

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2026
(Arising out of SLP(CrL.) No.4146 of 2026)

LAVI PAHUJA & ORS.

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

1. Leave granted.
2. The appellants challenge the impugned judgment and order dated 12.02.2026 in MCRCA No.224 of 2026 passed by the High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur.
3. On 10.03.2026, this Court passed the following order:-

“1. Petitioners challenge the judgment and order dated 12.02.2026 in MCRCA No.224/2026 passed by the High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur, titled “Lavi Pahuja & Ors. vs. The State of Chhattisgarh”.

2. We have heard learned counsel for the petitioners.

3. Issue notice, returnable on 17.04.2026.

4. Ms.Ankita Sharma, learned counsel, accepts notice on behalf of the respondent/State. Hence, the formal service of notice on the respondent is waived.

5. Learned counsel for the petitioners to serve an advance copy of the present petition to the learned counsel for the respondent within a period of one (01) week.

6. Let counter affidavit be filed within three (03) weeks. Rejoinder affidavit thereto, if any, be filed before the next date of listing.

7. We make it clear that no further opportunity will be granted for this purpose.

8. In the event of arrest in connection with Crime No.271 of 2025 of Pandariya Police Station, Kabirdham District, Chhattisgarh, the petitioners shall be released on bail on the appropriate terms and conditions as may be fixed by the Investigating Officer/Arresting Officer.

9. The petitioners shall make themselves available before the Investigating Officer on 17.03.2026 at 10:00 a.m. and on all such dates as they may be required.

10. Needless to add, till the investigation is not complete in all respects, the petitioners would fully cooperate, and if the challan/charge sheet is filed, they would maintain good conduct and not attempt to influence any of the witnesses in any manner till the completion of the trial."

4. We have heard learned counsel for the parties and also perused the materials available on record.

5. It is not in dispute that the conditions stand fully complied with; the appellants have cooperated during the investigation; they have not threatened or intimidated any of the witnesses; or have tried to influence the investigation in any manner.

6. We have noticed the nature of crime and the manner in which it was allegedly committed.

7. We allow the present appeal by confirming the order dated 10.03.2026, passed by this Court, with a direction to the appellants to continue to cooperate during the investigation/trial and not to take any unnecessary adjournment. Also, the appellants shall report before the

Investigating Officer on every alternate Monday, between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., till such time the investigation is complete in all respects.

8. If the Investigating Officer/Arresting Officer/Trial Court feels that the investigation/trial is delayed on account of the appellants' conduct, it shall be open to the Investigating Officer/Arresting Officer/Trial Court to take appropriate steps in accordance with the law, including cancellation of bail.

9. The impugned judgment and order dated 12.02.2026 is set aside.

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

.....J.
(SANJAY KAROL)

.....J.
(NONGMEIKAPAM KOTISWAR SINGH)

NEW DELHI;
APRIL 17, 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).4146/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 12-02-2026 in MCRC No.224/2026 passed by the High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur]

LAVI PAHUJA & ORS.

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

RESPONDENT(S)

IA No. 71470/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 71469/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 17-04-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KAROL

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NONGMEIKAPAM KOTISWAR SINGH

For Petitioner(s) :

Dr. Rajesh Pandey, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Jitendra Kumar, AOR

Ms. Ayushi Pandey, Adv.

Mr. Rajender Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Rudresh Tripathi, Adv.

Mr. Ratik Sodhi, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Ms. Ankita Sharma, AOR

Mr. Arjun D Singh, Adv.

Ms. Ishika Neogi, Adv.

Mr. Divya Tripathi, Adv.

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

1. Leave granted.
2. The appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order, which is placed on the file.
3. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(SOURAV PAL)
SENIOR PERSONAL ASSISTANT

(ANU BHALLA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)