

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD
R/CRIMINAL MISC.APPLICATION (FOR CONDONATION OF DELAY) NO.
1885 of 2026
In F/CRIMINAL REVISION APPLICATION/2880/2026

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MOHANBHAI PARSHOTTAMBHAI PIPALIYA
Versus
STATE OF GUJARAT & ORS.

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Appearance:

MR. ANANTANAND J SINGH(10046) for the Applicant(s) No. 1
MR NISHITH P ACHARYA(9308) for the Respondent(s) No. 2,3,4
MR PRANAV DHAGAT APP for the Respondent(s) No. 1

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CORAM:HONOURABLE MS. JUSTICE GITA GOPI
Date : 05/05/2026

ORDER

1. Heard the learned advocates appearing for the respective parties.
2. By way of this application under Section 5 of the Limitation Act, 1963, the applicant has prayed for condonation of delay of 87 days occurred in preferring the application.
3. Learned advocate Ms. Rutvi Modi on behalf of learned Advocate Mr. Anantanand Singh for the applicant stated that the appellate Court granted the benefit of probation to the accused who were convicted by the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Khambha, District Amreli, by an order dated 24.02.2023 for the offence under Section 447, 504, 506(2) read with Section 114 of the IPC without even calling for the Probation Officer's report.
 - 3.1 Advocate Ms. Modi submitted that the complainant came to

know of the order at a later stage and since the accused was facing financial constrain, he could not engage a private advocate and thus, had to apply for free legal service from Gujarat High Court Legal Service Authority and the procedural aspect had led to the delay.

4. Countering the arguments, learned Advocate Mr. D V Chauhan for the respondent submitted that the delay was required to be explained and the records suggests that the cause has not been sufficiently explained, thus, urged to reject the application.
5. In the case of **Collector, Land Acquisition, Anantnag and Another v. Mst. Katiji and Others** reported in **AIR 1987 SC 1353**, it has been observed as under:-

"3. The legislature has conferred the power to condone delay by enacting Section 5 of the Indian Limitation Act of 1963 in order to enable the Courts to do substantial justice to parties by disposing of matters on 'merits'. The expression "sufficient cause" employed by the legislature is adequately elastic to enable the courts to apply the law in a meaningful manner which subserves the ends of justice that being the life-purpose for the existence of the institution of Courts. It is common knowledge that this Court has been making a justifiably liberal approach in matters instituted in this Court. But the message does not appear to have percolated down to all the other Courts in the hierarchy. And such a liberal approach is adopted on principle as it is realized that:-

1. Ordinarily a litigant does not stand to benefit by lodging an appeal late.

2. Refusing to condone delay can result in a meritorious matter being thrown out at the very threshold and cause of justice being defeated. As against this when delay is condoned the highest that can happen is that a cause would be decided on merits after hearing the parties.

3. "Every day's delay must be explained" does not mean that a pedantic approach should be made. Why not every hour's delay, every second's delay? The doctrine must be applied in a rational common sense pragmatic manner.

4. When substantial justice and technical considerations are pitted against each other, cause of substantial justice deserves to be preferred for the other side cannot claim to have vested right in injustice being done because of a non-deliberate delay.

5. There is no presumption that delay is occasioned deliberately, or on account of culpable negligence, or on account of mala fides. A litigant does not stand to benefit by resorting to delay. In fact he runs a serious risk.

6. It must be grasped that judiciary is respected not on account of its power to legalize injustice on technical grounds but because it is capable of removing injustice and is expected to do so."

6. In view of the principles laid down in the above-referred decision, considering the averments made in the application and as the delay is sufficiently explained, the delay of 87 days occurred in filing the application deserves to be condoned and is hereby condoned.
7. Accordingly, the present application is allowed.

(GITA GOPI,J)