

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO(S). OF 2026
(@ SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRL.) NO(S).3025/2026)

ATUL BANGRE

APPELLANT

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH & ANR.

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

Leave granted.

2. Learned counsel appearing for the appellant submitted that the appellant and the victim-respondent No.2 have since married; that the photographs of the marriage ceremony and the certificate of marriage are also annexed; that they are happily living together. In the circumstances, a joint application has been filed by the appellant and the victim-respondent No.2 who is now his wife for seeking quashing of FIR No.129 of 2022 registered on 21.04.2022 at PS Lanji, District Balaghat under Sections 363, 366-A, and 376 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Sections 3(2)(v), 3(2)(va), 3(1)(w) of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989; and Sections 3 and 4 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. Consequently, the criminal

proceedings in S.C. ATR No.78 of 2022 as well as the judgment of conviction and sentence dated 11.12.2023 may be quashed. Consequently, the appellant may be discharged of all offences that were charged against him and on which he was convicted in exercise of powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India as has been done in similar cases by this Court under similar circumstances.

3. *Per contra*, learned standing counsel for the respondent-State submitted that this Court may take note of the fact that at the relevant point of time the second respondent-victim was in fact a minor girl of sixteen years and she was lured by the appellant herein and hence the FIR was rightly lodged and the judgment of conviction and sentence is justified; that the appellant has no case on merits before the High Court and hence the High Court was justified in dismissing his application seeking suspension of sentences. Therefore, this Court may not exercise its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India.

4. We have considered the arguments advanced at the bar.

5. We have taken note of the fact that a joint application has been filed by the appellant as well as respondent No.2 his wife, seeking quashing of FIR.

No.129 of 2022; the criminal proceedings that were initiated against the appellant herein; and the judgment of conviction and sentence.

6. We note that although victim-respondent No.2 may have been a minor at the relevant point of time, one cannot lose sight of the fact that the appellant and respondent No.2 are since married and are stated to be leading a happily married life.

7. In the circumstances, we find that this is a fit case where our powers under Article 142 of Constitution of India ought to be exercised in order to do complete justice not only to the appellant herein but also to respondent No.2. Any continuation of the incarceration of the appellant at this stage would not only be a harassment to him but also to respondent No.2 who is no longer interested in prosecuting her husband (appellant herein) as there has been a reconciliation and in fact a marriage between the parties. The appellant and respondent No.2 are now husband and wife.

8. In the circumstances, we should exercise our powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India. Consequently, FIR No.129 of 2022 and the sessions trial leading up to the judgment of conviction and sentence, are hereby quashed. The appellant is

discharged of all the offences alleged against him under the said FIR.

9. The joint application filed under Article 142 of the Constitution of India is, hence, allowed.

10. Consequently, this appeal is allowed by setting aside the impugned order dated 13.10.2025.

11. Further, in view of the aforesaid order, we hold that Criminal Appeal No.15783 of 2023 pending on the file of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has also been rendered infructuous and hence stands disposed of.

This appeal is allowed and disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

....., J
(B.V. NAGARATHNA)

....., J
(UJJAL BHUYAN)

NEW DELHI;
MARCH 10, 2026.

ITEM NO.3

COURT NO.4

SECTION II-E

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).3025/2026

[ARISING OUT OF IMPUGNED FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER DATED 13-10-2025 IN IA NO. 910/2025 PASSED BY THE HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH PRINCIPAL SEAT AT JABALPUR]

ATUL BANGRE

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH & ANR.

RESPONDENT(S)

IA NO. 49145/2026 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING

IA NO. 49147/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

IA NO. 49148/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA NO. 49150/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

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

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

For Petitioner(s) : Miss Tanya Raizada, AOR
Mr. Padmesh Mishra, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Abhimanyu Singh, Adv.
Mr. Harmeet Singh Ruprah, AOR

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

Leave granted.

Appeal is allowed and disposed of in terms of the signed order, which is placed on file.

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

(B. LAKSHMI MANIKYA VALLI)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(DIVYA BABBAR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)