

Spl. (POCSO) Case No.18 of 2024.

State of Maharashtra Vs.

Ashok Digambar Rathod.

:: ORDER BELOW EXH.17 ::

1. Present application has been filed on behalf of accused seeking supply of CCTV footage filed alongwith charge-sheet. Ld. Advocate Shri. Dighe for accused submits that, said CCTV footage form part of documents relied upon by prosecution and therefore, accused is entitled to have access to the same for purpose of effective defence.

2. Investigation officer filed say(Exh.21) through Ld. A.P.P Shri. Tendulkar and strongly opposed the application. It is submitted that, said CCTV footage contains objectionable/sensitive videos. There is apprehension that if copies are supplied to the accused, the same may be misused or made viral causing prejudice to the victim.

3. Heard both the sides, perused application and say.

4. It is settled principle of law that, all documents and material relied upon by the prosecution and filed alongwith the charge-sheet are required to be furnished to the accused to ensure fair trial. At the same time, the concerned regarding misuse of sensitive electronic material can not be ignored. In the present case, though CCTV footage is part of charge-sheet, considering objection raised by prosecution regarding possible misuse of video balance approach is required. Hence, instead of supplying CCTV footage to the accused it would be appropriate

to permit inspection of the same under controlled condition.
Hence, I proceed to pass following order.

ORDER

1. Application is partly allowed.
2. Accused through his advocate is permitted to view the said CCTV footage filed alongwith charge-sheet in Court premises in the presence of Court Staff on a date and time fixed by this Court.
3. Ld. Advocate for accused is permitted to take notes of relevant facts during such viewing/inspection.
4. Accused and his advocate shall not record, copy, photograph or reproduce said video footage in any manner.
5. No copy of said CCTV footage shall be supplied to the accused or his advocate.
6. The Court Staff shall ensure strict compliance of this order.
7. Liberty is reserved to the accused to make further application if required.

Mangaon.
Date : 08.04.2026.

(M. K. Patil)
Addl. Session Judge, Mangaon.