

HC grants bail to six accused in Govind Pansare murder case

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The Bombay High Court on Wednesday granted bail to six accused in the 2015 murder of CPI leader, rationalist, and author Govind Pansare on the grounds of long incarceration.

A single Bench of Justice Anil S. Kilar allowed the bail pleas of the six accused – Sachin Andure, Ganesh Miskin, Amit Degvekar, Amit Baddi, Bharat Kurane, and Vasudev Suryavanshi – considering they had spent over six years in prison. They were arrested on different dates in 2018 and 2019 and have been in prison since then.

Pronouncing the judgement, Justice Kilar observed, "The whole case of the prosecution is based on circumstantial evidence against the applicant and there is no prima facie direct evidence. The allegation against the applicant is



Govind Pansare

mainly of conspiracy. Moreover, there is no progress in the trial and if the period of incarceration of the applicant is considered, it is evident that the applicant is in jail for more than five years. Thus, considering the pace with which the trial is proceeding, and the number of witnesses remaining to be examined, it is evident that there is no end to the trial in sight."

Pansare and his wife were shot at by two unknown assailants riding on a motorcycle near their house in Kolhapur on February 16, 2015. He died of his injuries on February 20. His wife survived.