

ITEM NO.35

COURT NO.1

SECTION II-A

**S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S**

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s). 3525/2024

(Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 29-02-2024 in WPCR No. 113/2024 passed by the High Court Of Jharkhand At Ranchi)

SUDHIR CHAUDHARY

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF JHARKHAND & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 62348/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT IA No. 62349/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 11-03-2024 These matters were called on for hearing today.

**CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA**

**For Petitioner(s) Mr. Siddharth Luthra, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Hrishikesh Baruah, AOR
Mr. Kumar Kshitij, Adv.
Mr. Anurag Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Radhika Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Saumitra Srivastava, Adv.**

For Respondent(s)

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

- 1 The petitioner who is a senior Journalist and Consulting Editor with TV Today Network Limited commented on the arrest of the former Chief Minister of Jharkhand during the course of a current affairs programme on 31 January 2024. This has led to the institution of an FIR against the petitioner at the Scheduled**

Castes/Scheduled Tribes Police Station, District Ranchi for alleged offences under Sections 3(1)(r), 3(1)(s) and 3(1)(u) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act along with three other FIRs.

- 2 The High Court, by its interim order, has declined to stay the proceedings while issuing notice and set the matter for listing on 04 April 2024.
- 3 We have heard Mr Siddharth Luthra, senior counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner who submits that *ex facie* the offence would not be made out.
- 4 Issue notice returnable on 01 April 2024.
- 5 Pending further orders, no coercive steps shall be taken against the petitioner on the basis of FIR No 0007 of 2024 dated 02 February 2024 registered at Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Police Station, District Ranchi.

(GULSHAN KUMAR ARORA)
AR-CUM-PS

(SAROJ KUMARI GAUR)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR