

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 (Cr1.) No(s). 12801/2025

[Arising out of impugned judgment and order dated 18-08-2025 in MCRCA No. 1157/2025 passed by the High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur]

VIKAS KUMAR GOSWAMI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 205709/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No. 206449/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 205712/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

WITH

SLP(Cr1) No. 13029/2025 (II-C)

(IA No. 209855/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 209853/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

SLP(Cr1) No. 13102/2025 (II-C)

(IA No. 211286/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 211283/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

SLP(Cr1) No. 13134/2025 (II-C)

(IA No. 211809/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 211808/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

SLP(Cr1) No. 13041/2025 (II-C)

(IA No. 210107/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

SLP(Cr1) No. 13026/2025 (II-C)

(IA No. 209798/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 209797/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

SLP(Cr1) No. 13032/2025 (II-C)

(IA No. 209981/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

SLP(Cr1) No. 13039/2025 (II-C)

(IA No. 210054/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 210053/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

SLP(Cr1) No. 13171-13172/2025 (II-C)
(IA No. 212753/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 212754/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

SLP(Cr1) No. 13258/2025 (II-C)
(IA No. 214160/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

SLP(Cr1) No. 13177-13182/2025 (II-C)
(IA No. 212862/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 212863/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

SLP(Cr1) No. 13283-13289/2025 (II-C)
(IA No. 214748/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

SLP(Cr1) No. 16443/2025 (II-C)
(IA No. 262462/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 12-11-2025 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. S Nagamuthu, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Anshul Rai, Adv.
Mr. Harshwardhan Parganiha, Adv.
Mr. S.K. Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Chandrashekhar A. Chakalabbi, Adv.
Mr. Mayank Jain, Adv.
Mr. Ojaswa Pathak, Adv.
Ms. Mallika, Adv.
Mr. Madhur Jain, Adv.
Mr. Arpit Goel, Adv.
M/s Dharmaprabhas Law Associates, AOR

Mr. S. Nagamuthu, Sr. Adv.
Mr. M.P. Parthiban, AOR
Ms. Priyaranjani Nagamuthu, Adv.
Mr. Bilal Mansoor, Adv.
Mr. Shreyas Kaushal, Adv.
Mr. S. Geyolin Selvam, Adv.
Mr. Alagiri K, Adv.
Mr. Shivansh Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Rohan Singh, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek S, Adv.

Mr. Manohar Pratap, AOR
Mr. Shashank Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Vikrant Baniwal, Adv.

Mr. Siddharth Aggarwal, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Samridhi, Adv.
Ms. Nitya Prabhakar, Adv.
Ms. Arshiya Ghose, Adv.
Ms. Tanvi Dubey, AOR

Mr. Tushar Giri, AOR
Mr. Siddharth Anil Khanna, Adv.
Mr. Ritik Arora, Adv.
Mr. Shivam Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Gulshan Jahan, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Mahesh Jethmalani, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Vivek Sharma, A.A.G.
Mr. Ravi Sharma, D.A.G.
Mr. Apoorv Shukla, AOR

Mr. S.D. Sanjay, ASG
Mr. Khushal Kolwar, Adv.
Mr. Shubham Prakash Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, Adv.
Mr. Zoheb Hussain, Adv.
Ms. Rajeshwari Shankar, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

SLP (Cr1) No. 16443/2025

1. Mr. S.D. Sanjay, learned Additional Solicitor General of India seeks and is granted two weeks' time to file a counter affidavit.
2. List on 10.12.2025.

Rest of the matters

3. The petitioners in these cases are civil servants, most of them working as Assistant Commissioner of Excise, Assistant District Excise Officer and Deputy Excise Commissioner in the State of Chhattisgarh. The matters pertain to the alleged liquor scam in the State of Chhattisgarh, and the crux of the allegations is that there was illegal sale of liquor by an organised Syndicate from February 2019 to June 2022. The accused, in collusion and

connivance with the officers of the Excise Department, namely, the petitioners, indulged in various illegal activities like the sale of land by duplicate holograms, in which the petitioners allegedly received hefty amounts as commissions. FIR No.04/2024 was registered on 17.01.2024. It seems that in the initial charge sheets, the names of the petitioners were not included, but in the course of further investigation, their names have surfaced, and most of them were impleaded in the fourth supplementary charge sheet. Apprehending their arrest, they approached the Special Judge and the High Court for the grant of anticipatory bail, which was denied, *inter alia*, assuming that these are the cases of a scam of 432 crores of illegal earnings made by the Syndicate, which undermined the public order.

4. This Court, from time to time, has protected the arrest of the petitioners, as an interim measure, subject to certain conditions. The petitioners were directed to surrender before the trial court and furnish bail bonds to the satisfaction thereof. It is not in dispute that pursuant thereto, the petitioners have surrendered and furnished the bail bonds.

5. We have heard learned senior counsel for the parties. Mr. Mahesh Jethmalani, learned senior counsel representing the State of Chhattisgarh, submits and to that extent, rightly so, that stringent conditions are required to be imposed keeping in view the high positions enjoyed by the petitioners and their likelihood of influencing and/or tampering with the evidence.

6. Consequently, while the interim order(s), vide which the petitioners were protected from arrest, are made absolute during

the pendency of the trial, however, subject to the following conditions:

(i) The petitioners shall appear before the Investigating Officer (IO) as and when required and shall fully cooperate with the investigation, if any further supplementary chargesheet is required to be filed.

(ii) The petitioners shall deposit their passports with the trial court within two weeks.

(iii) The petitioners shall not leave the State without prior permission of the trial court.

(iv) The petitioners shall not make any direct or indirect attempt to influence the witnesses and/or tamper with the evidence in any manner.

(v) Since chargesheets have been filed against them, they shall remain present before the trial court, as and when directed by the trial court, and any absence shall be construed as misuse of the concession of bail.

(vi) The petitioners shall also furnish their mobile numbers to the IO for the purpose of contacting them, as and when required.

7. With the above, the special leave petitions stand disposed of with pending application(s), if any.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR