IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP [CRL.] NO.18052/2026]

SULABH KHANDELWAL **Appellant(s)**

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH & ANR. **Respondent(s)**

WITH

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 19001/2026]
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 19222/2026]
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 19145/2026]
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 19171/2026]
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 19351-19352/2026]
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 19247/2026]
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 19184/2026]
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 19110/2026]
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 19185/2026]
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 19449-19450/2026]
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 19316/2026]
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 19248/2026]
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. /2026
[@ SLP(Crl) No. 20031/2026]

O R D E R

Leave granted.

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by ASHA SUNDRIYAL
Date: 2026.11.18 13:51:28 IST
Reason:

The appellants in Criminal Appeals arising out of SLP [Crl.] No.18052/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19001/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19184/2026, SLP(Crl) No.20031/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19185/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19248/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19222/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19145/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19110/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19171/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19449-19450/2026 and SLP(Crl) Nos.19351-19352/2026 seek regular bail in connection with FIR Nos.147/2026 and 148/2026 dated 26.04.2026 registered with Police Station-Gharghoda, District – Raigarh for the offences punishable under Section 7 of the Chhattisgarh Gambling (Prohibition) Act, 2022 and Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and FIR Nos.217-218/2026, dated 26.04.2026, registered with Police Station Kotwali, District – Raigarh, for the offences punishable under Sections 4 and 7 of the Chhattisgarh Gambling (Prohibition) Act, 2022.

The appellants in Criminal Appeals arising out of SLP(Crl) No.19316/2026 and SLP(Crl)

No.19247/2026 seek anticipatory bail in connection with FIR Nos.147/2026 and 148/2026 dated 26.04.2026 registered with Police Station-Gharghoda, District – Raigarh for the offences punishable under Section 7 of the Chhattisgarh Gambling (Prohibition) Act, 2022 and Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and FIR Nos.217-218/2026, dated 26.04.2026, registered with Police Station Kotwali, District – Raigarh, for the offences punishable under Sections 4 and 7 of the Chhattisgarh Gambling (Prohibition) Act, 2022.

The sum and substance of the case of the prosecution is that the appellant(s) along with others were involved in online betting enriching themselves illegally.

Learned Senior Counsel appearing for the appellant(s) submitted that there are no adequate materials to implicate the appellants and in any case in some of the cases they have been enlarged on bail. The charge sheet has already been filed.

Considering the above, there is no need for continued incarceration of the appellants, especially, when approximately six months have already elapsed.

Learned Senior Counsel appearing for the State submitted that there is a deep rooted network involving multiple persons. It is a case of online betting during Indian Premier League (IPL). The materials available would clearly disclose the active role played by the appellants.

We have heard the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the appellants and the learned counsel appearing for the respondent(s).

We are inclined to set aside the impugned order(s) passed by the High Court on two grounds: Firstly, in some of the cases, bail has been granted and that the allegations are more or less same. Secondly, the charge sheet has already been filed.

Insofar as the appeals seeking anticipatory bail are concerned, the appellants have not only joined the investigation, but they are also arrested in the connected case.

Considering the above, we are inclined to grant regular/anticipatory bail to the appellants.

Accordingly, the impugned orders are set aside and the appellants in Criminal Appeals arising out of SLP [Crl.] No.18052/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19001/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19184/2026, SLP(Crl) No.20031/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19185/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19248/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19222/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19145/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19110/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19171/2026, SLP(Crl) Nos.19449-19450/2026 and SLP(Crl) Nos.19351-19352/2026 are granted regular bail, and the appellants in Criminal Appeals arising out of SLP(Crl) No.19316/2026 and SLP(Crl) No.19247/2026 are granted anticipatory bail on terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the concerned Trial Court.

The appeals stand allowed accordingly.

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

.....J.
[M.M. SUNDRESH]

.....J.
[PRASANNA B. VARALE]

NEW DELHI;
NOVEMBER 16, 2026.

ITEM NO.6 COURT NO.3 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). 18052/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 15-09-2026 in MCRC No. 7850/2026 passed by the High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur]

SULABH KHANDELWAL Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH & ANR. Respondent(s)
IA No. 298881/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 298878/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

WITH
SLP(Crl) No. 19001/2026 (II-C)
FOR
FOR PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES ON IA 305842/2026
FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. ON IA 305846/2026
FOR PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES ON IA 307192/2026
FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. ON IA 307194/2026

SLP(Crl) No. 19222/2026 (II-C)
FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. ON IA 309035/2026
FOR PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES ON IA 311587/2026
FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. ON IA 311589/2026

SLP(Crl) No. 19145/2026 (II-C)
FOR ADMISSION
SLP(Crl) No. 19171/2026 (II-C)
FOR ADMISSION

SLP(Crl) No. 19351-19352/2026 (II-C)
FOR ADMISSION
SLP(Crl) No. 19247/2026 (II-C)
FOR ADMISSION
SLP(Crl) No. 19184/2026 (II-C)
SLP(Crl) No. 19110/2026 (II-C)
FOR ADMISSION
SLP(Crl) No. 19185/2026 (II-C)
FOR ADMISSION
SLP(Crl) No. 19449-19450/2026 (II-C)
FOR ADMISSION
SLP(Crl) No. 19316/2026 (II-C)
SLP(Crl) No. 19248/2026 (II-C)
FOR ADMISSION
SLP(Crl) No. 20031/2026 (II-C)
FOR ADMISSION

Date : 16-11-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.M. SUNDRESH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRASANNA B. VARALE

For Petitioner(s) **Mr. Aman Lekhi Sr. Adv, Adv.**
Mr. Mehul Kumar Garg, Adv.
Mr. Ayush P Shah, Adv.
Mr. Ujjwal Sinha, Adv.
Mr. Abhinav Singh Chandel, Adv.
Mr. Jatin Lalwani, Adv.
Mr. Narang Gagan Jasvinder Singh Aor, Adv.

Mr. K. Parameshwar, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Pallav Mongia- 2469, AOR
Ms. Ishita Nayak, Adv.
Ms. Kashish Lalwani, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Dwivedi, Adv.

Mr. Nikhil Goel, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Yash Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Nagarjun Sahu, Adv.
Ms. Ameerunnisa, Adv.
Mr. Pranjal Kishore- 3247, AOR

Dr. Rajesh Pandey, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Ayushi Pandey, Adv.
Ms. Neelam Shukla, Adv.
Mr. Niranjan Marde, Adv.
Ms. Aswathi M.k.- 2498, AOR

Mr. Siddhartha Dave, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Padmesh Mishra- 4291, AOR
Mr. Gagan Tiwari, Adv.
Mr. Devraj Bhargava, Adv.
Mr. Yashwardhan Rai, Adv.
Mr. Vijant, Adv.

Mr. Sidhartha Dave, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Chandrashekhar A. Chakalabbi, Adv.
Mr. Himanshu Sinha, Adv.
Mr. Ojaswa Pathak, Adv.
M/s Dharmaprabhas Law Associates- 2718, AOR

For Respondent(s) **Ms. Ankita Sharma- 3833, AOR**
Mr. Arjun D Singh, Adv.
Ms. Akanksha Kumari, Adv.
Ms. Gargi Vishwakarma, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

Leave granted.

The Court *inter alia* directed as under:

“Accordingly, the impugned orders are set aside and the appellants in

Criminal Appeals arising out of SLP [Crl.] No.18052/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19001/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19184/2026, SLP(Crl) No.20031/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19185/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19248/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19222/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19145/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19110/2026, SLP(Crl) No.19171/2026, SLP(Crl) Nos.19449-19450/2026 and SLP(Crl) Nos.19351-19352/2026 are granted regular bail, and the appellants in Criminal Appeals arising out of SLP(Crl) No.19316/2026 and SLP(Crl) No.19247/2026 are granted anticipatory bail on terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the concerned Trial Court."

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

(ASHA SUNDRIYAL) **(POONAM VAID)**
DEPUTY REGISTRAR **ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**
[Signed order is placed on the file]