

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION



CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. OF 2026
(@ Special Leave Petition (Crl.) No.21380/2025)

POONAM CHARANDAS KHANNA

...APPELLANT (S)

VERSUS

STATE OF MAHARASHTRA

...RESPONDENT (S)

O R D E R

I.A. No.39017/2026 - application for impleadment/intervention is allowed.

Leave granted.

This appeal challenges the judgment and order dated 08.12.2025 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay in Bail Application No.4538/2025.

The appellant herein has been booked for the crime registered pursuant to FIR No. 34/2020 dated 03.02.2020 lodged with Kherwadi Police Station, Mumbai, Maharashtra, with respect to offences punishable under Sections 420, 406 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ("IPC").

An application seeking regular bail having been rejected by the High Court vide impugned order dated 08.12.2025, the appellant has preferred the instant appeal.

This Court vide its order dated 07.01.2026, issued notice in the instant matter.

We have heard learned counsel for the appellant and learned counsel appearing for the respondent(s)/State and peruse the material on record.

Learned counsel for the appellant submitted that the appellant is an elderly lady nearly sixty years of age and has been in jail since 29.01.2024, i.e., for over two years; that the trial is progressing tardily and eight out of twelve witnesses have been examined. It is not known as to when the trial would concluded. But, having regard to the fact that offences for which the appellant is being tried are punishable by a period of seven years or less, the relief of bail may be granted to the appellant herein by setting aside the impugned order. Learned counsel for the appellant also submitted that the appellant has a good case on merits and therefore, chances of her acquittal are bright. In the circumstances, the appeal may be allowed.

Per contra, learned counsel for the respondent/State with reference to his counter

affidavit as well as learned counsel for the respondent who has been impleaded as respondent submitted in unison that the appellant herein has misrepresented that she is an Advocate whereas she is not qualified as an Advocate and further the appellant has duped several persons by misrepresenting to them that she is qualified in law and therefore, she could get relief for them; that believing her huge sums of monies have been paid to her towards her professional charges. In the circumstances, no relief may be granted to her and the appeal may be dismissed.

Considering the facts on record, in our view, the case for bail is made out.

We, therefore, allow this appeal and direct as under:

"The appellant shall be produced before the concerned trial Court as early as possible and the trial Court shall release her on bail, subject to such conditions as it may deem appropriate to impose to ensure her presence in the proceedings arising out of FIR No. 34/2020 mentioned above."

It is directed that the appellant shall extend complete cooperation in the trial of the instant case.

The appellant shall not misuse her liberty in any

manner.

Any infraction of the conditions may entail in cancellation of bail granted to the appellant.

With these observations, the appeal is allowed.

.....J.
[B.V. NAGARATHNA]

.....J.
[UJJAL BHUYAN]

NEW DELHI
FEBRUARY 06, 2026

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). 21380/2025

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 08-12-2025 in BA No. 4538/2025 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay]

POONAM CHARANDAS KHANNA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF MAHARASHTRA

Respondent(s)

IA No. 338792/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No. 338793/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

I.A. No.39017/2026 - application for impleadment/intervention

Date : 06-02-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYANFor Petitioner(s) :Mr. Prastut Mahesh Dalvi, AOR
Mr. Pranay Saraf, Adv.
Ms. Vidhi Pankaj Thaker, Adv.For Respondent(s) :Mr. Varad Kilor, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR
Mr. Shirang B. Varma, Adv.Mr. Shibu Devasia Olickal, AOR
Mr. K.Gireesh Kumar, Adv.UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R
I.A. No.39017/2026 - application for

impleadment/intervention is allowed.

Leave granted.

The Appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order.

Pending application(s) shall stand disposed of.

**(NEETU SACHDEVA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS**

**(DIVYA BABBAR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)**

(signed order is placed on the file)