



245 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-A-1458-2024
Date of decision: 13.11.2025

GAIN CHAND

...APPLICANT

V/S

JAI BHAGWAN

...RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBHAS MEHLA

Present: Mr. Govind Arora, Advocate
for the applicant.

SUBHAS MEHLA, J. (ORAL)

1. The present application has been preferred under Section 378(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (hereinafter 'Cr.P.C.') read with Section 419 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 seeking grant of leave to appeal against the judgment of acquittal dated 25.09.2024 passed by learned Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Naraingarh in a complaint case filed under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (hereinafter 'NI Act').

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, 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 application seeking leave to appeal is remanded back to the learned Sessions Judge concerned with a direction to treat the same as filed under Section 372 of the Cr.P.C. read with Section 413 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 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.

November 13, 2025
manisha

(SUBHAS MEHLA)
JUDGE

(i)	Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
(ii)	Whether reportable	Yes/No