



**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

**CRIMINAL APPEAL NO.            of 2026**  
**[ARISING OUT OF SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRL.)**  
**NO.1038/2026**

**SANJU BANJARE**

**APPELLANT(S)**

**VERSUS**

**THE STATE OF CHHATTISGARH**

**RESPONDENT(S)**

**O R D E R**

1. Leave granted.
2. Heard learned counsel for the parties.
3. This appeal arises from an order dated 04.12.2025 passed by the High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur rejecting the regular bail prayer of the appellant in connection with Crime No.360/2025 registered at PS Simga, District Baloda Bazar, Bhatapara (C.G.).
4. The submission of the learned counsel for the appellant is that the appellant is not named in the First Information Report

(FIR); the complicity of the appellant has come to light on the basis of confessional statement of the co-accused which has no evidentiary value; the appellant has no criminal antecedents except one under the Excise Act in which he has already been acquitted and by now he has suffered incarceration for a period exceeding one year. It has also been submitted that there are sixteen accused including juvenile out of which eight have been granted bail. In such circumstances, it is prayed that the appellant should be released on bail.

5. The learned counsel for the State has opposed the prayer for bail but could not dispute that the appellant was not named in the FIR and that eight co-accused have been granted bail.

6. Having regard to the above, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, we are of the view that the appellant is entitled to be released on

bail, at this stage.

7. The appeal is, accordingly, allowed. The order passed by the High Court rejecting the bail prayer of the appellant is set aside.

8. The appellant shall be released on bail on such terms and conditions as the trial court may deem fit to impose in the facts and circumstances of the case.

9. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

.....J  
[MANOJ MISRA]

.....J  
[MANMOHAN]

New Delhi  
March 16, 2026

ITEM NO.5

COURT NO.14

SECTION II-C

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.)  
No.1038/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 04-12-2025 in MCRC No. 9893/2025 passed by the High Court of Chhatisgarh at Bilaspur]

SANJU BANJARE

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Respondent(s)

IA No. 17796/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF  
THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No. 17798/2026 -  
EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 16-03-2026 This matter was called on for  
hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANMOHAN

For Petitioner(s) :

Mr. Manish Kumar Choudhary, Adv.  
Ms. Srishti Choudhary, Adv.  
Ms. Shefali Choudhary, Adv.  
Ms. Namita Choudhary, AOR

For Respondent(s) :

Mrs. Prerna Dhall, Adv.  
Mr. Ambuj Swaroop, Adv.

Mr. Vishwas Sharma, Adv.  
Mr. Kapil Katare, Adv.  
Ms. Rajnandani Kumari, Adv.  
Mr. Saksham Gahoi, Adv.  
Mr. Prashant Singh, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. Leave granted.
2. The appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order which is placed on the file. The operative portion of the signed order reads thus:

"7. The appeal is, accordingly, allowed. The order passed by the High Court rejecting the bail prayer of the appellant is set aside.

8. The appellant shall be released on bail on such terms and conditions as the trial court may deem fit to impose in the facts and circumstances of the case."

3. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(KAVITA PAHUJA)  
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(SAPNA BANSAL)  
COURT MASTER (NSH)