



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2026
(@ SLP(CRL.) NO. 5516/2026)

MAHESH RAGHUNATH PADALE

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF MAHARASHTRA

Respondent(s)

O R D E R

Leave granted.

This appeal challenges the judgment and order dated 02.02.2026 passed by the High Court of Judicature of Bombay at Aurangabad in Bail Application No.2393 of 2025.

The appellant herein has been booked for the crime registered pursuant to FIR No.323/2025 dated 29.07.2025 lodged Police Station - Pundlik Nagar, District - Aurangabad for the offence punishable under Sections 316(2), 316(5), 318(1), 318(3), 336(1), 336(3), 340(2) and Section 3 (5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The appellant was reportedly arrested on 02.08.2025.

Being aggrieved, the appellant approached the Additional Sessions Judge, Aurangabad, for grant of

regular bail by filing Criminal Bail Application No.1762/2025, which was rejected vide order dated 26.08.2025.

The order dated 26.08.2025 was challenged before the High Court by filing Bail Application No.1873/2025 but the same was withdrawn in view of the filing of the chargesheet in the matter.

After filing of the chargesheet, the appellant filed Criminal Bail Application No.2255/2025 before the Court of Sessions Judge, Aurangabad which was dismissed vide order dated 14.11.2025.

Being aggrieved, the appellant approached the High Court by filing the Bail Application No.2393/2025 seeking regular bail in the matter. The said application having been rejected by the High Court vide impugned order dated 02.02.2026, the appellant has preferred the instant appeal.

On 02.04.2026, this Court passed the following order:

“Learned counsel for the respondent-State, who is present in Court on advanced notice, to ascertain as to what steps have been taken with regard to the FIR in question by the State Government, list on 20.04.2026.”

Heard learned counsel for the appellant in support of the petition and learned counsel for the State and perused the material on record. The appellant has been in custody for approximately seven months.

Learned senior counsel for the appellant submitted that there are totally about seventeen accused and only the appellant and one more accused have been chargesheeted and whereas the other accused have not even been chargesheeted, that the offences alleged against the appellant herein could not have been solely due to involvement of the appellant and one more accused. Learned senior counsel further submitted that the other accused have been granted interim protection by the High Court but the appellant has been in jail since 02.08.2025; the trial has not yet commenced and having regard to the facts and circumstances of this case the trial would inevitably be delayed. In the circumstances, the relief of bail may be granted to the appellant herein by setting aside the impugned order subject to the terms and conditions that may be imposed.

Per contra, learned counsel for the respondent-State submitted that no doubt the other accused are on interim protection granted by the High Court but the fact remains that the appellant herein as well as another accused have been chargesheeted; that the trial is due to commence and therefore the High court was justified in declining the grant of bail to the appellant herein. Learned counsel for the respondent-State submitted that there is no merit in this appeal and hence, the same may be dismissed.

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.323/2025 dated 29.07.2025 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 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 20, 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). 5516/2026
[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 02-02-2026
in BA No. 2393/2025 passed by the High Court of Judicature at
Bombay at Aurangabad]

MAHESH RAGHUNATH PADALE

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF MAHARASHTRA

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 94597/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

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. Sudhanshu Chaudhari, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Samrat Krishnarao Shinde, AOR
Mr. Pratyush Kalro, Adv.
Mrs. Mahima Pawar, Adv.
Ms. Pranjal Chapalgaokar, Adv.

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. Issue notice to the respondent.
2. Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, learned Advocate-on-Record accepts notice for the respondent-State.
3. Leave granted.
4. The Criminal Appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order which is placed on the file.
5. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(RADHA SHARMA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(DIVYA BABBAR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)