

Prasad

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

BAIL APPLICATION NO.3717 OF 2025

Rushikant Dattatray Paygude	...Applicant
<i>Versus</i>	
State of Maharashtra and Anr.	...Respondents

Mr. Yashodeep P. Deshmukh, for the Applicant.
Mr. A.S. Gawai, APP for the Respondent-State.
Ms. Ashwinii Achari, for the Respondent No.2.

CORAM: R. M. JOSHI, J.
DATED: 06th MAY, 2026.

PC:-

1. Learned counsel for the Applicant seeks enlargement of the Applicant on merits as well as on the ground of long incarceration. It is submitted that the Applicant is in jail for over 5 years and that the trial has not commenced till date.

2. Learned APP and learned counsel for Respondent No.2 submit that it is on account of non-cooperation of the Applicant that the charge was not framed till last date of hearing. Learned counsel for the Applicant disputes the said allegation, contending that it is only on one or two occasions the Applicant has resisted framing of charges and otherwise is not responsible for the delay in trial.

3. Considering the facts of the case, particularly that there are three victims of the crime under the POCSO Act, it would be advisable to direct the Trial Court to record evidence of the victims within a stipulated time, and thereafter the present application can be taken up for hearing.

4. Learned APP, on instructions, makes a statement that the victims evidence would be recorded before 30th August, 2026.

5. In view thereof, list the matter on **2nd September, 2026.**

(R. M. JOSHI, J.)