



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

Criminal Appeal No. 3549/2026

(Arising out of SLP(Crl) No. 8589/2026)

VINAY KUMAR CHOUBEY

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF JHARKHAND

Respondent(s)

O R D E R

1. Heard.

2. Leave granted.

3. An FIR No. 11/2025 came to be registered for the offence(s) punishable under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and under Sections 13(2) read with 13(1)(d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against the appellant at Police Station ACB Hazaribagh, District Hazaribagh, Jharkhand on 25.09.2025 in which appellant has been arraigned as an accused and he is seeking for grant of regular bail.

4. A complaint came to be submitted by Tripurari Singh (Journalist Secretary, Journalists Union, Kadma, Hazaribagh) alleging large scale illegal mutation of revenue records and encroachment of Bhudan land, Forest Land, Government Land, Grazing Land and Gair Majrui Aam and Gair Majrui Khas Lands by land mafias in Hazaribag District.

5. A Preliminary Enquiry bearing No.24 of 2015 was registered and clubbed with earlier enquiry for joint investigation. During the investigation irregularities were found in 33 mutation cases involving Gair Majrui Khas category land which the prosecution claims to be a forest land. The prosecution alleges that the concerned Revenue Officials in conspiracy with sellers and purchasers abused their official positions and illegally facilitated mutation of revenue records of forest land in violation of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

6. Appellant came to be arrested on 11.11.2025 and has remained in judicial custody from the said date on completion of the investigation chargesheet has been filed

on 05.02.2026 By the impugned Order the prayer for bail has been rejected.

7. Having heard the learned counsels appearing for the parties, we have noticed that appellant assumed charge as Deputy Commissioner, Hazaribagh on 26.05.2008 and worked till 05.10.2010. Between 2011 to 2012, 23 mutations have been carried out particularly during the period 20.10.2011 to 21.03.2012.

8. It is the case of the prosecution that while appellant was serving as Deputy Commissioner, Hazaribagh he had facilitated or influenced mutation of revenue records in favour of private person namely Vinay Kumar Choubey. Subsequently, this Court vide Order dated 10.02.2026 granted interim bail to Vinay Kumar Choubey. Having regard to the fact that the investigation has been concluded and chargesheet has been filed and also the fact that co-accused has been granted bail, we are of the considered view that appellant is entitled for similar relief on the ground of parity.

9. Hence, we allow this appeal, set aside the

impugned order and grant regular bail to the appellant, subject to such terms and conditions as the jurisdictional Court may impose.

10. To allay the apprehension of the prosecution we grant liberty to the prosecution or to the complainant to seek for cancellation of the bail of the appellant, in the event of any of the conditions imposed being violated. Appellant shall appear before the jurisdictional Court on all dates of hearing without fail except when specifically exempted by the jurisdictional Court trial Court.

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

.....J
(ARAVIND KUMAR)

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

New Delhi;
July 31, 2026

ITEM NO.6

COURT NO.12

SECTION II-A

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

Criminal Appeal No(s). 3549/2026

VINAY KUMAR CHOUBEY

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF JHARKHAND

Respondent(s)

**IA No. 142472/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF
THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT**

IA No. 142468/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

**IA No. 142480/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES**

**Date : 31-07-2026 This matter was called on for
hearing today.**

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARAVIND KUMAR

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI

For Appellant(s) : Mr. Ajit Kumar Singh, Adv.

Mr. Amit Verma, AOR

Ms. Anukriti Tiwary, Adv.

Mr. Shirish Kohli, Adv.

Mr. Rewant Singh, Adv.

Mr. Shubham Sahota, Adv.

Ms. Aastha Anand, Adv.

Mr. Devesh Ajmani, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Jayant Mohan, AOR

Ms. Adya Shree Dutta, Adv.

Ms. Dorjee Ongmu Lachungpa, Adv.

Mr. Priyanshu Teotia, Adv.

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

- 1.** Heard
- 2.** Leave granted.
- 3.** The criminal appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order which is placed on the file.
- 4.** Pending applications(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

**(DEEPANSHU)
SENIOR PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

**(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)**