



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

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CRA-AS-172-2016 (O&M)

Date of Decision:16.03.2026

M/s DLF Utilities Ltd.

....Appellant

Versus

Prateek Wadhwa

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present: Mr. Rajeev Anand, Advocate, for the appellant.

AMAN CHAUDHARY, J. (Oral)

1. In the present appeal, application preferred under Section 378(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (hereinafter 'Cr.P.C.') seeking grant of leave to appeal against the judgment of acquittal dated 01.02.2016 passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Gurgaon in a complaint filed under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (hereinafter 'NI Act') has already been allowed vide order dated 23.11.2016 passed by a co-ordinate Bench of this Court.
2. Hon'ble the Supreme Court in **M/s Celestium Financial vs. A. Gnanasekaran Etc.**, 2025 SCC OnLine 1320, held that an appeal is maintainable under the proviso of Section 372 Cr.P.C. (corresponding Section 413 of BNSS, 2023) against an order of acquittal passed in a complaint under Section 138 NI Act, by treating the complainant therein, as a 'victim' within the meaning under Section 2 (wa) of Cr.P.C, in view of which, the present appeal is disposed of by directing the concerned Sessions Judge, for treating it to have been filed under Section 372 of Cr.P.C. and assigning the same to the Court concerned for deciding it.
3. Registry is directed to send the complete paper-book and trial Court record, if received, along with the said order forthwith, while also informing the parties.

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE

March 16, 2026

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Whether speaking

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Yes/No

Whether reportable

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Yes/No