

**HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE FOR RAJASTHAN AT
JODHPUR**

D.B. Special Appeal Writ No. 1404/2025

1. State Of Rajasthan, Through The Secretary, Department Of Rural Development And Panchayati Raj Department, Jaipur.
2. The Additional Commissioner And Joint Secretary, Rural Development And Panchayati Raj Department, Jaipur, Rajasthan.
3. The Chief Executive Officer, Zila Parishad Nagaur, District Nagaur, Rajasthan.
4. The Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Didwana, District Nagaur, Rajasthan.

----Appellants

Versus

Agar Chand S/o Shri Bhanwar Lal, Aged About 47 Years, Vpo Fogari, Tehsil Didwana, District Nagaur, Rajasthan.

----Respondent

For Appellant(s)	:	Mr. Pawan Bharti for Mr. I.R. Choudhary, AAG
For Respondent(s)	:	

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN MONGA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP SHAH

Order(Oral)

07/05/2026

Per : Arun Monga, J.

1. Applicant seeks condonation of colossal delay of 1111 days (more than 3 years) in filing the accompanied appeal against order and judgment dated 20.07.2022 passed by learned Single Judge in S.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 6921/2022, whereby the learned Single Judge allowed the writ petition in terms of ***Satdev v. State of Rajasthan & Ors.*¹**, directing the appellants to consider the respondent's representation and grant notional benefits from the date similarly placed persons were appointed. For the reasons stated hereinafter, this is not a fit case where discretion to condone the delay ought to be exercised.

¹ C.W.P. No. 9899/2019, Rajasthan High Court

2. The explanation given in the application for seeking condonation is totally mechanical and there seems to be no application of mind. No specific details or day to day explanation have been given as to why the matter remained pending.

3. For ready reference paras No.1 to 5 of the application are as below:

"1.That the Appellants has been filed an Special Writ Appeal before this Court, due to some extraneous reasons, the said Appeal could not be filed within the stipulated period; therefore, the present application is being filed before this Court for condonation of the delay, occurred in the filing of the writ within limitation.

2.That the writ court vide its order dated 20.07.2022, has allowed the writ petition passed an non-speaking order and allowed the writ petition of the Respondent/petitioner ex-parte.

3.That the appellants have filed a delayed Special Appeal against the order dated 20.07.2022 for quashing the said order and the same is based on strong and good grounds and there is every possibility of its success.

4.That the impugned judgment dated 20.07.2022 was passed ex-parte thus, the appellant were unaware about the aforesaid decision, thereafter, when the notice of the Contempt petition no. WCP no. 959/2023 filed by the petitioner was received for the non-compliance of the order dated 20.07.2022, then only it came into knowledge of the appellant department regarding passing of such decision. Thereafter, a certified copy of judgment dated 20.07.2022 was applied and sent the same to the Appellant department. Thereafter, the legal opinion was sought from the government counsel in regard to challenge the judgment dated 20.07.2022 before the Division Bench and pursuant to that, a decision was taken to file Special Appeal challenging the order dated 20.07.2022, and accordingly, the Appellants, in order to take a legal recourse, has appointed Officer-In-charge to file Special Appeal and accordingly, Thereafter, the above Special Appeal is being prepared and now filed this special appeal for assailing the order dated 20.07.2022 without any further delay.

5. That the delay caused in filing the Special Appeal has taken place because the impugned judgment dated 20.07.2022 was passed ex-parte thus, the appellant were unaware about the aforesaid decision. Thereafter, when the notice of the Contempt petition no. WCP no.959/2023 filed by the petitioner was received for the non-compliance of the order dated 20.07.2022, then only it came into knowledge of the appellant department regarding passing of such decision. Therefore, the delay is unintentional and deserves to be condoned in the interest of justice."

4. It has been averred that the delay in filing the present Special Appeal has occurred due to bona fide and unavoidable circumstances, as the impugned order dated 20.07.2022 was passed ex-parte and the appellant department had no knowledge of the same until receipt of notice in Contempt Petition No. WCP No.959/2023 regarding non-

compliance of the said order. Thereafter, the certified copy of the judgment was applied for and obtained, legal opinion was sought from the Government Counsel, and the matter underwent administrative processing for obtaining approval and appointment of Officer-in-Charge to file the appeal. Consequently, after completion of the procedural formalities, the present appeal has been filed without further delay.

5. No doubt in deserving case, Courts are liberal to grant indulgence but instant is not a case of such kind.

6. It is a settled position in law that delay confers crystallized rights in favour of a litigant by virtue of law of limitation. Delay and laches since result in freezing of the vested rights in a party, which seeks enforcement of the same, the said right cannot be taken away unless there is a sufficient cause shown by the party seeking condonation of delay.

7. Having gone through the contents of the application under Section 5 of the Limitation Act seeking condonation of delay, it transpires that not only a completely beaten up stand has been taken therein justifying the delay in the most mechanical and nonchalant manner, but, even otherwise, it lacks the necessary particulars.

8. Qua the law applicable on condonation of delay, reference may be had to Apex Court judgment in **Ramlal and others Vs. Rewa Coalfields Ltd.**² Relevant extract of the same is reproduced hereinbelow:-

"7. In construing Section 5 it is relevant to bear in mind two important considerations. The first consideration is that the expiration of the period of limitation prescribed for making an appeal gives rise to a right in favour of decree holder to treat the decree as binding between the parties. In other words, when the period of limitation prescribed has expired the decree holder has obtained a benefit under the law of limitation to treat the decree as beyond challenge and this legal right which has accrued to the decree holder by lapse of time should not be lightly disturbed. The other consideration which cannot be ignored is that if sufficient cause for excusing delay is shown discretion is given to the Court to condone delay and admit the appeal. This discretion has been deliberately conferred on the

2 1962 AIR (SC) 361

Court in order that judicial power and discretion in trial behalf should be exercised to advance substantial justice."

9. Reference may also be had to another Apex Court judgment in **Ajit Singh Thakur Singh v. State of Gujarat**,³ wherein it is observed

thus:-

".....it is true that a party is entitled to wait until the last day of limitation for filing an appeal, but when it allows limitation to expire and pleads sufficient cause for not filing the appeal earlier, the sufficient cause must establish that because of some event or circumstance arising before limitation expired it was not possible to file the appeal within time. No event or circumstance arising after the expiry of limitation can constitute such sufficient cause. There may be events or circumstances subsequent to the expiry of limitation which may further delay the filing of the appeal, but that the limitations has been allowed to expire without the appeal being filed must be traced to a cause arising within the period of limitation. In the present case, there was no such cause, and the High Court erred in condoning the delay."

10. In **Government of Maharashtra (Water Resource Department) Vs. Borse Brothers Engineers and Contractors Private Limited**⁴. Hon'ble the Supreme Court once again held as

under:-

"59. Likewise, merely because the Government is involved, a different yardstick for condonation of delay cannot be laid down. This was felicitously stated in Postmaster General v. Living Media (India) Ltd.⁷⁰ "Postmaster General"], as follows: (SCC pp. 573-74. paras 27-29).

27. It is not in dispute that the person(s) concerned were well aware or conversant with the issues involved including the prescribed period of limitation for taking up the matter by way of filing a special leave petition in this Court. They cannot claim that they have a separate period of limitation when the Department was possessed with competent persons familiar with court proceedings. In the absence of plausible and acceptable explanation, we are posing a question why the delay is to be condoned mechanically merely because the Government or a wing of the Government is a party before us.

28. Though we are conscious of the fact that in a matter of condonation of delay when there was no gross negligence or deliberate inaction or lack of bona fides, a liberal concession has to be adopted to advance substantial justice, we are of the view that in the facts and circumstances. the Department cannot take advantage of various earlier decisions. The claim on account of impersonal machinery and inherited bureaucratic methodology of making several notes cannot be accepted in view of the modern technologies being used and available. The law of limitation undoubtedly binds everybody, including the Government.

29. In our view, it is the right time to inform all the government bodies, their agencies and instrumentalities that unless they have reasonable and acceptable explanation for the delay and there was bona fide effort, there is no need to accept the usual explanation that the file was kept pending for several months/years due to considerable degree of procedural red tape in the process. The government departments are under a special obligation to ensure that they perform their duties with

³ AIR 1981 SC 733

⁴ 2021 SCC OnLine SC 233

diligence and commitment. Condonation of delay is an exception and should not be used as an anticipated benefit for the government departments. The law shelters everyone under the same light and should not be swirled for the benefit of a few."

11. In another recent Apex Court judgment in **Shivamma (dead) by Lrs Vs. Karnataka Housing Board & Ors.**⁵, it is observed thus:-

"XXXXX

XXXXX

XXXXX

261. Thus, for the reasons aforesaid, the impugned order of the High Court deserves to be set aside. Before we proceed to close this judgment, we deem it appropriate to make it abundantly clear that administrative lethargy and laxity can never stand as a sufficient ground for condonation of delay, and we want to convey an emphatic message to all the High Courts that delays shall not be condoned on frivolous and superficial grounds, until a proper case of sufficient cause is made out, wherein the State-machinery is able to establish that it acted with bona fides and remained vigilant all throughout. Procedure is a handmaid to justice, as is famously said. But courts, and more particularly the constitutional courts, ought not to obviate the procedure for a litigating State agency, who also equally suffer the bars of limitation from pursuing litigations due to its own lackadaisical attitude.

262. The High Courts ought not give a legitimizing effect to such callous attitude of State authorities or its instrumentalities, and should remain extra cautious, if the party seeking condonation of delay is a State-authority. They should not become surrogates for State laxity and lethargy. The constitutional courts ought to be cognizant of the apathy and pangs of a private litigant. Litigants cannot be placed in situations of perpetual litigations, wherein the fruits of their decrees or favourable orders are frustrated at later stages. We are at pains to reiterate this everlasting trend, and put all the High Courts to notice, not to reopen matters with inordinate delay, until sufficient cause exists, as by doing so the courts only add insult to the injury, more particularly in appeals under Section 100 of the CPC, wherein its jurisdiction is already limited to questions of law.

263. Limitation periods are prescribed to maintain a sweeping scope for the lis to attain for finality. More than the importance of judicial time, what worries us is the plight of a litigant with limited means, who is to contest against an enormous State, and its elaborate and never-exhausting paraphernalia. Such litigations deserve to be disposed of at the very threshold, because, say if a party litigating against the State, for whatever reason, is unable to contest the condonation of delay in appeal, unlike the present case, it reopens the lis for another round of litigation, and leaves such litigant listless yet again. As courts of conscience, it is our obligation that we assure that a litigant is not sent from pillar to post to seek justice.

264. No litigant should be permitted to be so lethargic and apathetic, much less be permitted by the courts to misuse the process of law."

12. Aforesaid position in law dissuades us to grant any judicial latitude to the appellant/State.

13. In the premise, since the appeal is not maintainable on the ground of delay, no ground to hear the main appeal on merits is made out.

14. Both, the application for condonation of delay as well as main appeal are dismissed.

15. All pending application(s) shall also stand disposed of.

(SANDEEP SHAH),J

(ARUN MONGA),J

12-Anshul/-