



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2026
(Arising out of SLP(CRL.) No.2042/2026)

BHANU PRATAP PRASAD

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

THE DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

1. Leave granted.
2. The appellant is a former Revenue Sub-Inspector, who is alleged to have facilitated an organised land-grabbing syndicate, which fraudulently acquired and dealt with valuable parcels of land, including 8.86 acres and 4.83 acres of high value properties at Bargain, Bariyatu Road in Ranchi. He is also, consequently, one of the accused in ECIR/RNZO/25/2023 dated 26.06.2023 registered by the Directorate of Enforcement on the basis of the predicated offence of land grabbing and consequential money-laundering.

3. The appellant was arrested on 03.02.2024 and has been in custody since then. There are 15 accused in all. It seems that the principal/main accused persons have already been granted bail by the High Court or this Court, and thus, except for the appellant, all other co-accused are presently on bail.

4. We have heard learned senior counsel for the appellant and learned Additional Solicitor General of India on behalf of the Directorate of Enforcement.

5. Considering the period already spent by the appellant in custody, the time required to conclude the trial, and the total sentence as prescribed for the offence allegedly committed by the appellant or his co-accused, without expressing any opinion on the merits, we are satisfied that the appellant also deserves to be released on bail. Ordered accordingly.

6. The instant appeal is allowed. The impugned order of the High Court dated 26.11.2025 is set aside, and the appellant is directed to be enlarged on bail subject to his furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the Trial Court.

7. The appellant, however, shall remain present before the Trial Court on each and every date of hearing unless such appearance is exempted by the Trial Court. He shall

also abide by all such terms and conditions that may be imposed by the Trial Court.

.....CJI.
(SURYA KANT)

.....J.
(R. MAHADEVAN)

.....J.
(JOYMALYA BAGCHI)

NEW DELHI;
MARCH 10, 2026

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).2042/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 26-11-2025 in BA No.8888/2025 passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi]

BHANU PRATAP PRASAD

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT

Respondent(s)

Date : 10-03-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

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

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Anil Kaushik, A.S.G.
Mr. Pranjal Singh, Adv.
Mr. Zoheb Hussain, Adv.
Mr. Arkaj Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Astha Singh, 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 temrs of the signed order.
3. All pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(signed order is placed on the filed)

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR