

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CIVIL APPEAL NO(S). OF 2026
(@ SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (C) NO(S).32867/2026)

UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD & ORS.

APPELLANTS

VERSUS

ANJANA PANDEY

RESPONDENT

O R D E R

Issue notice to the respondent.

Learned counsel for the respondent-Caveator
accepts notice.

Leave granted.

We have heard learned senior counsel for
the appellants and learned counsel appearing for
the respondent - Caveator.

Learned counsel for the appellants
submitted that the High Court was not right in
dismissing the Special Appeal Defective No.320 of
2026 filed by the appellants herein on the ground
that there was a delay of 218 days in filing the
said appeal; that the High Court has virtually
condoned the delay upto 06.02.2026; thereafter,
the appeal was filed on 06.04.2026. The delay in

filing the appeal was due to *bona fide* and unintentional reasons; one of the reasons for the delay was owing to elevation of the panel counsel as a Judge of the High Court. Therefore the High Court ought to have given a more indulgent consideration to the appellant(s)-University and condone the delay and hear the appeal on merits as the appellants have a good case on merits. In the circumstances, the impugned order may be set aside and Special Appeal Defective No.320 of 2026 may be restored on the file of the High Court for consideration of the case on merits.

Per contra, learned counsel for the respondent vehemently submitted that the High court was justified in not condoning the delay of 218 days; that the respondent has a good case on merits and has rightly succeeded before the learned Single Judge. In the circumstances, there is no merit in this appeal.

We have considered the arguments advanced at the bar.

We find that the High Court ought to have condoned the delay in the instant case.

Consequently, we condone the delay of 218 days in filing the Special Appeal Defective No.320 of 2026 and set aside the impugned order dated 21.08.2026.

The Special Appeal Defective No.320 of 2026 is restored on the file of the High Court. The High Court is requested to now hear the appeal on merits.

All contentions on both sides are left open so as to be advanced in the Special Appeal now restored on the file of the High Court.

In view of the aforesaid order, liberty is reserved to the appellants herein to seek interim orders if so advised.

This appeal is disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

....., J
(B.V. NAGARATHNA)

....., J
(R.MAHADEVAN)

NEW DELHI
SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

ITEM NO.17

COURT NO.3

SECTION XI

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 (C) NO(S).
32867/2026

[ARISING OUT OF IMPUGNED FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER DATED
21-08-2026 IN SAD NO. 320/2026 PASSED BY THE HIGH COURT
OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD]

UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD & ORS.

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

ANJANA PANDEY

RESPONDENT(S)

FOR ADMISSION

IA NO. 280072/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 22-09-2026 This matter was called on for hearing
today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Nikhil Goel, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Tanmaya Agarwal, AOR
Mrs. Aditi Agarwal, Adv.
Mr. Muhammad Nomaan Khan, Adv.
Mr. Jayesh Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Astha Goel, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Ms. Sansriti Pathak, AOR

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

Issue notice to the respondent.

Learned counsel for the respondent-Caveator
accepts notice.

Leave granted.

Civil Appeal is disposed of in terms of the signed order, which is placed on file.

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

**(B. LAKSHMI MANIKYA VALLI)
COURT MASTER (SH)**

**(AKSHAY KUMAR BHORIA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)**