



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2026
(@ SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRL.) NO(S).2797 OF 2026)

SUDHIR KUMAR SINGH

APPELLANT

VERSUS

THE STATE OF JHARKHAND

RESPONDENT

O R D E R

Leave granted.

This appeal challenges the order dated 20.01.2026 passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi in A.B.A No. 5781 of 2025.

This criminal appeal arises out of crime registered pursuant to FIR No.09/2025 dated 06.08.2025 registered with P.S. Anti-Corruption Bureau Hazaribagh, Dist. Ranchi in respect of offences punishable under Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, and 120B of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 13(1)(c) and 13(a)(d) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Anticipating arrest in connection with this crime, the appellant preferred A.B.A No. 5781 of 2025 for anticipatory bail before the High Court. Said application having been rejected by the High Court *vide* impugned order dated 20.01.2026, the appellant has preferred the instant appeal.

By order dated 18.02.2026, this Court issued notice in the instant matter and also directed that no coercive steps shall be taken as against the appellant provided he cooperates in the investigation.

We have heard learned counsel for the appellant in support of the appeal and learned counsel for the respondent-State.

Learned senior counsel for the appellant submitted that the appellant has been cooperating with the investigation and he also appeared before the investigating officer on 24.02.2026 and thereafter he has not been summoned; that by interim order dated 18.02.2026 this Court had granted interim protection. In the circumstances, the interim

protection may be made absolute subject to the terms to be imposed on the appellant.

Learned counsel for the respondent-State also acknowledged the fact that the appellant has been cooperating with the investigation and in the circumstances she submitted that appropriate orders may be made in the appeal.

Considering the circumstances on record, in our view, the appellant is entitled to the relief of anticipatory bail.

We, therefore, allow this appeal and set aside the order passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi in A.B.A No.5781 of 2025 dated 20.01.2026.

We direct that in the event of arrest of the appellant, the Arresting Officer shall release the appellant on bail, subject to furnishing cash security in the sum of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand only) with two like sureties.

It is directed that the appellant shall extend complete cooperation in the ensuing investigation.

The appellant shall not misuse his liberty and shall not in any way influence the witnesses or tamper with the material on record.

With the aforesaid directions, the Criminal Appeal is allowed.

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

....., J.
(UJJAL BHUYAN)

NEW DELHI;
MARCH 25, 2026.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2026
(@ SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRL.) NO(S).1859 OF 2026)

VIJAY PRATAP SINGH

APPELLANT

VERSUS

THE STATE OF JHARKHAND

RESPONDENT

O R D E R

Leave granted.

This appeal challenges the order dated 07.01.2026 passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi in Bail Application No.10414 of 2025.

This criminal appeal arises out of crime registered pursuant to FIR No.09/2025 dated 06.08.2025 lodged with PS AC, Div: Sadar, District Hazaribagh, registered under Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ("IPC") and Sections 13(1)(c), 13(1)(d) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The appellant preferred an application for regular bail through Bail Application No. 10414/2025 before the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi.

By impugned order dated 07.01.2026, the High Court rejected the plea for regular bail. Therefore, the instant appeal has been preferred.

By order dated 06.02.2026, this Court issued notice in the instant matter.

We have heard learned counsel for the appellant in support of the appeal and learned counsel for the respondent-State.

Learned senior counsel for the appellant submitted that the appellant in this case is similarly placed to the appellant in the appeal arising out of SLP (Crl.) No.2797 of 2026 in which case this Court had granted the relief of anticipatory bail. However, the appellant in this case has been in jail since 05.10.2025; that the investigation is completed and final report has been filed. In the circumstances, continuation of the appellant in jail may not be in the interest of justice. He, therefore, submitted that the impugned order may be set aside and the relief of bail may be granted to the appellant herein subject to the terms and conditions that may be imposed.

Per contra, learned counsel for the respondent-State with reference to the counter

affidavit contended that the allegations as against the appellant herein are serious in nature. In the circumstances, the relief of bail may not be granted to him or otherwise, the criminal proceeding would be frustrated. He therefore, submitted that there is no merit in this appeal and the same may be dismissed.

Considering the facts on record, in our view, the case for regular bail is made out.

We, therefore, allow this appeal and direct as under:

“The appellant shall be produced before the concerned Trial Court as early as possible and the Trial Court shall release him on bail, subject to such conditions as it may deem appropriate to impose to ensure his presence in the proceedings arising out of FIR No. 09/2025 mentioned above.”

It is directed that the appellant shall extend complete cooperation in the ensuing trial.

The appellant shall not misuse his liberty and shall not in any way influence the witnesses or tamper with the material on record.

The appellant shall deposit the passport, if any, before the concerned Sessions Court.

In the event of there being any breach of

the conditions, liberty is reserved to the respondent-State to seek cancellation of the bail that has been granted to the appellant.

With the aforesaid directions, the appeal is allowed.

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

....., J.
(UJJAL BHUYAN)

NEW DELHI;
MARCH 25, 2026.

ITEM NO.5

COURT NO.4

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).
2797/2026

[ARISING OUT OF IMPUGNED FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER
DATED 20-01-2026 IN ABA NO. 5781/2025 PASSED BY THE
HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI]

SUDHIR KUMAR SINGH

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF JHARKHAND

RESPONDENT(S)

IA NO. 50209/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE
IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

IA NO. 50210/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

WITH

SLP(CRL) NO. 1859/2026 (II-A)

IA NO. 33046/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

SLP(CRL) NO. 3317/2026 (II-A)

FOR ADMISSION

Date : 25-03-2026 These matters were called on for
hearing today.

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

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Rohit Kumar Singh, AOR
Mr. Ajit Singh, Adv.
Ms. Anukriti Tiwary, Adv.
Mr. Shrish Kohli, Adv.
Mr. Shubham Sahota, Adv.
Ms. Rewant Singh, Adv.
Mr. Devesh Ajmani, Adv.
Mr. Paras Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Shubhanginee Singh, Adv.

Mr. Shadan Farasat, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sanjay Kumar Dubey, Adv.
Ms. Shuchi Singh, Adv.
Mr. Shuchi Singh, AOR
Mr. Md. Shahid Anwar, Adv.
Mr. Ujjwal Kumar Dubey, Adv.
Ms. Shivani Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Aman Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Aayush Kesarwani, Adv.
Mr. Jainendra Kumar, Adv.

Mr. R. Basant, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Aditya Dewan, Adv.
Ms. Himangi Kapoor, Adv.
Mr. Swetank Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Akash Rajeev, Adv.
Ms. Udit Singh, AOR

For Respondent(s) : Ms. Tulika Mukherjee, AOR

Ms. Pallavi Langar, AOR
Ms. Pragya Baghel, Adv.
Mr. Sujeet Kumar Chaubey, Adv.

Mr. Jayant Mohan, AOR
Ms. Meenakshi Chatterjee, Adv.
Ms. Adya Shree Dutta, Adv.
Ms. Dorjee Ongmu Lachungpa, Adv.
Mr. Priyanshu Teotia, Adv.

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

SLP (CRL.) NO(S).2797/2026:

Leave granted.

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

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

SLP(CRL) NO. 1859/2026:

Leave granted.

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

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

SLP(CRL) NO. 3317/2026:

Learned counsel for the petitioner sought a week's time to file rejoinder-affidavit to the counter-affidavit filed by the respondent(s)-State.

Hence, list on 10.04.2026.

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

**(DIVYA BABBAR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)**

(TWO SIGNED ORDERS ARE PLACED ON FILE)