



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2026
(@ Special Leave Petition (Cr1.) No.3317/2026)

VINAY KUMAR CHOUBEY

...APPELLANT (S)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF JHARKHAND

...RESPONDENT (S)

O R D E R

Leave granted.

This appeal challenges the judgment and order dated 06.01.2026 passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi in Bail Application No. 9602 of 2025.

The appellant herein has been booked for the crime registered pursuant to FIR No. 09/2025 dated 06.08.2025 lodged with Hazaribagh A.C.B. P.S., with respect to offences punishable under Sections 409, 420, 467, 468 and 471 read with 120B of the India Penal Code, 1860 and Sections 13(1)(c), 13(1)(d), 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

An application seeking regular bail having been rejected by the High Court vide impugned order dated 06.01.2026, the appellant has preferred the instant appeal.

By order dated 25.02.2026, the following order was passed by this Court:

Issue notice to the respondent.
Learned counsel for the petitioner is also permitted to serve the standing counsel for the respondent-State.
Tag with SLP (Crl.) No.1859/2026 and SLP(Crl.) No.2797/2026.
List on 20.03.2026."

We have heard learned senior counsel for the appellant and learned counsel appearing for the respondent/State and peruse the material on record.

Learned senior counsel for the appellant submitted that the appellant herein is the Deputy Commissioner and the allegations against him pertain to the year 2009. However, he was arrested on 13.08.2025. He has been in jail since then; two other persons, namely, Vijay Pratap Singh and Sudhir Kumar Singh have been granted bail by this Court. Hence on the principle of parity, the appellant herein may also be granted the relief of regular bail by setting aside the impugned order subject to the terms and conditions

to be imposed.

Per contra, learned counsel for the respondent/ State with reference to his counter affidavit contended that the relief granted to two other accused cannot be compared to this appellant who is none other than the Deputy Commissioner who was involved in the transfer of the land in question. In the circumstances, there is no merit in this appeal and the same may be dismissed. Learned counsel for the respondent also submitted that the appellant is in jail in respect of four other cases and therefore, no relief may be granted to the appellant herein in this case.

Considering the facts on record, in our view, the case for 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 of 2025 dated 06.08.2025 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.

Any infraction of the conditions may entail in cancellation of bail granted to the appellant.

With the aforesaid directions, the criminal appeal is allowed.

.....J.
[B.V. NAGARATHNA]

.....J.
[UJJAL BHUYAN]

NEW DELHI
APRIL 13, 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). 3317/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 06-01-2026
in BA No. 9602/2025 passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at
Ranchi]

VINAY KUMAR CHOUBEY

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF JHARKHAND

Respondent(s)

FOR ADMISSION

IA No. 104478/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 90649/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 58526/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 13-04-2026 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) :Mr. Siddharth Mridul, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Rohit Kumar Singh, AOR
Mr. Ajit Singh, Adv.
Ms. Madhurima Mridul, Adv.
Ms. Anukriti Tiwary, Adv.
Mr. Shrish Kohli, Adv.
Mr. Shubham Sahota, Adv.
Mr. Rewant Singh, Adv.
Ms. Baisakhi Rout, Adv.
Mr. Devesh Ajmani, Adv.
Mr. Shrey Sahai, Adv.
Mr. Deepak Chhikara, Adv.
Mr. Sohil Batra, Adv.
Ms. Anoushka Deo, Adv.
Mr. Paras Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Shubhanginee Singh, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Jayant Mohan, AOR
Mr. Nilesh Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Adya Shree Dutta, Adv.
Mr. Priyanshu Teotia, Adv.

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

Leave granted.

The Appeal is allowed in terms of the signed
order.

Pending application(s) shall stand disposed of.

(NEETU SACHDEVA)
(DEPUTY REGISTRAR)

(DIVYA BABBAR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)

(signed order is placed on the file)