



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

**CRIMINAL APPEAL No.1344/2026
[Arising out of SLP (Crl.) No.1644/2026]**

BHANU PRATAP PRASAD APPELLANT

VERSUS

**THE DIRECTORATE OF RESPONDENT
ENFORCEMENT**

ORDER

1. Leave granted.
2. The High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi, by the impugned judgment and order dated 26th November, 2025, has rejected the appellant's prayer for bail.
3. Appellant, figuring as an accused in ECIR Case No.1 of 2023 arising out of ECIR/RNZO/18/2022 dated 21st October, 2022 registered for offence(s) under Sections 3 and 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act,

2002, was arrested on 14th April, 2023.

4. We have heard Mrs. Anjana Prakash, learned senior counsel appearing for the appellant as well as Mr. Suryaprakash V. Raju, learned Additional Solicitor General appearing for the respondent.

5. Trial is in progress. Evidence of 5 (five) out of the 31 (thirty-one) witnesses the prosecution proposes to examine has been recorded.

6. That apart, it is not in dispute that 9 (nine) co-accused have been enlarged on bail pursuant to orders passed by this Court as well as by the High Court which includes a Deputy Commissioner who, it is alleged, received bribe from the appellant, a revenue inspector.

7. Keeping all these aspects in perspective and in the facts and circumstances of the present case, we are of the considered opinion that further detention of the appellant pending trial is

not necessary; and, since the appeal deserves acceptance, the appellant may be admitted to an order for grant of bail.

8. Accordingly, we set aside the impugned judgment and order.

9. Appellant shall be released on bail, subject to furnishing of bail bonds to the satisfaction of the trial court and such other terms and conditions as may be imposed by it.

10. In the event there is any breach of the terms and conditions for grant of bail, the trial court shall be at liberty to cancel the bail of the appellant.

11. Appellant shall diligently participate in the trial and shall appear before the trial court on the dates fixed, unless exempted; and should the appellant fail to appear on any date without justifiable cause or breach any of the terms and conditions for grant of bail, the trial court shall

be at liberty to cancel the bail.

12. We clarify that the observations made in this order and grant of bail will not be treated as findings on the merits of the case.

13. The appeal is, accordingly, allowed on the aforesaid terms.

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

.....J.
(DIPANKAR DATTA)

.....J.
(PRASANNA B. VARALE)

**New Delhi;
March 13, 2026.**

ITEM NO.9

COURT NO.8

SECTION II-A

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

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.)
No(s).1644/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 26-11-2025 in BA No.7872/2025 passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi]

BHANU PRATAP PRASAD

Petitioner

VERSUS

THE DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT

Respondent

Date : 13-03-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DIPANKAR DATTA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRASANNA B. VARALE

For Petitioner(s) :Mrs. Anjana Prakash, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Anuj Prakaash, Adv.
Mr. Niraj Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Pradum Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Anshuman Dwivedi, Adv.
Mr. Kumar Mihir, AOR

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Suryaprakash V. Raju, A.S.G.
Mr. Zoheb Hussain, Adv.
Mr. Annam Venkatesh, Adv.
Mr. Samrat Goswami, Adv.

**Mr. Hitarth Raja, Adv.
Mr. Animesh Upadhyay, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR
Ms. Anushka Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Aakriti Mishra, Adv.**

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

**(RASHMI DHYANI PANT) (SUDHIR KUMAR SHARMA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS COURT MASTER (NSH)
(signed order is placed on the file)**