



**In the High Court for the States of Punjab and Haryana
at Chandigarh**

141

CRM-A-1195-2025 (O&M)
Date of Decision:- 10.03.2026

Kulwinder Singh ... Applicant

Versus

State of Punjab and another ... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBHAS MEHLA

Present:- Mr. Sumeet Puri, Advocate for the applicant.
(Through video conferencing)

SUBHAS MEHLA, J. (Oral)

CRM-9789-2026

In view of the reasons mentioned in the application, the same is allowed and the hearing of the main application i.e. CRM-A-1195-2025 is preponed from 27.07.2026 and is taken on Board today itself.

CRM-A-1195-2026

1. The present application has been preferred under Section 378(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (hereinafter 'Cr.P.C.') (Corresponding Section 419(4) of BNSS) seeking grant of leave to appeal against the judgment of acquittal dated 26.05.2025 passed by learned Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Moonak, 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



CRM-A-1195-2025 (O&M) (2)

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 2025/NSC 498; 2025 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. (Section 413 of BNSS) 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.

10.03.2026
Geeta

(SUBHAS MEHLA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking /reasoned	Yes / No
Whether Reportable	Yes / No