



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO(s). _____/2026
(@SLP(CRL.) No. 2401/2026)

SATYJEET BHOI

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH & ANOTHER

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

Leave granted.

This appeal challenges the judgment and order dated 14.07.2025 passed by the High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur in MCRC No. 5275 of 2025.

The appellant herein has been booked for the crime registered pursuant to FIR No. 29/2024 dated 25.03.2024 lodged with Police Station Singhoda, District Mahasamund, with respect to offences punishable under Section 20(B) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Act, 1985 (for short "NDPS Act")

An application seeking regular bail having been rejected by the High Court *vide* impugned order dated 14.07.2025, the appellant has preferred the instant appeal.

By order dated 03.02.2026, the following order was passed by this Court:

"Delay condoned.
Issue notice to the respondents.
Learned counsel appearing for the respondent-State waives services. He seeks time to file counter-affidavit.
List on 09.03.2026."

Heard learned senior counsel for the appellant in support of the appeal and learned Deputy Advocate General for the State and perused the material on record.

Learned senior counsel appearing for the appellant submitted that the allegations under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Act, 1985 ("NDPS Act") against the appellant herein are untrue; merely because the appellant was a passenger in the truck which was detained and the contraband (150 Kilograms of *Ganja* was recovered), the same cannot be linked with the appellant herein. There has been no material brought on record to establish any nexus between the appellant and the contraband substance. But the appellant has been in jail since 25.03.2024 which is almost two

years; the trial has not progressed substantially inasmuch fifteen witnesses have to be examined; there would inevitably be a delay in the trial. The appellant has a good case on merits. Hence, the impugned order may be set aside and the relief of bail may be granted to the appellant herein.

Per contra, learned Deputy Advocate General appearing for the State of Chhattisgarh with reference to the counter affidavit contended that the High Court was justified in declining to grant bail to the appellant herein; that the co-accused who was the driver of the truck from which the contraband substance was recovered is in jail; that if the appellant is granted the relief of bail, it will result in frustration of the trial. In the circumstances, he submitted that there is no merit in this appeal and the same may be dismissed.

Considering the facts on record, in our view, the case for bail is made out.

We, therefore, allow this appeal and direct as under:

"The appellant shall be produced before the concerned Trial Court as early as possible and the Trial Court shall release him on bail, subject to such conditions as it may deem appropriate to impose to ensure his presence in the proceedings arising out of FIR No. 29/2024 dated 25.03.2024 mentioned above."

It is directed that the appellant shall extend complete cooperation in the ensuing trial.

The appellant shall not misuse his liberty and shall not in any way influence the witnesses or tamper with the material on record.

The appellant shall ensure that he is present before the Special Court/Trial Court on every date of hearing unless he is able to seek exemption from appearance for a valid and reasonable cause.

Any infraction of the conditions may entail cancellation of bail granted to the appellant.

With the aforesaid directions, the Criminal Appeal is allowed.

.....J.
(B.V. NAGARATHNA)

.....J.
(UJJAL BHUYAN)

NEW DELHI;
MARCH 16, 2026

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s). 2401/2026
[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 14-07-2025
in MCRC No. 5275/2025 passed by the High Court of Chhatisgarh at
Bilaspur]

SATYJEET BHOI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH & ANOTHER

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 29894/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 16-03-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

For Petitioner(s) Dr. Anindita Pujari, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Shaileshwar Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Kumar-i, AOR
Ms. Radhika Mohapatra, Adv.
Mr. Shailendra Singh, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Vikrant Singh Bais, DAG
Mr. Vinayak Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Ravinder Kumar Yadav, AOR

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

1. Leave granted.
2. The Criminal Appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order.
3. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(RADHA SHARMA)

ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(DIVYA BABBAR)

COURT MASTER (NSH)

(Signed order is placed on the file)