

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH**

201

**CRM-A-1379-2019 (O&M)**  
*Date of decision: 26.09.2025*

Harbhajan Singh

*.....Petitioner**Versus*

Lalit Arora

*.....Respondent***CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ**Present: Mr. Yashvardhan Goyal, Advocate for  
Mr. Akshay Kumar Jindal, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Sukhmit Singh, Advocate for the respondent.

**VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J (ORAL)****CRM-21788-2019**

Prayer in the instant application is for condonation of 45 days delay in filing the present appeal.

For the reasons stated in the application, which is supported by an affidavit, the same is allowed. Delay of 45 days in filing the appeal is condoned.

**Main case**

Challenge in the present appeal is to the judgment of acquittal dated 12.10.2018 passed by the learned Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Panchkula in a case stemming from complaint dated 16.05.2013 filed under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 read with Section 420 IPC.

2. The complaint (supra) was filed on the ground of dishonour of cheque of Rs.2.5 crore. After assessing all the material available on the record, the learned trial Court acquitted the respondent(s) vide judgment dated 12.10.2018.



3. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the applicant submits that in view of the judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **M/s. Celestium Financial vs. A. Gnanasekaran Etc., 2025(3) RCR (Criminal) 208**, the applicant/victim would have a remedy to file an appeal under Section 372 of Cr.P.C. before the Court of Sessions.

4. In view of the judgment rendered by the Apex Court in **Celestium Financial (supra)**, the present application seeking leave to appeal is remanded to the learned Sessions Judge, Panchkula with a direction to treat the same as an appeal filed under Section 372 of the Cr.P.C.(now Section 413 of BNSS) and entrust the same to appropriate Court for its disposal on merits.

5. The Registry is directed to send the complete paper-book and the record of the case to the learned Sessions Judge, Panchkula forthwith.

6. Disposed of accordingly.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

September 26, 2025  
manoj

(VINOD S BHARDWAJ)  
JUDGE

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