



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2026
(@ SLP(CRL.) NO. 4624/2026)

SUNIL KISHORLAL SHARMA

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA

Respondent(s)

O R D E R

Leave granted.

This appeal challenges the judgment and order dated 29.01.2026 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay Bench at Aurangabad in Bail Application No. 2015 of 2025.

The appellant has been facing trial in connection with a crime registered pursuant to FIR No. 237 of 2023 dated 25.06.2023 lodged with Police Station Wajirabad, District Nanded in respect of offences punishable under Sections 143, 147, 148, 149, 307, 302, 324, 326, 504 and 506 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 [in short, "IPC"].

The application seeking regular bail having been rejected by the High Court vide impugned order dated 29.01.2026, the appellant has preferred the instant appeal.

This Court vide its order dated 24.03.2026, issued notice in the instant matter.

Heard learned senior counsel for the appellant in support of the appeal and learned counsel for the respondent and perused the material on record.

Learned senior counsel for the appellant contended that five out of seven accused have been released on bail; that the appellant is sixty-six years of age and the charges have not yet been framed. In the circumstances, his case may be considered for grant of bail on the principle of parity as he has been in jail since 27.06.2023 and it is not known as to when the charges will be framed and further the trial would inevitably be delayed since there are as many as thirty-seven prosecution witnesses to be examined. He further submitted that by an earlier order passed by this Court on 25.11.2024 in SLP(Crl.) No.16154/2024, liberty was reserved to the appellant herein to move for bail and on that basis he had moved the Trial Court which however declined to grant the relief and which has also been erroneously sustained by the High Court.

Learned senior counsel therefore submitted that the impugned orders may be set aside and the relief of bail may be granted to the appellant herein subject to the

conditions that may be imposed.

Per contra, learned counsel for the respondent-State with reference to his counter affidavit contended that both the Trial Court as well as the High Court were justified in refusing any relief to the appellant herein as his role in the incident has been clear and any relief that may be granted to the appellant herein at this stage would only jeopardize and frustrate the trial. He, therefore, submitted that there is no merit in this appeal.

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. 237 of 2023 mentioned above.”

It is directed that the appellant shall extend complete cooperation in the trial of the instant case.

The appellant shall not misuse his liberty in any manner. The appellant shall not make any attempt to influence the witnesses or tamper with the material on record.

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

With these observations, the Criminal Appeal is allowed.

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

.....J.
(UJJAL BHUYAN)

NEW DELHI;
APRIL 20, 2026

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). 4624/2026
[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 29-01-2026
in BA No. 2015/2025 passed by the High Court of Judicature at
Bombay at Aurangabad]

SUNIL KISHORLAL SHARMA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 79848/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 81897/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

Date : 20-04-2026 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. Uday B. Dube, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Abhaysinh Bhosle, Adv.
Mr. Kaustubh Dube, Adv.
Mr. K. Subba Rao, Adv.
Ms. Srushti Dube, Adv.
Mr. Sanjay Kumar Visen, AOR

For Respondent(s) Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR

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

1. Leave granted.
2. The Criminal Appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order.
3. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(RADHA SHARMA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(DIVYA BABBAR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)

(Signed order is placed on the file)