



**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

**CRIMINAL APPEAL No. _____/2026
[Arising out of SLP(Crl.) No.9005/2026]**

RAVINDER MEHTA APPELLANT

VERSUS

STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH RESPONDENT

ORDER

1. Leave granted.
2. The High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, by the impugned judgment and order dated 20th March, 2026, has rejected the appellant's prayer for regular bail.
3. Appellant, figuring as an accused in FIR No.0231 of 2025 dated 09th December, 2025 registered at Police Station Adarsh Mandi,

District Shamli, Uttar Pradesh under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was arrested on the same date.

4. We have heard learned counsel appearing for the parties.

5. We find that the charge-sheet has been filed on 07th February, 2026 upon completion of investigation. Prosecution proposes to examine 19 witnesses to drive home the charges against the appellant. As it is, once the trial starts, conclusion thereof is likely to take time.

6. However, what is of significance is that the sanction for prosecution is yet to be granted and, hence, the trial court is not in a position to take cognizance of the offence.

7. We have enquired of the learned counsel appearing for the respondent-State of Uttar Pradesh, as to whether sanction has been granted or not. No clear answer is furnished to us.

8. In such circumstances, Mr. Siddharth Dave, learned senior counsel for the appellant submits that this is an appropriate case where the appellant ought to be released on bail pending trial.

9. We proceed on the basis that sanction is yet to be granted. The charge-sheet having been filed as far back as on 07th February, 2026, we are surprised that the sanctioning authority is yet to activate itself.

10. The delay in grant of sanction to prosecute cannot be used to the disadvantage of a citizen for curtailing his liberty.

11. Taking an overall view of the matter, we find that further detention of the appellant in custody is unnecessary; hence, we are inclined to accept the appeal and grant relief as prayed by admitting the appellant to an order for grant of bail.

12. Accordingly, we set aside the impugned

judgment and order.

13. Appellant shall be released on bail, subject to furnishing of bail bonds to the satisfaction of the trial court and subject to such other terms and conditions as may be imposed by it.

14. Needless to observe, the appellant shall not, directly or indirectly, by making inducement, threat or promise, dissuade any person acquainted with the facts of the case from disclosing such facts to the court.

15. In the event there is any breach of the terms and conditions for grant of bail, the trial court shall be at liberty to cancel the bail of the appellant.

16. It is also ordered that the appellant shall diligently attend proceedings of the trial, unless exempted. If he is found to abstain from attending the proceedings without justifiable cause, that could also be seen as breach of the conditions for grant of bail and the trial court

will be free to pass appropriate orders.

17. We clarify that the observations made in this order and grant of bail will not be treated as findings on the merits of the case.

18. The appeal is, accordingly, allowed on the aforesaid terms.

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

.....J.
(DIPANKAR DATTA)

.....J.
(SHEEL NAGU)

**New Delhi;
July 17, 2026.**

ITEM NO.1

COURT NO.7

SECTION II

**S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.)
No.9005/2026**

**[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order
dated 20-03-2026 in CR MBA No.5778/2026 passed by
the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad]**

RAVINDER MEHTA

Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH

Respondent

**[ONLY I.A. No. 191468/2026 IS LISTED UNDER THIS
ITEM.]
I.A. No.191468/2026-INTERIM BAIL**

**Date : 17-07-2026 This matter was called on for
hearing today.**

**CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DIPANKAR DATTA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU**

**For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Siddharth Dave, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Vishnu Kant, AOR
Mr. Sarthak Singh, Adv.
Mr. Yusuf Tariq, Adv.**

**For Respondent(s) : Mr. Vishwa Pal Singh, AOR
Mr. Srikant Singh, Adv.
Mr. Srajan Shankar
Kulshreshtha, Adv.
Mr. Suraj Pal Singh Mina, Adv.
Mr. Abhiit Singh, Adv.
Mr. Amit Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Soniya Sharma, Adv.**

Ms. Annpurna Goel, Adv.

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

1. Leave granted.
2. The appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order.
3. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(MANIK KUMAR)	(SUDHIR KUMAR SHARMA)
SENIOR PERSONAL ASSISTANT	COURT MASTER (NSH)
(signed order is placed on the file)	