



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NOS. _____ OF 2026
(@SLP(CRL.) NOS.1834-1835 OF 2026)

YOGENDRA SHARMA @ LAL MAHARAJ @ BHARRA APPELLANT(S)
VERSUS
STATE OF CHHATTISGARH RESPONDENT(S)

WITH

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ 2026
(@SLP(CRL.) NO. 7147 OF 2026)

O R D E R

1. Leave granted.

2. Appellants, who have been arraigned as accused in FIR Nos. 66/2025, 91/2025 and 174/2025 for the offences punishable under Sections 6 of the Chhattisgarh Gambling (Prohibition) Act, 2022 and Section 112 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) are seeking for grant of anticipatory bail.

3. Having heard the learned counsels appearing for the parties, we notice that the appellants were not apprehended at the spot and had been implicated on the basis of the statement of the co-accused who are said to have stated that appellants are the organisers of the gambling activity and were receiving money through UPI transactions. Both the courts have denied the prayer on the ground of *prima facie* involvement of appellants and also having regard to their criminal antecedents.

4. Learned counsel appearing for the respondent-State would also submit that appellants have been taking inconsistent stands namely with regard to their mobile phones and at the first instance, they stated that it was not to be found and subsequently they stated that it had drowned in the water and thereby they are attempting to mislead the investigation.

5. Though this fact is clearly evident from the affidavit filed by the appellants, we are of the considered view that the interim protection granted in favour of the appellants

deserves to be continued or in other words anticipatory bail deserves to be granted subject to stringent conditions being imposed on the appellants.

6. Hence, appeals are allowed. Impugned orders are set aside. We direct the Investigation Officer (IO) to release the appellants on anticipatory bail on such terms and conditions as he deems fit including the following conditions:

(i) both the appellants shall appear before the jurisdictional IO on every Thursday between 11:00 am to 01:00 pm and mark their attendance with the respective jurisdictional police station till conclusion of the trial;

(ii) both the appellants shall also appear before the trial court(s) on all dates of hearing except when exempted for any specific reason.

7. In case either of the conditions being violated, the respondent-State would be at liberty to seek cancellation of anticipatory bail before the jurisdictional trial court(s).

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

.....J.
(ARAVIND KUMAR)

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

New Delhi;
May 15, 2026.

ITEM NO.2

COURT NO.15

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). 1834-
1835/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 02-
01-2026 in MCRCA No. 1947/2025 02-01-2026 in MCRCA No.
1948/2025 passed by the High Court of Chhatisgarh at
Bilaspur]

YOGENDRA SHARMA @ LAL MAHARAJ @ BHARRA Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Respondent(s)

IA No. 32481/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE
IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 32482/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM
FILING O.T.

WITH

SLP(Crl) No. 7147/2026 (II-C)

IA No. 121239/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE
IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 121243/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM
FILING O.T.

Date : 15-05-2026 These matters were called on for hearing
today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARAVIND KUMAR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRASANNA B. VARALE

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Sanjay Nuli, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Mohit Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Sandeep Gupta, Adv.
Mr. R. Sharath, AOR

For Respondent(s) :Ms. Sugandha Jain, standing counsel, Adv.
Mr. Prabodh Kumar, AOR

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

1. Leave granted.
2. Appeals are allowed in terms of the Signed Order placed on the file.
3. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(RASHI GUPTA)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)