

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO(S) . 562-563 OF 2015

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

1. These appeals are directed against the orders dated 16.12.2014 and 11.03.2015 passed by the Special Judge (PC Act) (CBI)-7, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi. Vide the above-stated order, the learned Special Judge took cognizance of the offences under Sections 409 and 120-B IPC and Sections 13(1)(c) and 13(1)(d)(iii) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against six persons, including the Appellant - Late Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India.

2. It may be noticed at the outset that the CBI, after investigation, filed two closure reports, firstly on 27.08.2014 and then on 21.10.2014, thereby giving a clean chit to the Appellant.

3. Nevertheless, the learned Special Judge, for the reasons assigned in the impugned order, turned down the closure reports and took cognizance against the appellant. Consequently, vide order dated 11.03.2015, summons were

issued to him and the other co-accused persons to face trial.

4. Ordinarily, this appeal could be disposed of as having become infructuous due to the unfortunate demise of the Appellant. We are, however, informed that family members of the deceased are seeking adjudication thereof on merits. In order to appreciate whether there were good reasons and sufficient material on record to take cognizance and consequently to summon the Appellant, we have gone through both the closure reports filed by the CBI with the able assistance of the learned senior counsel for the parties.

5. Having regard to the well-known parameters consistently laid down by this Court in the matter of acceptance or rejection of the final reports filed by an investigating agency, we are satisfied that there were no compelling reasons for the learned Special Judge to turn down the closure reports filed by the CBI and to take cognizance of the cited offences with respect to the Appellant.

6. Keeping in view the peculiar role sought to be attributed to the deceased Appellant in his official capacity and his case being totally distinguishable, we allow these appeals and set aside the impugned judgments dated 16.12.2014 and 11.03.2015. We accept the closure reports filed by the CBI and, consequently, close the matters qua the Appellant on merits.

7. Ordered accordingly.
8. Pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

.....CJI.
(SURYA KANT)

.....J.
(JOYMALYA BAGCHI)

.....J.
(V. MOHANA)

NEW DELHI;
JULY 29, 2026.

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGSCriminal Appeal No(s). 562-563/2015

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 5692/2015 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 5694/2015 - PERMISSION TO FILE LENGTHY LIST OF DATES)

WITH

Cr1.A. No. 556/2015 (II-D)

Cr1.A. No. 560-561/2015 (II-D)

(IA No. 5687/2015 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

Cr1.A. No. 557/2015 (II-D)

(IA No. 5619/2015 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 5621/2015 - PERMISSION TO FILE LENGTHY LIST OF DATES)

Cr1.A. No. 558-559/2015 (II-D)

(IA No. 5625/2015 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 5627/2015 - PERMISSION TO FILE PETITION (SLP/TP/WP/..))

Cr1.A. No. 555/2015 (II-D)

(IA No. 5614/2015 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

W.P.(C) No. 161/2015 (X)

(IA No. 1/2015 - PERMISSION TO FILE LENGTHY LIST OF DATES)

W.P.(Cr1.) No. 164/2015 (X)

(IA No. 15171/2015 - STAY APPLICATION)

SLP(Cr1) No. 12591/2026 (II-D)

SLP(Cr1) No. 12550/2026 (II-D)

(IA No. 198047/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

Date : 29-07-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE V. MOHANA

For Appellant(s) : Mrs. Vanita Bhargava, Adv.
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Mr. Saurabh Singh, Adv.
Mr. Kunal Dutt, Adv.
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Mr. Jitesh Saluja, Adv.
Mr. Suprabh Kumar Roshan, Adv.

Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Sr. Adv.
Mrs. Gauri Rasgotra, Adv.
Mr. Dinesh Moorjani, Adv.
Mr. Shivansh Agarwal, Adv.
Mr. Karan Singh Duggal, Adv.
Mr. Gurpreet Singh Parwanda, Adv.
Mr. Pallav Srivasta, Adv.

Mr. Dama Seshadri Naidu, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Aggarwal, Sr. Adv.

Ms. Devina Sehgal, AOR
Ms. Arshiya Ghose, Adv.
Mr. Yatharth Kansal, Adv.
Mr. Nishtha Kaura, Adv.
Mr. Karan Dhalla, Adv.
Mr. Japman Singh, Adv.
Mr. Sidhant Saraswat, Adv.va, Adv.
Dr. Charu Mathur, Adv.
Ms. Charu Mathur, AOR

Mr. M.S. Ganesh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. R. Ayyam Perumal, AOR
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Mr. Rao Raj Bahadur Singh, Adv.
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For Respondent(s) : Ms. Sushma Suri, AOR

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Mr. A. Karthik, AOR
Mr. Akshay Nagarajan, Adv.
Mr. Akash Singh, Adv.
Ms. Smrithi Suresh, Adv.
Mr. Sugam Agrawal, Adv.
Ms. Veera Mahuli, Adv.
Ms. Sushma Suri, AOR
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Mr. Vikas Mehta, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

Criminal Appeal No(s). 562-563/2015

1. The appeals are allowed in terms of the signed order. Signed order is placed on the file.
2. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand closed.

Rest of the matters

3. The Registry is directed to de-tag and re-tag these matters in the following manner:

(i) Cr1.A. No. 556/2015, Cr1.A. Nos. 560-561/2015, Cr1.A. No. 557/2015, Cr1.A. Nos.558-559/2015 & Cr1.A. No.555/2015 (Item Nos. 6.1-6.5) .

(ii) SLP(Cr1.) No.12591/2026 & SLP (Cr1.) NO.12550/2026 (It. Nos. 6.8, 6.9) .

(iii) W.P(C) No.161/2015 & W.P.(Cr1.) No.164/2014 (It. Nos. 6.6, 6.7) .

4. List these appeals and petitions in the miscellaneous list, in the above sequence, on 02.09.2026.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR