

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
W.P. (Cr.) Filing No. 1059 of 2026

1. Pratik, aged about 38 years, S/o Vinay Kumar Singh, posted as Assistant Director, Directorate of Enforcement, Ranchi Zonal Office, Plot No.1502/B, Airport Rd., Kunwar Singh Colony, P.O. Hinoo, P.S. Airport, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834002
2. Shubham Bharti, aged about 29 years, S/o Bhola Shankar Prasad, posted as Assistant Enforcement Officer, Directorate of Enforcement, Ranchi Zonal Office, Plot No.1502/B, Airport Rd., Kunwar Singh Colony, P.O. Hinoo, P.S. Airport, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834002 ... **Petitioners**

-Versus-

1. The State of Jharkhand through Home Secretary, Government of Jharkhand, having office at Jharkhand Mantralaya, Project Bhawan, P.O. & P.S. Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand 834004
2. Union of India through Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) having office at CBI Headquarters, CGO Complex, P.O. & P.S. Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
3. Officer In-Charge, Airport Police Station, having office at Airport Police Station, P.O. Airport and P.S. Doranda, Ranchi
4. Home Secretary, Government of India, Room No.113, North Block, New Delhi
5. Santosh Kumar, Gosai Tank Road, Jaggi Compound, Upper Chutia, Ranchi, Jharkhand, P.O. & P.S. Chutia, District- Ranchi, Jharkhand

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR DWIVEDI

For the Petitioners	:	Mr. Amit Kumar Das, Advocate Mr. Shivam U. Sahay, Advocate Mr. Saurav Kumar, Advocate Mr. Varun Girdhar, Advocate Mr. Sankalp Goswami, Advocate
For the State	:	Mr. Kapil Sibal, Sr. Advocate (Through VC) Mr. Manoj Kumar, G.A.-III
For the UOI	:	Mr. Prashant Pallav, A.S.G.I.
For the Informant	:	Mr. Sumeet Gadodia, Advocate Mr. Ritesh Kumar Gupta, Advocate Mrs. Shilpi Sandil Gadodia, Advocate Ms. Sanya Kumari, Advocate Mr. Anish Lal, Advocate

02/16.01.2026 Heard Mr. Amit Kumar Das, learned counsel appearing for the petitioners and Mr. Kapil Sibal, learned senior counsel for the State appearing through Video Conferencing.

2. This criminal writ petition was mentioned yesterday by the learned

counsel appearing for the petitioners and seeing the urgency in the matter, the matter was allowed to be listed and that is how, this matter has been listed today.

3. In this criminal writ petition, following prayers have been made:

- (i) For issuance of appropriate writ(s)/ order(s)/, direction(s) for quashing the entire criminal proceedings including the FIR being Airport PS Case No. 5 of 2026 dated 13.01.2026, instituted for the alleged offences under Sections 109(2), 117(2), 115(2), 127(2), 351(2), 352, 238 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, which is now pending in the Court of the learned Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ranchi.
- (ii) Or in alternate for issuance of appropriate writ(s)/ order(s)/ direction(s) for transferring the investigation of the allegations made in FIR being Airport P.S. Case No. 5 of 2026 to an independent agency such as Central Bureau of Investigation to conduct free and impartial investigation.
- (iii) And be pleased to issue an appropriate writ, order or direction commanding the Respondent Authorities, specifically the Station House Officer, Airport Police Station, to register a First Information Report (F.I.R.) and take appropriate legal action against the informant Santosh Kumar on the basis of the Written Information/Report dated 13.01.2026 submitted by the Petitioner No. 1, which discloses cognizable offences including obstruction of public servant and fabrication of evidence, but has arbitrarily remained unattended by the Police Authorities till date.

- (iv) During the pendency of this Writ Application be pleased to stay proceedings arising out of Airport P.S. Case No. 05 of 2026 against the Petitioners.
- (v) Any other relief or reliefs as Your Lordships may deem fit and proper for which the petitioner is very much entitled under the facts and circumstances of the case and in the interest of justice.

4. Mr. Amit Kumar Das, learned counsel appearing for the petitioners submits that Ranchi Zonal Office of Directorate of Enforcement is presently handling several high-profile and sensitive investigations involving influential political figures and senior bureaucrats, including matters relating to Chief Minister, former Minister and senior I.A.S. officers. These investigations have wide public ramifications and are being conducted under close judicial and public scrutiny. He further submits that in this sensitive and high-stakes environment, the petitioners are discharging their statutory duties strictly in accordance with law. He then submits that petitioner no.1 is Assistant Director and petitioner no.2 is Assistant Enforcement Officer in the office of Directorate of Enforcement, Ranchi Zonal Office posted at Ranchi. He next submits that the informant, namely, Santosh Kumar is the principal accused in a large-scale misappropriation of Government funds amounting to approximately Rs.23 Crores from the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Government of Jharkhand. He also submits that the ECIR case has been registered against the said Santosh Kumar and he was taken into custody by the police authorities and, thereafter, he has been allowed bail. He further submits that in absence of any summon by the Directorate of Enforcement to the said Santosh Kumar, he suo motu appeared before the office of

Directorate of Enforcement on 12.01.2026 at about 01:20 P.M. He submits that when Santosh Kumar was talking regarding his involvement in the siphoning of Government funds in the Peyjal Scam, he became evasive and agitated and in a sudden and unprovoked attempt to disrupt the official proceedings, he picked up a glass water jug placed on the table and voluntarily struck it against his own head, causing a minor scalp injury before the staff present could restrain him and, thereafter, the officers of the Directorate of Enforcement have taken him to Sadar Hospital for treatment and he was advised to go home. He then submits that second medical opinion was also taken and, in this background, Santosh Kumar has lodged the case with Airport Police Station, which has been registered as Airport P.S. Case No.05 of 2026 falsely alleging the case under Sections 109(2), 117(2) and other Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. He next submits that on 15.01.2026 at around 06:00 A.M., pursuant to the late-night communication, a substantial police presence arrived at the office premises and sought to treat the office as a crime scene, thereby disrupting the normal functioning of a Central Government agency. He submits that other averments are also made in this petition, which requires to be looked into by this Court. He submits that *prima facie* it is a pre-planned tactic to disrupt the investigation being made by the Directorate of Enforcement wherein high-profile persons of the State are involved and, as such, protection is needed by this Court.

5. The High Courts are very slow in passing interim protection at the initial stage of the FIR, however, in the facts like present one brought before the High Court, the High Court cannot be a mute spectator, however, all these findings can be only given once the other sides are responded in the

petition.

6. Section 67 of the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act protects the Government officials if in good faith, they are acting under the said Act.

7. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioners will array the Home Secretary, Government of India as respondent no.4 in this petition, in course of the day.

8. Mr. Prashant Pallav, learned A.S.G.I. appearing for the Union of India waives notice on behalf of the Home Secretary, Government of India.

9. In the aforesaid background, the Home Secretary, Government of India is directed to depute either CISF or BSF or any other para military force, whichever is suitable at the office of the Directorate of Enforcement, Ranchi.

10. Mr. Prashant Pallav, learned A.S.G.I. appearing for the Union of India will communicate this order to the Home Secretary, Government of India.

11. The S.S.P., Ranchi is also directed to look into the security of the office of the Directorate of Enforcement, Ranchi. It is made clear that if any untoward incident occurred in the said office, the S.S.P., Ranchi will be held liable for that.

12. The CCTV footage installed at the premises of the Directorate of Enforcement shall be preserved.

13. Learned counsel for the petitioners will array the informant, namely, Santosh Kumar as respondent no.5 in this petition, in course of the day.

14. Mr. Sumeet Gadodia, learned counsel has appeared suo motu on behalf of the informant and he waives notice on behalf of the informant, namely, Santosh Kumar. He submits that on telephone call by one of the petitioners, the informant has gone to the office of the Directorate of Enforcement and

his name was also registered at the time of entry and, thereafter, he was allowed to enter into the office of the Directorate of Enforcement. He seeks 10 days' time to file counter-affidavit.

15. Mr. Amit Kumar Das, learned counsel for the petitioners will serve two copies of the petition upon Mr. Sumeet Gadodia, in course of the day.

16. Mr. Manoj Kumar, learned G.A.-III assisting Mr. Kapil Sibal, learned senior counsel appearing through Video Conferencing, will take instruction and file counter-affidavit within one week.

17. Let this matter appear on 09.02.2026.

18. Till the next date, there shall be stay of further proceeding and investigation by the police in connection with Airport P.S. Case No.05 of 2026, pending in the Court of the learned Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ranchi.

19. In the meantime, learned counsel for the petitioners will remove the surviving defects.

20. Office will proceed further as per the procedure.

(Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi, J.)

*Dated: 16th January, 2026
Ajay//*