

2025 LiveLaw (SC) 389

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
DIPANKAR DATTA; J., MANMOHAN; J.

Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s). 1400/2025
MUNNESH versus STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH

Bail – Mandatory Disclosure of Criminal Antecedents – Every special leave petition (criminal) challenging orders under Sections 438/439 of CrPC or Sections 482/483 of BNSS must mandatorily disclose in the synopsis whether the petitioner has clean antecedents or details of involvement in criminal cases, including the stage of proceedings. Incorrect disclosure may lead to dismissal of the petition. Registry directed to circulate the order for compliance until relevant rules are amended. (Paras 12-14)

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 03-10-2023 in CRMBA No. 38065/2023 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad]

For Petitioner(s): Mr. Ayush Negi, AOR Ms. Vishakha Upadhyaya, Adv. Ms. Aarushi Gupta, Adv.

For Respondent(s): Mr. Sarvesh Singh Baghel, AOR

ORDER

1. The High Court of Judicature at Allahabad by the impugned judgment and order dated 3rd October, 2023 has rejected the petitioner's prayer for bail.
2. The petitioner was arrested on 26th May, 2018 in connection with a First Information Report¹ registered under Section 302, Indian Penal Code, 1860².
3. The trial is in progress.
4. Although it is revealed from the charge-sheet that the prosecution intended to examine 22 (twenty-two) witnesses to drive home the charges against the petitioner, in paragraph 13 of the counter affidavit, there is a statement that the prosecution does not wish to examine all 22 (twenty-two) witnesses, earlier proposed, and that the number of prosecution witnesses to be examined is limited to 8 (eight) now; also that, recording of the statement of P.W.8 is now in progress.
5. The petitioner's criminal history has also been brought on record by such counter affidavit. The details of the cases pending/closed against the petitioner, 8 (eight) in all, are provided in paragraph 15 of such affidavit.
6. There is no disclosure in the special leave petition as regards the petitioner's criminal antecedents, which includes conviction in one case under Sections 379 and 411 of the IPC.
7. We enquired from the learned counsel for the petitioner as to why there is no disclosure in the special leave petition about the petitioner's criminal history. He submits that the pairakar of the petitioner did not provide complete information.
8. Had the petitioner's criminal history been disclosed in the special leave petition, we wonder whether notice on it would have at all been issued.
9. Be that as it may, since the petitioner has suppressed material facts with regard to his involvement in criminal cases, he is not entitled to the discretionary relief of bail. Even

¹ FIR

² IPC

otherwise, the trial has progressed reasonably and hence, no case for releasing the petitioner on bail has been set up.

10. The special leave petition, accordingly, stands dismissed.

11. However, before parting, we consider it necessary to dwell on one aspect. A growing trend is being noticed of individuals, seeking from this Court the concession of bail or concession of protection from arrest, not disclosing in the special leave petitions their involvement in other criminal cases. In such cases where involvement is not disclosed, on a *prima facie* satisfaction that long incarceration without reasonable progress in the trial is invading the right to life of the accused or that the offences for which the FIR has been registered are not too serious, notices are issued and only thereafter, information of criminal antecedents is being provided in the counter affidavits filled by the respective respondents-States, as in the present case. The result is that this Court, being the apex court of the country, is being taken for a ride. This Court has shown leniency in the past but we think it is time that such state of affairs is not allowed to continue further.

12. We, accordingly, direct that henceforth each individual who approaches this Court with a Special Leave Petition (Criminal) challenging orders passed by the high courts/sessions courts declining prayers under Sections 438/439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 or under Sections 482/483, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita shall mandatorily disclose in the 'SYNOPSIS' that either he is a man of clean antecedents or if he has knowledge of his involvement in any criminal case, he shall clearly indicate the same together with the stage that the proceedings, arising out of such case, have reached. Should the disclosure be found to be incorrect subsequently, that itself could be considered as a ground for dismissal of the special leave petition.

13. We are conscious that complying with this direction could result in inconvenience for some; however, having noticed that orders dated 13th October, 2023 and 19th October, 2023 of this Court in SLP (Crl.) No. 12876 of 2023³ and SLP (Crl.) No. 2863 of 2023⁴, respectively, requiring steps to be initiated for eliciting proper and correct information from the individuals seeking orders of regular bail/pre-arrest bail have not produced the desired results, we have proceeded to make the aforesaid direction in the institutional interest so that proceedings before this Court are not taken lightly by those who choose to approach it and the process of law is not abused.

14. Registry is directed to bring this order to the notice of all concerned, in such manner as deemed appropriate, for compliance till such time the rules are amended in terms of the orders dated 13th October, 2023 and 19th October, 2023, referred to above.

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*Disclaimer: Always check with the original copy of judgment from the Court website. Access it [here](#)

³ Kulwinder Singh v. State of Punjab

⁴ Sheikh Bhola v. State of Bihar