Redacted by NyayVidhan (the conviction includes a sexual offence): the appellant's name and aliases (shown as initials on nyayvidhan.in) and the High Court's bench seat are withheld. Text otherwise as issued by the Court.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. OF 2026
(@ SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) NO. 17665/2026)

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH RESPONDENT(S)

ORDER

1. Leave granted.

2. There is an inadvertent error in our order dated 15.09.2026, wherein we recorded that 'Mr. Manika Tripathy, learned counsel' had appeared for the State of Madhya Pradesh. Ms. Manika Tripathy is the counsel for the appellant and the respondent-State of Madhya Pradesh is represented by Ms. Mrinal Gopal Elker, learned counsel.

3. The order dated 15.09.2026 may be corrected accordingly.

4. We have heard Ms. Manika Tripathy, learned counsel for the appellant and Mr. V.V.V. Pattabhiram, learned Deputy Advocate General for the respondent-State of Madhya Pradesh.

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by ABHINAV KUMAR
Date: 2026.11.05 15:01:57 IST
Reason:

5. Appellant has been convicted by the Trial Court under

Sections 302, 376(1) and 379 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (for short, 'IPC') and sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment (for short, 'R.I.') for life and payment of fine with a default stipulation.

6. Aggrieved by the conviction and sentence, appellant has preferred an appeal before the High Court of Madhya Pradesh at (briefly 'the High Court' hereinafter), which has been registered as CRA-3147-2016. In the aforesaid appeal, appellant filed an Interlocutory Application being I.A. No.21084/2016 for suspension of sentence and grant of bail.

7. By the impugned order dated 15.12.2017, the High Court rejected the said interlocutory application and declined to suspend the sentence and grant bail to the appellant.

8. We find from the materials on record that appellant has undergone more than 13 years of incarceration. Further, we find that the criminal appeal pending before the High Court is of the year 2016.

9. In the circumstances, we are of the view that a case for suspension of sentence and grant of bail is made out in favour of the appellant.

10. That being the position, the impugned order dated 15.12.2017 passed by the High Court is set aside.

11. Consequently, we suspend the sentence and grant bail to the appellant on usual terms and conditions. We also request the High Court to hear CRA-3147-2016 expeditiously

and at any rate, within a period of 04 months from the date of first mentioning before the Roster Bench of the High Court.

12. Accordingly, the Criminal Appeal is allowed.

13. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

……..J.

[UJJAL BHUYAN]

……..J.

[ATUL S. CHANDURKAR]

NEW DELHI;
04th NOVEMBER, 2026.
AK

ITEM NO.3 COURT NO.13 SECTION II-E

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s). 17665/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 15-12-2017 in IA No. 21084/2016 passed by the High Court of Madhya Pradesh

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH Respondent(s)

**(IA No. 232527/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT
IA No. 232529/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)**

Date : 04-11-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

**CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ATUL S. CHANDURKAR**

**For Petitioner(s): Ms. Manika Tripathy- 1568, AOR
Mr. Ashutosh Kaushik, Adv.
Mr. Aman Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Bhavya, Adv.
Ms. Nandhini Nallam, Adv.**

**For Respondent(s): Mr. V.V.V. Pattabhiram, D.A.G.
Ms. Mrinal Gopal Elker- 2566, AOR
Ms. Aarushi Singh, Adv.
Ms. Shubhangi Gupta, Adv.**

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. Leave granted.

2. The Criminal Appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order placed on the file.

3. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(ABHINAV KUMAR) (CHETNA BALOONI)
COURT MASTER (SH) COURT MASTER (NSH)