

ITEM NO.27

COURT NO.6

SECTION II-B

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s). 868/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 22-12-2025 in CRLMC No. 1345/2024 passed by the High Court of Orissa at Cuttack]

MAHESWAR SETHY @ SETHI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF ODISHA & ANR.

Respondent(s)

FOR ADMISSION

IA No. 14334/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 23-01-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K.V. VISWANATHAN

For Petitioner(s) :

Dr. Rajesh Pandey, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Ayushi Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Rishabh, Adv.
Ms. Aswathi M.k., AOR

For Respondent(s) :

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. Exemption application is allowed.
2. One more shocking case has come up before us where the accused person could be said to have successfully stalled the trial for the offence of rape for a period of more than 17 years. In this period of 17 years, the victim passed away and also six prosecution witnesses.
3. We wonder what is now left for the prosecution. How is

the prosecution going to establish its case against the accused.

4. Both the High Court of Orissa and the Trial Court owes an explanation why the trial has not proceeded till this point of time. The Registrar General of the High Court shall call for a detailed explanation of the Trial Court.

5. Issue notice, returnable on 25.02.2026.

6. We want the prosecution, i.e., the State to explain why there is a delay of 17 years in the conduct of the trial.

(HARPREET KAUR)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(POOJA SHARMA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)