



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

**CRIMINAL APPEAL No.1978/2026
[Arising out of SLP (Crl.) No.3295/2026]**

SHASHANK CHOPDA APPELLANT

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH RESPONDENT

WITH

**CRIMINAL APPEAL No.1979/2026
[Arising out of SLP (Crl.) No.5375/2026]**

KAMAL KANT PATANWAR APPELLANT

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH RESPONDENT

ORDER

1. Leave granted.
2. The High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur¹, by its judgment and order dated 10th February, 2026 rejected the prayer for bail of Shashank

¹ High Court, hereafter

Chopda². A similar prayer for bail made by Kamal Kant Patanwar³ stood rejected by a previous order of the High Court dated 07th October, 2025. Denial of bail to Chopda and Patanwar is assailed in these two appeals.

3. Appellants - Chopda and Patanwar - figure as accused in FIR No.05/2025 dated 22nd January, 2025 registered at Police Station EOW Raipur, District Raipur for offence(s) under Sections 409 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and under Sections 13(1)(a) and 13(2) read with Section 7(c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

4. Chopda and Patanwar were arrested on 28th January, 2025 and 03rd April, 2025, respectively.

5. We have heard Mr. Rohatgi, learned senior counsel for Chopda, Mr. Naik, learned senior counsel for Patanwar, and Mr. Shukla, learned counsel for the respondent.

6. It is not in dispute that the appellants have

² Chopda, hereafter

³ Patanwar, hereafter

not been interrogated even once while in judicial custody.

7. During investigation, relevant documents/records have been seized. Chargesheet has been filed arraigning the appellants as accused on 25th April, 2025. Prosecution proposes to primarily rely on documentary evidence to drive home the charges against the appellants. That apart, multiple witnesses (more than 75) are also proposed to be examined. The trial has not commenced because the investigation against co-accused has not concluded. Thus, it will take some time to conclude.

8. Taking an overall view of the matter including the role attributed to the appellants, we are of the considered opinion that further detention of the appellants pending trial, in view of the peculiar facts and circumstances, is not necessary; and, since the appeals deserve acceptance, the appellants may be admitted to

an order for grant of bail.

9. Accordingly, we set aside the impugned judgments and orders.

10. Appellants 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.

11. 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 appellants.

12. Appellants shall diligently participate in the trial and appear before the trial court on the dates fixed, unless exempted; and should the appellants 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.

13. 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.

14. The appeals are, accordingly, allowed on the aforesaid terms.

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

16. Since this order has been made in view of the peculiar facts and circumstances recorded above, the same by itself will not afford ground for any co-accused to claim the relief of bail basing thereon.

.....J.
(DIPANKAR DATTA)

.....J.
(SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA)

**New Delhi;
April 17, 2026.**

ITEM NO.4

COURT NO.8

SECTION II-C

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).3295/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order
dated 10-02-2026 in MCRC No.1433/2026 passed by the
High Court of Chhatisgarh at Bilaspur]

SHASHANK CHOPDA

Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Respondent

I.A. No.58299/2026-EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE
IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

I.A. No.58301/2026-EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

WITH

SLP(Crl) No. 5375/2026 (II-C)

I.A. No.55033/2026-EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE
IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

I.A. No.55036/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 17-04-2026 These matters were called on for
hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DIPANKAR DATTA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Aggarwal, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Kumar Vaibhaw, Adv.
Mr. P. Roychaudhuri, Adv.
Ms. Devina Sehgal, AOR
Mr. Puranjay Bhatt, Adv.
Mr. Somaya Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Sabir Kachhi, Adv.
Ms. Priti Verma, Adv.

Mr. Prakash D. Naik, Sr. Adv.
Dr. Ravindra Chingale, Adv.
Mr. Himanshu Pandey, Adv.
Ms. Sumbul Ausaf, Adv.
Mr. Rajvansh Singh, Adv.
Mr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Parimal Wagh, Adv.
Mr. Ravindra Sadanand Chingale, AOR

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Ravi Sharma, Dy. AAG
Mr. Apoorv Shukla, AOR
Mr. Prabhleen Shukla, Adv.
Mr. Praphull Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Ilashri Gaur, Adv.

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

1. Leave granted.
2. The appeals are 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)