



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

CRA No. 488 of 2026

- Ratnesh Soni, S/o Laxmiprasad Soni, aged about 36 Years, R/o A-8 Manvi Vihar, Amalidih, P.S. Rajendra Nagar, Raipur, Presently R/o Near G.D. Goyenka School, Sejbahar, P.S. Mujgahan, District Raipur (C.G.) **...Appellant**

versus

- State of Chhattisgarh, Through Police Station Khamtarai, District Raipur C.G. **... Respondent**

20/04/2026	Mr. Sayed Mohammad Sartaj Afzal, Advocate for the appellant. Ms. Swati R. Gupta, Panel Lawyer for the State/Respondent. Heard on admission. Admit. Record of the trial Court has already been received. Also heard on I.A. No.01/2026, application for suspension of sentence and grant of bail to the appellant under Section 430 of BNSS. By the impugned judgment dated 05.01.2026 passed by the learned Special Judge (NDPS Act), Raipur, District Raipur (C.G.)
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	in Special Case No.92/2024, the appellant has been convicted for the offence punishable under Section 20(b)(ii)(B) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (hereinafter referred to as the “NDPS Act”) and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for six years along with a fine of Rs.60,000/-. In default of payment of fine, the appellant shall further undergo additional rigorous imprisonment for 14 months. Learned counsel for the appellant submits that the learned trial Court has not properly appreciated the evidence available on record while holding the appellant guilty. He further submits that during trial, the appellant remained in custody from 11.02.2024 to 09.05.2024 and, after passing of the impugned judgment dated 05.01.2026, he is in custody till date. He also submits that during the trial, the appellant was on bail and did not misuse the liberty granted to him. He also contends that the fine amount has already been deposited before the learned trial Court and that final disposal of the appeal is likely to take some time. Therefore, it is prayed that the substantive jail sentence of the appellant be suspended till final disposal of the appeal. On the other hand, learned State counsel opposes the bail application. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, the
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Akhilesh	detention period of the appellant and further considering the fact that during the trial, the appellant was on bail and did not misuse the liberty granted to him and that disposal of this appeal is likely to take some time, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, I am of the opinion that present is a fit case to suspend the jail sentence imposed upon the appellant and to release him on bail. Accordingly, the application (I.A. No. 01/2026) is allowed. It is directed that the substantive jail sentence imposed upon the appellant shall remain suspended till final disposal of this case on his executing a personal bond for a sum of Rs.10,000/- with one surety for the like sum to the satisfaction of the concerned trial Court for his appearance before the Registry of this Court on 20th July, 2026. He shall thereafter appear before the concerned trial Court on a date to be given by the Registry of this Court and thereafter, continue to appear before the concerned trial Court on all such subsequent dates as are given to him by the said Court till disposal of this appeal. List this case for final hearing in due course. Sd/- (Radhakishan Agrawal) Judge
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