

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

**CRIMINAL APPEAL (STAMP) NO.19027 OF 2025
ALONG WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO.1501 OF 2026**

Deepak Kochhar and Ors. .. Appellants-Applicants
Vs.
Directorate of Enforcement,
New Delhi and Ors. .. Respondents

**ALONG WITH
CRIMINAL WRIT PETITION NO.6083 OF 2025**

Deepak Kochhar .. Petitioner
Vs.
Directorate of Enforcement,
New Delhi and Anr. .. Respondents

Mr. Amit Desai, Senior Advocate, with Mr. Gopalkrishna Shenoy and Mr. Shyam Kapadia, i/by Mr. Omneel Jadhav, Advocates for the Appellants-Applicants in APEAL(ST)/19027/2025.

Mr. Amit Desai, Senior Advocate, with Mr. Gopalkrishna Shenoy, Mr. Shyam Kapadia, Mr. Rohan Dakshini, Ms. Pooja Kothari and Mr. Nimit B., i/by Rashmikant & Partners, for the Petitioners in WP/6083/2025.

Mrs. Manisha Jagtap, Advocate for Respondent No.1-ED.

Mrs. M.M. Deshmukh, Additional Public Prosecutor for Respondent No.3.

**CORAM : SHREE CHANDRASHEKHAR, CJ. &
GAUTAM A. ANKHAD, J.**

DATE : 8TH MAY 2026.

P.C. :

Interim Application No.1501 of 2026 has been filed by the appellants-applicants seeking following prayers:-

“(a) Pending the hearing and final disposal of the criminal appeal, stay the operation and implementation of the Judgment and Order dated 3rd July 2025 passed by the Hon’ble Appellate Tribunal, PMLA, New Delhi in FPA-PMLA-3802/DLI/2020;

- (b) *Grant ad-interim reliefs in terms of prayer (a);*
(c) *Pass such other and further orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit in the interest of justice."*

2. Mr. Amit Desai, the learned senior counsel for the appellants has raised manifold contentions and one of the contentions is that the finding recorded by the Adjudicating Authority as to non-applicability of section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 could not have been interfered by the Tribunal so lightly and, that too, when such a finding was recorded by the Adjudicating Authority after having a thread-bare analysis of the materials on record.

3. Mrs. Manisha Jagtap, the learned counsel for the respondent no.1-Enforcement Directorate is seeking two weeks' time for filing response to Interim Application No.1501 of 2026.

4. Having regard to the issues raised on behalf of the appellants and after going through the judgment under challenge, we have formed an opinion that the appellants have made out a case for interim protection. Therefore, we pass this order:-

- (i) Affidavit-in-reply, if any, to oppose Interim Application No.1501 of 2026 shall be filed within two weeks.
- (ii) Till the next date of hearing, there shall be interim stay to the operation of the attachment order and the respondent no.1-Enforcement Directorate shall not take possession of the properties under consideration.

5. Post this matter on 19th June 2026.

[GAUTAM A. ANKHAD, J.]

[CHIEF JUSTICE]