



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. OF 2026
@ SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) NO.16805/2025

PANKAJ KUMAR KHANDELWAL
@ PANKAJ KHANDELWAL ..APPELLANT

VERSUS

STATE OF JHARKHAND ..RESPONDENT

O R D E R

1. Heard.
2. Leave granted.
3. Apprehending the arrest in connection with FIR No.103/2024 registered with Adityapur Police Station for the offences punishable under Sections 414, 413, 420, 120-B and 34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Sections 61(2) and 132(1)(b) of the Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, the appellant is before this Court seeking anticipatory bail.
4. It is the case of the prosecution that on interception of a truck which was carrying scrap

of vehicles, it was found they were stolen and the documents tendered for inspection were also forged. In fact, the purchaser, the vehicle - owner and the driver who are the co-accused have already been enlarged on bail at different stages.

5. Though the earlier bail applications of appellant were filed and later on withdrawn and there being no change in the circumstances warranting for interference as canvassed by the learned counsel appearing for the respondent - State, we are inclined to exercise the discretionary power by granting relief to the appellant particularly in the backdrop of appellant having appeared before the Investigating Officer and cooperated with the investigation. The rival contentions with regard to the documents being forged is an issue which will have to be thrashed out during the course of the trial and any opinion expressed by us at this stage is likely to prejudice the rights of the

parties. Hence, we desist from doing so.

6. In the light of the aforesaid facts, we are of the considered view that appellant is entitled to the relief sought for and he is ordered to be enlarged on anticipatory bail by the jurisdictional Investigating Officer subject to such terms and conditions as he deems fit including the condition that he shall appear before the trial court on all dates of hearing except when exempted and shall cooperate with the Investigating Officer as and when called upon. Accordingly, the appeal is allowed.

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

.....J.
(ARAVIND KUMAR)

.....J.
(PRASANNA B. VARALE)

NEW DELHI;
MARCH 09, 2026.

ITEM NO.5

COURT NO.16

SECTION II-A

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

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.)
No(s).16805/2025

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order
dated 18-09-2025 in ABA No. 5483/2025 passed by
the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi]

PANKAJ KUMAR KHANDELWAL
@ PANKAJ KHANDELWAL

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF JHARKHAND

Respondent(s)

IA No. 266079/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF
THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

IA No. 266078/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 09-03-2026 This matter was called on for
hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARAVIND KUMAR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRASANNA B. VARALE

For Petitioner(s) : Ms. Pallavi Pratap, AOR
Ms. Yashvi Aswani, Adv.
Mr. K M Singh, Adv.
Mr. Avanish Prakhar, Adv.
Mr. Amjid Maqbool, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :
Mr. Rajiv Shankar Dwivedi, Adv.
Mr. Shantanu Sagar, AOR
Mr. Anil Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Gunjesh Ranjan, Adv.
Mr. Manoneet Dwivedi, Adv.

Ms. Anshala Verma, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

Leave granted.

Criminal Appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order placed on the file.

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

**(NEHA GUPTA)
COURT MASTER (SH)**

**(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)**