enlarged on bail in C.R.No. 635 of 2025 registered with Hadapsar Police Station, Pune, on executing P.R.Bond of Rs. 30,000/- on furnishing one or two sureties in the like amount.
- ii. The applicant shall attend the concerned police station as and when required.

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- iii. The applicant shall not tamper with the evidence or attempt to influence or contact the complainant, witnesses or any person concerned with the case.
6. The application is allowed in the aforesaid terms and is accordingly disposed of. All pending applications, if any, disposed of.
7. 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.
8. All concerned to act on the authenticated copy of this order.

(SHIVKUMAR DIGE, J.)