



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

254

CRM-A-850-2025 (O&M)

Date of decision: 14.01.2026

SHRI RAM TRANSPORT FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

...Applicant

VERSUS

RINKU SAHOTA

...Respondent

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

Present :- Ms. Mamta, Advocate as Legal Aid Counsel,
for the applicant.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)

The present application has been preferred under Section 419(4) of the BNSS, 2023 seeking grant of leave to appeal against the judgment of acquittal dated 05.03.2025 passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Jalandhar stemming out from complaint case No. NACT-4243-2019 filed under Section 138/142 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

2. No one has entered appearance on behalf of the applicant, hence, it is deemed expedient to nominate a Legal Aid Counsel. Ms. Mamta, Advocate, Enrollment No. PH/6348/2025, Mobile No. 99156-58681 who is present in the Court, is appointed as the Legal Aid Counsel to represent the case on behalf of applicant to arrive at a decision. She has gone through the case file and submits that the present application has been filed against the judgment of acquittal dated 05.03.2025 passed by the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Jalandhar, in complaint case No. NACT-4243-2019 filed under Section 138/142 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. She fairly 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.

3. The complaint (supra) was filed on the ground of dishonour of cheque bearing No. 275920 dated 13.06.2019 amounting to Rs. 1,30,000/- issued by the accused-respondent. After assessing all the material available on the record, the learned trial Court acquitted the respondent(s) vide judgment dated 05.03.2025.

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, Jalandhar 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, Jalandhar forthwith.

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

7. A copy of this order be sent to the High Court Legal Service Committee for information and necessary action.

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

JANUARY 14, 2026

Vishal Sharma

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