



**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

**CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. \_\_\_\_\_ OF 2026**  
**(Arising out of SLP (CrI.) No.7799 of  
2026)**

**SANTOSH SONI** **APPELLANT(S)**

**VERSUS**

**STATE OF CHHATTISGARH** **RESPONDENT(S)**

**O R D E R**

- 1. Leave granted.**
- 2. The appellant challenges the judgment and order dated 20.02.2026 in MCRC No.1808 of 2026, titled "*Santosh Soni Vs. State of Chhattisgarh*", passed by the High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur.**
- 3. The appellant was arrested in**

connection with FIR No.333/2024 dated 28.10.2024 registered at Police Station - Tarbahar, District - Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

4. Physical copy of the counter affidavit served across the Bar is taken on record.

5. Having heard learned counsel for the parties, and perused the material placed on record, we are of the considered view that the appellant has made out a case for interference with the impugned order dated 20.02.2026.

6. Considering the totality of circumstances and also the fact that the appellant has been in custody since 28.10.2024, we are inclined to grant bail to the appellant on such terms as may be fixed by the Trial Court. Ordered

accordingly.

7. To comply with this order, the appellant shall be produced before the Trial Court forthwith.

8. Learned counsel for the State/Prosecution undertakes to produce all the witnesses on such dates as may be fixed by the Trial Court. Trial expedited. The appellant shall fully cooperate during the investigation/trial, and he shall not misuse the liberty in any manner, and shall extend complete cooperation in the trial of the instant case and shall not seek any unnecessary adjournment. Should the trial not progress on account of non-cooperation of the appellant, it shall be open for the Trial Court to take all steps, including cancellation of bail.

9. If the appellant possesses a passport, the same shall be surrendered before the Competent Authority/Court until the conclusion of the trial or directed otherwise.

10. The impugned judgment/order dated 20.02.2026 shall stand set aside.

11. Accordingly, the appeal is allowed.

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

.....J.  
(SANJAY KAROL)

.....J.  
(AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH)

NEW DELHI;  
MAY 25, 2026.

ITEM NO.16 COURT NO.11 SECTION II-C

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).7799/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment  
and order dated 20-02-2026 in MCRC No.  
1808/2026 passed by the High Court of  
Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur]

SANTOSH SONI PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH RESPONDENT(S)

IA No. 130786/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING  
O.T.

Date : 25-05-2026 This matter was called  
on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KAROL

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH

For Petitioner(s) :

Mr. Sameer Shrivastava, AOR

Mrs. Priyanka Shrivastava, Adv.

Mr. Chirag Joshi, Adv.

Dr. Sangeeta Verma, Adv.

**Ms. Shruti Singh, Adv.  
Mr. Prasanna Mohan, Adv.**

**For Respondent(s) :  
Mr. Ravinder Kumar Yadav, AOR**

**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)**