



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NOS. 2728 OF 2026  
(@ SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) NOS.6613/2026)

GULAAB KANDRA

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

RESPONDENT(S)

ORDER

1. Heard Mr. Kaushik Mishra, learned counsel appearing on behalf for the appellant and Ms. Prablin Shukla, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the State of Chhattisgarh.
2. Leave granted.
3. The petitioner, who is arrayed as an accused in the FIR No.337 of 2025 registered for the offences punishable under Section 20(b)(ii)(B) of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, is seeking for being enlarged on bail.
4. It is the case of the prosecution that on 13.08.2025, they conducted a raid on receiving secret information that *ganja* was stored and on such raid being conducted, they found 4.100 kgs of *ganja* in joint possession of the petitioner and two

other accused, which came to be seized and after apprehending the petitioner and co-accused, they have been remanded to judicial custody where he has remained since the said date.

5. Having heard the learned Advocates appearing for the parties, we notice that petitioner was arrested along with the co-accused. As rightly contended by learned counsel for the State, the principle of parity would not be attracted to the facts of the case, inasmuch as the other co-accused who have been released on bail, did not have any criminal antecedents, unlike the petitioner who is having a colourful past, viz. criminal antecedents.

6. However, taking into consideration that charge sheet has been filed and in a similar case, in which the petitioner was implicated, where he was tried and convicted, which resulted in passing the sentence of the period already undergone, are facts which cumulatively persuade us to release the petitioner by granting him regular bail with strictest conditions so as to allay the apprehension of the prosecution.

7. Accordingly, we allow the Appeal, set aside the impugned order and direct the petitioner to be

released on bail on such conditions as the Trial Court may deem fit, including the following conditions:

(i) The petitioner shall appear twice a week before the jurisdictional IO, i.e. on Monday and Friday, between 10:00 AM to 01:00 PM and 02:00 PM to 05:00 PM, respectively till the conclusion of the trial.

(ii) The petitioner shall appear before the Trial Court on all dates of hearing unless specifically exempted.

(iii) The petitioner shall not leave the jurisdiction of the Trial Court without express permission.

8. Accordingly, the Criminal Appeal is allowed.
9. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

.....J.  
[ARAVIND KUMAR]

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

NEW DELHI;  
21<sup>st</sup> MAY, 2026.  
AK

ITEM NO.8

COURT NO.15

SECTION II-C

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). 6613/2026

[ARISING OUT OF IMPUGNED FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER DATED 02-01-2026  
IN MCRC NO. 8889/2025 PASSED BY THE HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT  
BILASPUR]

GULAAB KANDRA

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

RESPONDENT(S)

(IA No. 112683/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED  
JUDGMENT)

Date : 21-05-2026 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. Kaushik Mishra, Adv.  
Mr. Shivendra Singh, AOR  
Mr. Shailesh K. Rajora, Adv.  
Ms. Prakriti Rastogi, Adv.  
Ms. Aryama Singh Rajput, Adv.  
Ms. Nandini Kaushik, Adv.  
Ms. Umang Motiyani, Adv.

For Respondent(s): Ms. Prablin Shukla ,Adv.  
Mr. Apoorv Shukla, 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, which is placed on the file.
3. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(ABHINAV KUMAR)  
COURT MASTER (SH)

(AVGV RAMU)  
COURT MASTER (NSH)