

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
Cr. Appeal (DB) No. 1434 of 2025

Ravi Tigga S/O Isdore Tigga, aged about 32 years, R/O
Village- Sewai Bhadratoli, P.O.+P.S. Simdega, District-
Simdega, Jharkhand **Appellant**

Versus

The State of Jharkhand **Respondent**

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RONGON MUKHOPADHYAY
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR RAI

For the Appellant :Ms. Snehlika Bhagat, Advocate
For the Res.-State :Mr. Shiv Shankar Kumar, A.P.P.

08/05.08.2026 I.A. No. 8711 of 2026

Heard Ms. Snehlika Bhagat, learned counsel for the appellant and learned A.P.P. for the State.

This interlocutory application has been preferred by the appellant for grant of bail to him during the pendency of this appeal.

The appellant has been convicted for the offence under Section 302 of I.P.C and has been sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for life along with a fine of Rs. 20,000/-.

It has been alleged that the informant and her sister were sitting in the courtyard along with their mother on 18.07.2019 when the appellant, in a drunken condition, appeared and assaulted the mother of the informant on the head from behind with a *tangi*, and thereafter threw the body into the well of Sudhir Toppo. When an alarm was raised, the villagers assembled, after which the appellant fled away, throwing the *tangi*.

Submission has been advanced by Ms. Snehlika Bhagat, learned counsel for the appellant, that though it is mentioned in the First Information Report that the incident had occurred in front of the informant, her sister as well as her sister-in-law, the informant, in her evidence as P.W.-1,

has categorically stated in her cross-examination that she is not an eye witness to the offence. It has been submitted that so far as P.W.-2 is concerned, she has also accepted the fact that the incident of the murder of her mother was narrated to her by her brother-in-law. Learned counsel submits that P.W.-3 claims herself to be an eye witness, but she has also stated that she was cleaning utensils near the tube well when the incident occurred, and that the distance between the tube well and the place of occurrence was about 200 meters, which would make it an impossibility for P.W.-3 to have witnessed the incident. It has been submitted that the medical report does not support the manner of assault as depicted by the witnesses. Learned counsel further submits that there is a discrepancy regarding the manner in which the dead body was found in the well. Learned counsel submits that there is a total dearth of evidence against the appellant and, there being absence of any eye witness to the incident, the appellant deserves to be released on bail. It has further been submitted that the appellant is in custody since 19.07.2019.

Learned A.P.P. has opposed the prayer for bail of the appellant.

There appears to be an improvement in the evidence of the witnesses, inasmuch as though it is stated that the informant and two other persons were in the courtyard when the incident took place, P.W.-1 and P.W.-2 have categorically stated that they had not witnessed the incident. So far as P.W.-3 is concerned, her cross-examination reveals that she was washing utensils at a place situated about 200 meters from the place where the incident had occurred, and therefore she cannot be said to be an eye witness to the incident. Save and except the

ocular evidence as described above, there is no other evidence which would indicate the complicity of the appellant in committing the murder of the mother of the informant.

Regard being had to the aforesaid facts, during the pendency of this appeal, the appellant is directed to be released on bail on furnishing bail bond of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) with two sureties of the like amount each, to the satisfaction of the learned Additional Sessions Judge-I, Simdega in connection with S.T. Case No. 182 of 2019 arising out of Simdega P.S. Case No. 82 of 2019 corresponding to G.R. Case No. 302 of 2019.

I.A. No. 8711 of 2026 stands disposed of.

(Rongon Mukhopadhyay, J.)

(Arun Kumar Rai, J.)

05.08.2026
Umesh-Abhishek/-