

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL BAIL APPLICATION NO.1917 OF 2025

Shriprakash Ramdular Pandey

.. Applicant

Versus

State of Maharashtra and Anr.

.. Respondent

.....

- Mr. Mithilesh Mishra, Advocate for Applicant.
- Mr. Balraj B. Kulkarni. APP for State.
- Ms. Tahera Qureshi, appointed Advocate through legal-aid for Respondent No.2.

.....

CORAM : MILIND N. JADHAV, J.

DATE : MAY 07, 2025

P. C.:

1. Heard Mr. Mishra, learned Advocate for Applicant and Mr. Kulkarni. learned APP for State.

2. Applicant is indicted under the provisions of IPC and POCSO. Mr. Mishra, Learned Advocate for Applicant would submit that role attributed to the Applicant is that he dropped prosecutrix / victim at a particular location and beyond this role there is nothing incriminating as against him with respect to invocation of provisions of POCSO. He would submit that age of the prosecutrix is 16 years and according to him she was having consensual relationship with Accused No.1 who is co-accused in the present crime. He would next submit that Applicant was hired by the prosecutrix - victim on the alleged date of the incident to go from one destination to another and Applicant had accordingly dropped her at her destination.

3. He would submit that Applicant is incarcerated for the past more than 2 years in the present crime. In view of indictment of Applicant under the provisions of IPC and POCSO, issue notice to Respondents.

4. Learned Prosecutor shall take appropriate instructions on the veracity of submissions made by learned Advocate for Applicant and apprise the Court the precise role of the Applicant in the present crime to enable this court to consider the case of Applicant for grant of bail.

5. Present Bail Application is directed to be tagged and listed alongwith Bail Application No.817 of 2024 on board on **13th June, 2025.**

6. Ms.Tahera Qureshi, appointed Advocate through legal-aid to represent and espouse the cause of Respondent No.2 is also appointed as Advocate to represent the cause of Respondent No.2 in the present case. The Secretary, High Court Legal Services Authority is directed to give her appointment letter to that effect.

7. Learned Advocate for Applicant is directed to serve a copy of the present Bail Application on the Respondent – State as also appointed Advocate for Respondent No.2.

8. Stand over to **13th June, 2025.**

[MILIND N. JADHAV, J.]