

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. OF 2026  
(arising out of SLP(Crl.) No. 19490/2025)

PARDEEP SETH . . . . . APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

M/S. P.K. VERMA & COMPANY & ANR. . . . . RESPONDENT(S)

with

CRIMINAL APPEAL NOS. OF 2026  
(arising out of SLP(Crl) Nos. 1083-1086/2026)

**O R D E R**

Leave granted.

These appeals arise out of the impugned orders dated 12.11.2025 and 18.11.2025 passed by a learned Judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh in a set of cases relating to the condition to be imposed under Section 148 of the Negotiable Instruments Acts, 1881<sup>1</sup>, while dealing with the application for suspension of sentence passed by the Magistrate in relation to a cheque bounce case under Section 138 of the said Act.

By interim orders dated 03.12.2025 and 20.01.2026, this Court had stayed the operation of the condition imposed of depositing 20% of the compensation amount.

We find from the impugned orders passed by the High Court

1 “N.I. Act”, for short

that the learned Judge was disinclined to follow the decisions of two coordinate Benches of other learned Judges of the same High Court in CRM-M No. 63491/2025 (O&M) dated 12.11.2025 and CRM-M No. 63549/2025 dated 12.11.2025 in relation to the same case. By those orders, the other Benches had taken note of the fact that there was no consideration by the appellate Court of the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Amritsar, Punjab, of the law laid down by this Court in *Jamboo Bhandari vs. M.P. State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. & Ors.*<sup>2</sup>, while granting suspension of the sentence upon payment of 20% of the compensation amount.

For the sake of judicial propriety and consistency, the learned Judge ought to have adopted the same course of action as was taken by the coordinate Benches in the earlier cases, instead of stepping into the shoes of the appellate Court and deciding the case himself. By doing so, the learned Judge effectively preempted the appellate Court from considering the issues on merits in the two cases which were remanded by the other Benches.

In that view of the matter, we deem it appropriate to set aside the impugned orders and remand these matters also to the appellate Court for consideration afresh in accordance with the law laid down by this Court in *Jamboo Bhandari (supra)* along with two matters that were remanded by the other Benches earlier. This process shall be completed expeditiously, keeping in mind the passage of time, owing to pendency of these matters before this Court.

The appeals are disposed of in the aforestated terms.

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

.....J.  
(SANJAY KUMAR)

.....J.  
(K. VINOD CHANDRAN)

NEW DELHI;  
MARCH 23, 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 for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No. 19490/2025

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 12-11-2025 in CRMM No. 63534/2025 passed by the High Court of Punjab & Haryana at Chandigarh]

PARDEEP SETH

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

M/S. P.K. VERMA &amp; COMPANY &amp; ANR.

Respondent(s)

WITH

SLP(Crl) Nos. 1083-1086/2026 (II-B)

Date : 23-03-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. VINOD CHANDRAN

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.  
Mr. Karun Shar, Adv.  
Mr. Shubham Sharma, Adv.  
Mr. Ashwin Kumar Nair, AOR  
Mr. Wazid Hasan, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :  
Mr. Karan Dewan, Adv.  
Ms. Aanchal Jain, AOR  
Mr. Kartik Yadav, Adv.  
  
Ms. Nupur Kumar, AOR  
Ms. Muskan Surana, Adv.

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

Leave granted.

The appeals are disposed of, in terms of the signed order.

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

(DEEPAK GUGLANI)  
AR-cum-PS

(PREETI SAXENA)  
COURT MASTER (NSH)

(signed order is placed on the file)