



CRM-M-19739 of 2026

-1-

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

164

CRM-M-19739 of 2026
Date of Decision: 20.04.2026

Pawan Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

Gurmej Singh

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL

Present: Mr. G.C. Shahpuri, Advocate
for the petitioner.

RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL, J (ORAL)

1. Instant petition has been filed for quashing/setting aside of order dated 09.02.2026 (Annexure P-4) passed by the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Yamuna Nagar at Jagadhri in case bearing No.CRA-58-2026 titled as '*Pawan Singh vs Gurmej Singh*' filed against the judgment of conviction and order of sentence dated 12.01.2026 passed by learned Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Jagadhri in NACT/1400/2018, whereby, the sentence of the petitioner was suspended and the petitioner was directed to deposit 20% of the compensation without considering whether the case of the petitioner falls within exception or not.

2. Vide judgment of conviction dated 12.01.2026 and order on quantum of sentence dated 12.01.2026 passed by learned Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Jagadhri, the petitioner was convicted and sentenced to undergo imprisonment for a period of one year for commission of offence punishable



CRM-M-19739 of 2026

-2-

under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act and was further directed to pay compensation to the tune of Rs.13,30,000/- to the complainant along with default mechanism. Thereafter, the petitioner preferred an appeal against the said judgment of conviction and order of sentence before the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Yamuna Nagar at Jagadhri. The learned Appellate Court vide order dated 09.02.2026, suspended the sentence of the petitioner and directed to deposit 20% of the compensation amount within 60 days.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner *inter alia* contends that the learned Appellate Court failed to appreciate the facts in the right perspective and directed the petitioner to deposit 20% of the compensation amount which is illegal, arbitrary and in violation of the law as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Jamboo Bhandari vs. M.P. State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. and others 2023(1) SCC 446***. Speaking through Justice Abhay S. Oka, it has been held as follows:-

“6. What is held by this Court is that a purposive interpretation should be made of Section 148 of the N.I. Act. Hence, normally, Appellate Court will be justified in imposing the condition of deposit as provided in Section 148. However, in a case where the Appellate Court is satisfied that the condition of deposit of 20% will be unjust or imposing such a condition will amount to deprivation of the right of appeal of the appellant, exception can be made for the reasons specifically recorded.

7. Therefore, when Appellate Court considers the prayer under Section 389 of the Cr.P.C. of an petitioner who has been convicted for offence under Section 138 of the N.I. Act, it is always open for the Appellate Court to consider whether it is an exceptional case which warrants grant of suspension of sentence without imposing the



CRM-M-19739 of 2026

-3-

condition of deposit of 20% of the fine/compensation amount. As stated earlier, if the Appellate Court comes to the conclusion that it is an exceptional case, the reasons for coming to the said 4 conclusion must be recorded.”

4. Having heard learned counsel for the petitioner and after perusing the judgment passed in ***Jamboo Bhandari (supra)***, the Appellate Court was required to consider whether the case of the petitioner is an exceptional case which warrants direction to deposit of 20% fine/compensation amount. The impugned order dated 09.02.2026 (Annexure P-4) is hereby set aside to the extent of depositing 20% of compensation amount. The learned Appellate Court is directed to re-examine the case after granting an opportunity to the petitioner to make submissions regarding the exceptional circumstances and decide whether it is an appropriate case that warrants waiver of the requirement of deposit of 20% of the compensation awarded by learned trial Court.

5. The matter is remanded back to the learned Appellate Court with a direction to decide the matter afresh in accordance with law in the light of judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Jamboo Bhandari's case (supra)***.

6. The petition is disposed of accordingly.

(RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL)
JUDGE

20.04.2026

D.Bansal

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