HARSHADA H. SAWANT
(P.A.)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

BAIL APPLICATION NO.1180 OF 2026

Ajinkya Arun Aghade .. Applicant

Versus

The State of Maharashtra and Anr. .. Respondents

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- Mr. Pushkar Durge a/w. Mr. Suyash Khose and Mr. Siddharth N. Sutaria, Advocates for Applicant.
- Ms. Anuja S. Gotad, APP for Respondent No.1.
- Mr. Kuldeep Nikam, Advocate for Respondent No.2.
- Mohan Chavan, Khothrud Police Station, Pune.

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CORAM : MILIND N. JADHAV, J.

DATE : OCTOBER 19, 2026

P.C.:

1. Heard Mr. Durge, learned Advocate for Applicant; Ms. Gotad, learned APP for Respondent No.1 and Mr. Nikam, learned Advocate for Respondent No.2.

2. This is an Application under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 seeking Bail in connection with C.R. No.184 of 2025 registered with Kothrud Police Station for offences punishable under Sections 308(2), 308(3), 351(2), 111(3) read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

3. Accused No.2 is the Applicant before me who is incarcerated for the past 13 months. He is a professional cyber expert whose services were availed of by Accused No.3 and probably Accused No.1

who is the principal protagonist in the present case in a crime for extortion. In so far as the Complainant - First Informant duly represented by Mr. Nikam is concerned, there is an atrocities case filed by the Informant against the Accused No.3 and in retaliation to the same and for settling the same the present offence was planned by Accused Nos.1 and 3.

4. Role attributed to present Applicant is only to the extent of he having attended the meeting with the other accused persons to the extent of removing the chats and having assisted them in retrieving the chats between Accused No.3 and the First Informant and in that way assisting the principal Accused No.1 to allegedly commit extortion in the present crime.

5. Considering the fact that case of prosecution against Applicant is solely based on electronic evidence, the investigation of which is completed, the same will undoubtedly be proved at trial *qua* the complicity of the Applicant. The records have already been seized including the transcript certificate, the concerned mobile device has also been seized and the cyber certificate which has been issued by the Applicant with regard to the said electronic evidence is also available with the prosecution.

6. It is *prima facie* seen that Applicant has also received his legitimate professional fee with regard to the work done to the extent

of which his services were availed by the Applicant. Hence, *prima facie* case is made out for grant of bail.

7. Considering the aforesaid, Applicant is released on bail subject to following conditions:-

(i) Applicant - Ajinkya Arun Aghade is directed to be immediately released from prison in connection with Crime No. 184 of 2025;

(ii) Applicant is directed to be released on bail on furnishing P.R. Bond of Rs. 50,000/- (Rs. Fifty Thousand only) with one or two surety / sureties of the like amount;

(iii) Applicant shall report to the Investigating Officer at Kothrud Police Station, once every month on the first Monday of the month between 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.;

(iv) Applicant shall co-operate with the conduct of trial and attend the Trial Court on all dates, unless specifically exempted and will not take any unnecessary adjournments, if he does so it will entitle the prosecution to apply for revocation of this order;

(v) Applicant shall not leave the State of Maharashtra without prior permission of the Trial Court;

(vi) Applicant shall not influence any of the witnesses or tamper with the evidence in any manner;

(vii) Applicant shall keep the Investigating Officer informed of his current address and mobile contact number and / or change of residence or mobile details, if any, from time to time, as applicable; and

(viii) Any infraction of the conditions shall entail cancellation of bail granted to the Applicant.

8. It is clarified that the observations made in this order are limited for the purpose of granting Bail only and I have not made any observations on merits of the case. The trial shall be adjudicated on the strength of the evidence led and strictly on its own merits being uninfluenced with any of the *prima facie* observations made hereinabove in this order.

9. Bail Application is allowed and disposed of in the above terms.

H. H. SAWANT

[MILIND N. JADHAV, J.]

HARSHADA HANUMANT SAWANT

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