



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

JCRLA No. 240 of 2025

Bholanath Patra

.... ***Appellant***
Represented By Adv.

-versus-

State of Odisha

.... ***Respondent***
Represented By Adv.
Mr. Debaraj Mohanty, AGA.

CORAM:

**THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANASH RANJAN PATHAK
AND
THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SIBO SANKAR MISHRA**

ORDER

30.01.2026

(Hybrid mode)

Order No.

01. 1. This Criminal Appeal is received from jail, wherein it is pointed out that there is a delay of 7580 days in filing the same.
2. We took up a similar matter in JCRLA No.183 of 2025 (*Jatia Hembram Vrs. State of Odisha reported in 2025 LiveLaw (Ori) 156*) on 26.11.2025. It was brought to our notice by the D.G. of Prisons that during a special drive conducted by it more than 100 cases were detected, where the Criminal Appeals or Jail Criminal Appeals and numbers of the convicts were not available with the jail authorities and further, the convicts also could not furnish the details. Accordingly, arrangements were made to prefer Jail Criminal Appeals. He has also assured the Court that the track records of all the appeals, which are being filed by the convicts, either by their own arrangement or through Legal Aid counsels, the case numbers, the name of the counsel concerned, his/her contact number, the status of the interim



application including the bail application filed in the appeal would be maintained and proper information containing all such details shall be provided to the respective convicts. Learned D.G. has also assured that if any convict, who is detained in custody, states before the jail authority that he has made his own arrangement to file criminal appeal, the number of such appeal, name of the counsel and his/her contact number shall be ascertained, verified and the records thereof shall be kept for future reference.

3. Mr. Debaraj Mohanty, learned Additional Government Advocate, submits that this is one of such cases, where the appellant-convict had not preferred any appeal earlier and it could be detected after the said special drive.

4. The appellant has been sentenced to imprisonment for life, he is in jail custody and taking into account all these things including his financial condition, we are inclined to condone the said reported delay of 7580 days in filing the Jail Criminal Appeal.

5. Admit this appeal.

6. Call for the scanned copy of the Trial Court Records of C.T. Case No.03 of 2004 (S.T. Case No.44 of 2004) from the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Rairangpur.

7. Mr. Lalitendu Mishra (Enrolment No.O-1157/1995), who is an empanelled Legal Aid Counsel, is hereby appointed as the Advocate for the convict-appellant to argue the Appeal on his behalf.

8. Registry is directed to intimate the convict-appellant about the engagement of the counsel. Registry shall supply a



scanned copy of the appeal along with the Trial Court Records to Mr. Lalitendu Mishra, learned Advocate for the convict-appellant, at the earliest.

9. Registry shall reflect the name of Mr. Lalitendu Mishra, learned Legal Aid Counsel appearing for the convict-appellant, in the case brief as well as the cause list.

10. Learned Counsel for the State shall apprise the Court on the next date of listing, about the criminal antecedents of the appellant and also about his conduct in jail.

11. By the next date of listing, learned State Counsel shall obtain the scanned copy of the relevant Case Diary as well as the Custody Certificate of the appellant.

12. List this matter in the week commencing from 27th April, 2026 for orders.

***(Manash Ranjan Pathak),
Judge***

***(Sibo Sankar Mishra),
Judge***

Narayan/ Ranjeeta