



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. OF 2026

@ SLP (CRL.) NO. OF 2026
@ SLP (CRL.) Diary No(s). 10834/2026

SARJU PRASAD

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

1. Heard.
2. Delay condoned.
3. Leave granted.
4. Appellant has been visited with an FIR No. 948 of 2022, later renumbered as FIR No. 007 of 2023 for the offences punishable under Sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 471, 120B and 204 of Indian Penal Code, 1860, is seeking for being enlarged on bail.
5. The thrust of the arguments of Mr. Pradeep Kumar Yadav, learned counsel appearing for the appellant is that the offence alleged against the appellant is triable by Magistrate, and after having suffered an order of rejection of his bail application by the Trial Court, the appellant has approached the High Court in the year 2025, and till date the bail application has not been heard and it is

being adjourned from time to time.

6. On account of the bail application having not being heard and disposed of, left with no other option, he seeks for indulgence by this Court. In the normal circumstances, we would have refrained from entertaining the appellant's prayer, however, in the instant case, having regard to the totality of the circumstances namely:

- (i) charge-sheet having been filed;
- (ii) appellant being in custody for more than six months;
- (iii) the offence being triable by a Magistrate;
- (iv) the offence of alleged forgery having taken place back in the year 2000, and the FIR having been registered in the year 2022;

7. Cumulatively persuade us to grant the prayer after noting the sordid state of bail application having not been disposed of, even after a period of one year, or in other words, there being no effective hearing and as such, we are of the considered view that the appellant is entitled to the relief sought for.

8. Hence, the Appeal is allowed. The appellant is ordered to be released on regular bail on such terms and conditions as the Jurisdictional Court deems fit to impose, including the condition of directing the appellant to appear on all the dates of hearing before the Trial Court except when specifically exempted.

9. We make it clear that the observations made herein above, is for the limited purposes of considering the

prayer for grant of regular bail, and no opinion is expressed on the merits of the case.

10. Since, the prayer for grant of regular bail having been entertained and granted by this Court, necessarily, the Criminal Miscellaneous Bail Application No. 8786 of 2025 pending before the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, Lucknow, for same relief would not survive for consideration and the same may be consigned to records by the High Court.

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

.....J.
[ARAVIND KUMAR]

.....J.
[PRASANNA B. VARALE]

NEW DELHI;
19th March, 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

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) Diary No(s). 10834/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 23-09-2025 in CRMA No. 8786/2025 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, Lucknow Bench]

SARJU PRASAD

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH

Respondent(s)

IA No. 59636/2026 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING

IA No. 59632/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

IA No. 59634/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 19-03-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

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

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Pradeep Kumar Yadav, Adv.
Ms. Anjale Kumari, Adv.
Mr. Deepak Yadav, Adv.
Ms. Shivani S, Adv.
Ms. Sangita Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Ashwani Garg, Adv.
Mr. Sanjeev Malhotra, AOR

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Shaurya Sahay, AOR
Mr. Aman Jaiswal, Adv.
Ms. Sharvi Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Ashish Singh, Adv.

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

1. Delay condoned.
2. Leave granted.
3. The Appeal is allowed in terms of the Signed Order

placed on the file.

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

(MINI)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(Signed order is placed on the file)

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)