



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

221

CRA-AS-277-2022

Date of Decision: 12.09.2025

JASPREET SINGH

.....APPELLANT

Vs.

RAJESH KUMAR

.....RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBHAS MEHLA

Present: Ms. Ekta Thakur, Advocate with
Ms. Shikha, Advocate
for the appellant.

SUBHAS MEHLA, J. (ORAL)

1. The present appeal has been preferred under Section 378(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (hereinafter 'Cr.P.C.') against the judgment of acquittal dated 30.05.2013 passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, SAS Nagar, Mohali in a complaint case filed under Section 138 read with Section 420 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (hereinafter 'NI Act'). This appeal was admitted vide order dated 09.02.2022 by the Co-ordinate Bench of this Court.

2. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in *M/s Celestium Financial vs. A. Gnanasekaran Etc., 2025(3) RCR (Criminal) 208*, after considerable discussion and comparative interpretation of Sections 372 and 378(4) of Cr.P.C., concluded that the victim has a right to file an appeal under Section 372 of Cr.P.C. before the Court of Sessions. Reliance in this regard can also be placed on *Satish Kumar Versus Jugal Kishor* in CRM-A-2700-MA-2018 decided on 02.07.2025. Further still, applying the doctrine of prospective overruling, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Directorate of Revenue Intelligence Vs. Raj Kumar Arora* in SCC Online 819 has clarified that

as a rule of thumb, judgments rendered shall be applicable retrospectively.

3. Therefore, in view of the judgment rendered by the Apex Court in *Celestium Financial (supra)*, the present appeal is remanded back to the learned Sessions Judge concerned with a direction to treat the same as appeal filed under Section 372 of the Cr.P.C. and to dispose of by himself/herself or entrust it to appropriate Court for its disposal.
4. The Registry is directed to send the complete paper-book and the record of the case to the learned Sessions Judge concerned forthwith.
5. Disposed of accordingly.

(SUBHAS MEHLA)
JUDGE

12.09.2025

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