



ITEM NO.10

COURT NO.1

SECTION II-E

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. 5296/2026

[Arising out of impugned judgment and order dated 25-02-2026 in MCRC No. 7914/2026 passed by the High Court of Madhya Pradesh Principal Seat at Jabalpur]

POOJA PANDEY

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF M P

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 90810/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 18-05-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

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

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Sidharth Luthra, Sr. Adv.  
Mr. Sushil Tiwari, Adv.  
Mr. Akshat Shrivastava, AOR  
Mrs. Pooja Shrivastava, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Sridhar Potaraju, A.A.G.  
Mr. Abhimanyu Singh Ga, Adv.  
Mr. Harmeet Singh Ruprah, AOR  
Ms. Chamundeshwari Pemmasani, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. The petitioner seeks enlargement on bail in FIR No.473/2025 registered at Police Station Lakanwada, District Seoni, for the offences punishable under Sections 310(2), 126(2), 140(3) and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

2. The petitioner was the Sub-Divisional Police Officer. She, along with a team of police officials are said to have intercepted a Hyundai Creta vehicle on the intervening night of 8-9/10/2025. The vehicle was being driven by Irfan Pathan and Sheikh Mukhtar. It is stated that a sum of Rs.2,96,50,000/- was found in the vehicle upon which the occupants were restrained and taken to a secluded place. As a part of the alleged criminal conspiracy, the petitioner and other police officials are alleged to have taken a sum of Rs.1.45 crores while letting go of the occupants and permitting them to retain the remaining amount. It is further alleged that the amount of Rs.1.45 crores was kept in the office of the petitioner at her directions, and the aforesaid total amount was being carried under Hawala led by one Sohan Lal Parmar, who made a complaint, whereupon the subject FIR was registered.

3. While the allegations against the petitioner is that she, along with other police officers, misappropriated a substantial part of the Hawala amount, her case is that only a sum of Rs.1.45 crores was recovered from the complainant, and it was falsely shown as if the total amount is Rs.2,96,50,000/-.

4. Be that as it may, the petitioner was arrested on 17.10.2025, the investigation is complete, and the chargesheet has already been filed. The case is now fixed for framing of charges. The conclusion of the trial will take some reasonable time. The petitioner is a single mother with

a child aged 2-3 years old, who is also in jail with her.

5. Taking into consideration all the attending circumstances, namely, the period spent in custody; the time likely to be taken in conclusion of trial; the petitioner being a single mother with a child of 2-3 years old and there is no likelihood of absconding from the trial proceedings, the instant petition is disposed of and the petitioner is directed to be released on bail subject to her furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the jurisdictional Court.

6. It is, however, made clear that we have not expressed any opinion on the merits of the allegations/counter allegations.

7. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand closed.

(NITIN TALREJA)  
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR