

MHST170002982026



**IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE VADUJ, TALUKA
KHATAV, DISTRICT SATARA.**

Criminal Bail Appln. No: 67/2026

Laxman Balasaheb Rakhonde : Applicant

Vs.

State of Maharashtra

Through Mhaswad Police Station : Non-Applicant

ORDER BELOW EXH.1

Case Details-		
FIR Number and Date	:	419/2025, 11/12/2025
Police Station, District and State	:	Mhaswad PS, District Satara, Maharashtra.
Sections Invoked	:	308(5), 308(6), 308(7) r/w 3(5) of B.N.S.
Maximum Punishment prescribed	:	10 Years
Custody and Procedural Compliance		
Date of arrest	:	16/04/2026
Total Period of Custody undergone	:	1 Month & 18 Days
Status of Trial		
State of Proceedings	:	Awaiting charge-sheet

Total number of witnesses cited in the Charge-sheet	:	--
Number of prosecution witnesses examined	:	--
Criminal Antecedents-		
	F.I.R.No.-	--
	Sections-	--
	Status-	-
Previous Bail Applications		
Court-	:	
Case No.-	:	
Outcome of the case-	:	
Coercive Procedures		
Whether any non-bailable warrant was issued?	:	No.
Whether declared a proclaimed offender?	:	No.

1. The applicant has filed this bail application under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita.

2. The prosecution's case is that the complainant, a medical practitioner, lodged a report on 10/12/2025, stating that his wife had noticed irregularities in the hospital accounts. On further verification, the complainant found a discrepancy of about ₹7,00,000/-. He personally verified the accounts from 02/11/2025 and took custody of the account books. Thereafter, the applicant and his family left the hospital premises during the intervening night of 04/11/2025 and 05/11/2025. Though the complainant asked him to resume duty, he

did not resume. Hence, the complainant lodged a complaint against him on 09/11/2025 at Mhaswad Police Station.

3. The First Information Report further states that on 20/11/2025, the other accused Dipak Dattu Rupanwar, came to the complainant's hospital and confronted him regarding the dispute with the accountant. Dipak threatened the complainant to withdraw the complaint, failing which the complainant would face consequences. On 28/11/2025, Dipak called the complainant and informed him that the accountant's wife had lodged a rape complaint against the complainant and asked him to hold a meeting for settlement. On verification, the complainant found that such a complaint had been lodged at Mhaswad Police Station.

4. The First Information Report further states that on 07/12/2025, Dipak told the complainant that the accountant and his wife were in the custody of four other persons and that, if the complainant failed to settle the matter, they would make the accountant's wife lodge a rape complaint against him. The complainant tried to convince him.

5. The First Information Report further states that on 09/12/2025 at about 11.00 a.m., while the informant was going to Mhaswad police station, Dipak and his accomplice met him on the gate. They threatened the complainant to file a complaint of rape and atrocity through the accountant's wife or any other lady. When the complainant tried to convince them, they demanded ransom of Rs. One Crore and later settled at the demand of Rs.45,00,000/- for themselves and Rs.5,00,000/- for the accountant and his wife. They allowed time till next day 11.00 a.m. to the complainant for payment. The

complainant then went to Satara due to the fear of the other accused and lodged a complaint against them.

6. The First Information Report was registered based on the complaint. The present applicant was arrested in the said crime and has filed this bail application on the following grounds:

1. Name of the applicant was not appearing in the First Information Report.
2. Though the complainant in this matter allegedly lodged a complaint against the applicant that he has committed the fraud of Rs.7,00,000/- no offence to that effect is registered against the applicant till date.
3. The applicant was all of sudden arrested and was remanded to the police custody and subsequently he was remanded to magistrate custody.
4. The applicant has suffered injustice due to his unnecessary arrest.
5. The applicant is falsely involved in this matter as he has opposed the 'B' summary applied for by the police in Crime No. 429/2025 of Mhaswad Police Station.
6. The applicant is working as a labour and earning his livelihood by staying in Pune District.
7. The applicant is ready to obey all the terms and conditions imposed by the court while granting bail.
8. The investigation of this crime is complete and nothing is to be seized from the applicant.

The applicant has prayed for bail for all the above reasons.

7. The Investigating Officer filed a reply at Exhibit 8 and opposed the application on the following grounds:

1. The prosecution has alleged that the other accused demanded extortion money at the gate and within the premises of Mhaswad Police Station by using a woman as an instrumentality. The said woman and her husband are required to be interrogated. If released on bail, applicant may pressurise the said woman and obstruct the investigation.
2. The FIR discloses that surveillance was being kept over the informant. Investigation regarding the identity and role of the concerned persons is still in progress. If released on bail, the applicant may assist such persons in absconding or tampering with evidence.
3. The investigation reveals that after the informant lodged a complaint against the applicant, the accused along with co-accused allegedly assembled at Malshiras, District Solapur, and caused a false rape complaint to be lodged against the informant on the CM Portal in order to pressurise him. The presence of the applicant prima facie indicates his involvement in the conspiracy.
4. The Call Detail Records obtained from the concerned mobile service providers and the technical analysis thereof prima facie indicate the presence and movement of the applicant near the place of occurrence.
5. If released on bail, the applicant may directly or indirectly pressurise the informant and prosecution witnesses and may obstruct the investigation.
6. The offence alleged against the applicant is serious in nature and pertains to extortion. Grant of bail at this stage may embolden the applicant to commit similar offences.

7. The allegations against the applicant are grave in nature. Grant of bail at this stage may adversely affect the deterrent effect of law.

The Investigating Officer has prayed for rejection of bail application.

8. The learned Addl. P.P. Filed a pursis at Exh.9 and adopted the reply filed by the Investigating Officer .

9. The original complainant filed a reply at Exhibit 12 and opposed the application. He reiterated the contents of the F.I.R. It is further stated that the other accused are threatening the complainant and pressurising him to withdraw the complaint. The applicant is likely to abscond. The other accused threatened a complainant's employee on 29/12/2025 not to intervene. A complaint has also been lodged against the other accused in that regard. The applicant is a habitual offender, and several crimes are registered against him. He is likely to endanger the complainant's life. The anticipatory bail application of co-accused Amol Raut was rejected by this Court. For all these reasons, the complainant prayed that the bail application be rejected.

10. Considering the application and replies, the documents on record, and the arguments of both sides, the following points arise for my determination. My findings are as stated below for the following reasons.

Sr. No.	Points	Findings
(i)	Is the applicant entitled to bail?	: In the affirmative, subject to conditions.
(ii)	What order?	: The application is conditionally allowed as per the final order.

REASONS

As to Point Nos. 1 and 2: -

11. Perused the application, say of the Investigating Officer and the material placed on record. Heard learned counsel for the applicant, learned APP for the State and learned counsel appearing for the complainant. At the outset, it is material to note that the name of the present applicant does not appear in the First Information Report. The allegations made in the FIR are general in nature and no specific overt act has been attributed to the present applicant therein.

12. The prosecution has contended that the present applicant had earlier committed fraud of Rs.7,00,000/- in the hospital of the complainant. However, despite such allegation and despite the alleged complaint made by the complainant in that regard, no separate or formal criminal case appears to have been registered against the present applicant. Prima facie, this circumstance indicates existence of previous dispute between the parties and the same cannot be overlooked at this stage.

13. On careful perusal of the complaint and the papers of investigation, no specific allegation regarding direct involvement or active participation of the present applicant is revealed. The allegations against the applicant appear to be omnibus and general in nature.

14. It further appears that the specific allegation regarding demand of ransom is directed against the co-accused persons. No direct allegation regarding demand of ransom is attributed to the present applicant. No criminal antecedents of the present applicant are brought on record.

15. So far as investigation is concerned, the investigation to be carried out with the present applicant appears to be limited in nature. The applicant is already behind bars since considerable period and sufficient opportunity appears to have been available to the Investigating Officer for carrying out the necessary investigation. At this stage, further custodial interrogation of the applicant does not appear necessary.

16. Prima facie, release of the applicant on bail is not likely to prejudice the further investigation. Though apprehension has been expressed by the Investigating Officer and the complainant that the applicant may pressurise the complainant and prosecution witnesses, the said apprehension can be adequately taken care of by imposing stringent conditions. The presence of the applicant during investigation and trial can also be secured by directing him to furnish sufficient surety.

17. Considering the aforesaid circumstances, I am inclined to enlarge the applicant on bail subject to conditions. I answer Point No.1 in the affirmative subject to conditions and pass the following order for Point No.2:-

ORDER

1. The applicant Laxman Balasaheb Rakhonde shall be released on bail in connection with Crime No. 419/2025 registered with Mhaswad Police Station for the offences punishable under Sections 308(5), 308(6), 308(7) read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, on furnishing P.R. Bond of ₹50,000/- with 1 or 2 solvent sureties in the like amount.

2. The applicant shall not enter the territorial limits of Mhaswad Police Station until the final disposal of the case, except to attend the Court proceedings, mark attendance before the police if specifically directed, or for any investigation purpose.
3. The applicant shall attend the trial Court regularly and shall remain present on all dates unless exempted by the Court.
4. The applicant shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat, promise or contact with the complainant, witnesses, or any person acquainted with the facts of the case.
5. The applicant shall not tamper with the prosecution evidence in any manner.
6. The applicant shall furnish his complete residential address and mobile number to the Investigating Officer and shall intimate any change thereof forthwith.
7. The applicant shall cooperate with the investigation and attend the Investigating Officer as and when called upon by the Investigating Officer.
8. In case of breach of any of the above conditions, the prosecution shall be at liberty to seek cancellation of bail.
9. The bails bonds to be submitted before the Judicial Magistrate First Class concerned.

Bail Application stands disposed of accordingly.

Date:04/06/2026

(Vidyadhar B.Kakatkar)
Additional Sessions Judge,
Vaduj

CERTIFICATE

I affirm that the contents of this P.D.F. file are the same word to word, as per the assigned order.

(S.A. Pawar)
Stenographer Grade-1