IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

Criminal Appeal (D.B.) No.1140 of 2026

Kuldeep Ganjhu @ Badal @ Toelu, aged about 25 years, son of Late Ghajua Ganjhu, resident of Village-Kanadi, P.O. & P.S.-Burmu, District-Ranchi

…. …. Appellant

Versus

Union of India through National Investigation Agency

…. …. Respondent

CORAM: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ram Sharma

For the Appellant : Mr. Ajit Kumar, Advocate
For the NIA : Mr. Amit Kumar Das, Spl. P.P. (NIA)
: Mr. Saurav Kumar, A.C. to Spl. P.P. (NIA)

05/Dated: 29th October, 2026

I.A. No.12655 of 2026

1. Heard Mr. Ajit Kumar, learned counsel for the appellant and Mr. Amit Kumar Das, learned Spl. P.P. for the NIA.

2. This application has been preferred by the appellant for condoning the delay of 52 days in filing the appeal.

3. Having been satisfied with the reasons assigned in the instant application, the same is allowed and the delay of 52 days in filing the appeal is hereby condoned.

4. I.A. No.12655 of 2026 stands disposed of.

Criminal Appeal (D.B.) No.1140 of 2026

1. This appeal is directed against the order dated 12.02.2026 passed by the learned Additional Judicial Commissioner-XVI-cum-Special Judge for NIA Cases, Ranchi in M.C.A. No.112 of 2026 arising out of Special NIA Case No.4 of 2022, whereby and whereunder the prayer for bail of the appellant has been rejected.

2. It has been alleged that on an invitation given by the Gram Vikas Samiti of village Jhilrua as the chief guest of the sports event organized on the occasion of foundation day of project +2 School at village-Jhilrua, the former MLA of Manoharpur State Legislative Constituency along with his bodyguards and driver had gone to attend the sports event in his scorpio vehicle. It has been alleged that the programme concluded with the

distribution of prizes and thereafter when the Ex-MLA was proceeding in his scorpio vehicle with his bodyguards at 5:45 pm his bodyguards were surrounded by the extremists and they were attacked with sharped edge weapon. The informant somehow managed to escape from the said place and reached home. Later on, one of the bodyguard reached the house of the informant in an injured condition and the matter was informed to the police. The informant had come to know that two of his bodyguards had died on account of the attack committed upon them by the extremists.

Based on the aforesaid allegations, Goilkera P.S. Case No.01 of 2022 was instituted. Charge sheet was submitted against 09 accused persons keeping further investigation pending against the other accused persons.

In exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (5) of Section 6 read with Section 8 of the NIA Act, the Central Government *suo-moto* directed the NIA to take up the investigation and in compliance of which the FIR was re-registered as RC-03/2022/NIA/RNC.

During the investigation the appellant had filed an application under Section 306 Cr.P.C. for becoming an approver which was allowed vide order dated 27.06.2023.

3. It has been submitted by the learned counsel for the appellant that the appellant had turned approver and his evidence has also been recorded in course of trial. It has been submitted that the appellant is in custody since 09.01.2023.

4. Mr. Amit Kumar Das, learned Spl. P.P. for the NIA on instruction submits that he is not opposing the prayer for bail of the appellant since he has already been examined as P.W.-19 by the learned trial court and he has not deviated from what he had stated in course of investigation.

5. In view of the fact that the appellant had turned approver and he has also been examined as P.W.-19 and considering the period of custody undergone by the appellant, we while setting aside the order dated 12.02.2026 passed by the learned Additional Judicial Commissioner-XVI-cum-Special Judge for NIA Cases, Ranchi in M.C.A. No.112 of 2026 arising out of Special NIA Case No.4 of 2022 direct that the appellant above named be released on bail on furnishing bail bond of Rs.10,000/- (Ten thousand) with two sureties of the like amount each, to the satisfaction of learned

Additional Judicial Commissioner-XVI-cum-Special Judge for NIA Cases, Ranchi in connection with F.I.R. No. RC-03/2022/NIA/RNC arising out of Special NIA Case No.4 of 2022.

6. This appeal is allowed.

(Rongon Mukhopadhyay, J.)

(Ram Sharma, J.)

Dated 29.10.2026
Shahid/
Uploaded on 30.10.2026