



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

248

CRM-A-1493-2025 (O&M)
Date of decision: 28.10.2025

NAVDEEP BHARDWAJ

...Applicant

VERSUS

MANJEET KUMAR

...Respondents

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ

Present :- Mr. S.K. Liberhan, Advocate for the applicant.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)

CRM-38400-2025

Prayer in the application is for condonation of delay of 24 days in filing the appeal.

For the reasons mentioned in the application, the same is allowed and delay of 24 days in filing the appeal is condoned.

CRM-A-1493-2025

The present application has been preferred under Section 378(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (hereinafter 'CR.P.C.') seeking grant of leave to appeal against the judgment of acquittal dated 14.05.2025 passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class Chandigarh in a case stemming from criminal complaint dated 25.07.2022 filed under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

2. The complaint (supra) was filed on the ground of dishonour of cheque of Rs. 5,00,000/-. After assessing all the material available on the record, the learned trial Court acquitted the respondent(s) vide judgment

dated 14.05.2025.

3. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the applicant submits that in view of the judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *M/s. Celestium Financial vs. A. Gnanasekaran Etc., 2025(3) RCR (Criminal) 208*, the applicant would have a remedy before the Court of Sessions.

4. In view of the judgment rendered by the Apex Court in *Celestium Financial (supra)*, the present application seeking leave to appeal is **remanded** to the learned Sessions Judge, Chandigarh with a direction to treat the same as an appeal filed under Section 372 of the Cr.P.C. (now Section 413 of BNSS) and entrust the same to appropriate Court for its disposal on merits.

5. The Registry is directed to send the complete paper-book and the record of the case to the learned Sessions Judge, Chandigarh forthwith.

6. Disposed of accordingly. Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

OCTOBER 28, 2025

Vishal Sharma

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether reportable : Yes/No