



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2026
(@SLP(CRL.) NO.12387 OF 2026)

ASHOK KUMAR APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

1. Heard.

2. Leave granted.

3. One *Rajinder Singh* allegedly received a call from a person claiming to be from CBI Police Officer, Kulaba, and was informed that mobile number in his name was being misused and the criminal complaints have been registered against the complainant. A subsequent WhatsApp video call was allegedly made by a person identified himself as *Mr. Shikhawat* and the complainant was informed that he (complainant) was connected with *Naresh Goyal* in an international case, and apprehending his arrest and to stave off the same, the complainant under threat transferred Rs.14 Lakhs through RTGS into IDFC First Bank Account maintained in the name of "*Radha Pan Parlour*". Hence, FIR No. 05/2025 was registered by PS Cyber

Crime Fazilka against *Mr. Shikhawat* and his unidentified associates.

4. The co-accused *Jogi Tulsi Ram Pralahad Bhai* was arrested and the prosecution alleges that complainant's money was initially credited to his account. Subsequently, the appellant was arrested on 12.10.2025 and he is in custody till date. The other co-accused who was arrested, namely, *Vipulbhai Labhubhai* was granted regular bail by the High Court vide order dated 27.04.2026 passed in CRM-M-15097-2026.

5. It is the contention of the learned counsel appearing for the appellant that appellant has no criminal antecedents and was not named in the FIR and the primary transaction would disclose that the money went to "*Radha Pan Parlour*" which account belong to co-accused *Jogi Tulsi Ram* who is in custody. It was only due to subsequent investigation in which it was found that a sum of Rs.7,50,000/- said to have been transferred from *Jogi Tulsi Ram* account to the Bank of Baroda Account i.e. maintained by the appellant he has been arraigned as accused and it is the contention of the appellant that one *Hari Lal (@ Hira Ram)* obtained access to his account on the representation that *Hari Lal's* account was dysfunctional and promised the appellant Rs.20,000/- for permitting to use his account. Hence, claiming the ignorance of cyber fraud, absence of direct contact with the complainant and no money having been recovered from him, the appellant may be granted regular bail.

6. Having regard to the fact that the chargesheet has been filed and two out of eight witnesses having been examined, continued incarceration of the appellant is not warranted. Hence, appellant is ordered to be released

on bail on such terms and conditions as the jurisdictional court may deem fit to impose.

7. Accordingly, appeal stands allowed.

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

.....J.
(ARAVIND KUMAR)

.....J.
(VIPUL M. PANCHOLI)

**New Delhi;
September 18, 2026.**

ITEM NO.57

COURT NO.10

SECTION II-B

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). 12387/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 20-05-2026 in CRM-M No. 27477/2026 passed by the High Court of Punjab & Haryana at Chandigarh]

ASHOK KUMAR

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB

Respondent(s)

FOR ADMISSION

IA No. 195502/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 18-09-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARAVIND KUMAR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Ranjeet Singh Chauhan, Adv.
Ms. Harpreet, Adv.
Mr. Vishal Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Manisha Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Ashok Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Rituparn Uniyal, AOR

For Respondent(s) : 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 appeal is allowed in terms of the Signed Order which is placed on the file.

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

(RASHI GUPTA)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)