

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NOS. 4965-4966 OF 2024

RAJ KUMAR

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA

Respondent(s)

WITH

CRIMINAL APPEAL NOS. 4948-4949 OF 2024

CRIMINAL APPEAL NOS. 5171-5172 OF 2024

CRIMINAL APPEAL NOS. 5642-5645 OF 2024

O R D E R

1. By the impugned judgments and orders dated 01.10.2024 and 05.11.2024, the High Court reversed the acquittal and convicted the appellant(s) for the offence punishable under Section 302 read with 34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and sentenced them to undergo rigorous imprisonment for life.

2. On the one hand, Mr. Abhinav Bajaj, learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the respondent-State, submitted that the judgments and orders passed by the Division Bench of the High Court are well-reasoned and warrant no

interference.

3. On the other hand, Mr. Siddhartha Dave, learned senior counsel appearing for the appellant(s) and Mr. Narendra Hooda, learned senior counsel appearing for the complainant submitted that they are not in a position to appreciate the reasoning given in the impugned judgments and orders.

4. We have also carefully perused the impugned judgments and orders.

5. In spite of our strenuous efforts, we could not understand the reasoning given in the impugned judgments and orders.

6. Apart from that it is a settled principle of law that unless the finding of acquittal recorded by the Trial Judge is found to be perverse and impossible, interference in an appeal is not warranted.

7. Be that as it may, from the impugned judgments, it is not clear what weighed with the learned Division Bench of the High Court so as to reverse the findings of the learned Trial Judge. We, therefore, refrain ourselves from making any

observations on the merits of the matter.

8. Accordingly, we allow these appeals. The impugned judgments and orders dated 01.10.2024 and 05.11.2024 passed by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana are quashed and set aside.

9. The matters are remitted back to the High Court for consideration of the appeals afresh in accordance with law.

10. All contentions available to both sides are kept open.

11. Pending application(s), if any, stand(s) disposed of.

.....J
(B.R. GAVAI)

.....J
(K. VINOD CHANDRAN)

New Delhi
August 22, 2025

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Criminal Appeal No(s). 4965-4966/2024

RAJ KUMAR

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA ETC.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 280889/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No. 280890/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 9853/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

WITH

CrI.A. No. 4948-4949/2024 (II-B)

(IA No. 280306/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No. 67715/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 280309/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

CrI.A. No. 5171-5172/2024 (II-B)

(IA No. 288287/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No. 288288/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

CrI.A. No. 5642-5645/2024 (II-B)

(IA No. 289310/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT AND IA No. 289311/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 22-08-2025 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. VINOD CHANDRAN

For Appellant(s) :

Mr. Siddhartha Dave, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Pallavi Sharma, AOR
Ms. Tanisha Kaushal, Adv.
Mr. Prabhat Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Siddharth Dave, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Renuka Sahu, AOR
Ms. Pallavi Sharma, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :

Mr. Narendra Hooda, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Shiv Bhatnagar, Adv.
Mr. Nikhil Jain, AOR

Mr. Abhinav Bajaj, A.A.G.
Mr. Samar Vijay Singh, AOR
Mr. Saksham Ojha, Adv.
Ms. Geetashi Chandna, Adv.
Ms. Sabarni Som, Adv.
Mr. Aman Dev Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Pushkar Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Gaj Singh, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. The criminal appeals are allowed in terms of the signed order.
2. Pending application(s), if any, stand disposed of.

(DEEPAK SINGH)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(ANJU KAPOOR)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

[Signed order is placed on the file]