

(2026) 08 KAR CK 2001

In the Karnataka High Court, Bengaluru Bench

Case No : CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. 1887 OF 2025 (A)

Sri M Hemananda

APPELLANT

Vs

Prakash Arekal R & Anr.

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 05-08-2026

Acts Referred:

Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 — Section 372, 378(4)

Citation : (2026) 08 KAR CK 2001

Hon'ble Judges : S Rachaiah, J

Bench : Single Bench

Advocate : Sri. Anil Kumar C.

Final Decision : Disposed Of

Judgement

1. This appeal is filed by the appellant/complainant being aggrieved by the judgment of acquittal passed by the Trial Court.

2. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Celestium Financial Vs. A. Gnanasekaran Etc.1**, held in paragraph No.10 as under:

"10. As already noted, the proviso to Section 372 of the CrPC was inserted in the statute book only with effect from 31.12.2009. The object and reason for such insertion must be realised and must be given its full effect to by a court. In view of the aforesaid discussion, we hold that the victim of an offence has the right to prefer an appeal under the proviso to Section 372 of the CrPC, irrespective of whether he is a complainant or not. Even if the victim of an offence is a complainant, he can still proceed under the proviso to Section 372 and need not advert to sub-section (4) of Section 378 of the Cr.PC."

3. On careful reading of the judgment of the Hon'ble Apex Court *supra*, it is evident that the complainant, being the victim, has to file an appeal against the order of acquittal before the Jurisdictional Sessions Court by invoking Section 372 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

4. In view of the law laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court, in **Celestium**

Financial case supra, the appeal by the complainant against the order of acquittal is not maintainable before this Court. Since this Court has no jurisdiction to decide the appeal on merit, the appeal is transferred to the jurisdictional Appellate Court/Sessions Court.

5. The parties shall appear before the jurisdictional Appellate Court / Sessions Court on **09.09.2026**, without further notice of the concerned Court.

6. The Registry shall transmit the entire appeal papers, including the appeal memo, to the jurisdictional Sessions Court.

7. The learned counsel for the appellant shall have the liberty to carry out the amendment in the cause title and also the provisions thereof.

8. For statistical purposes, this appeal stands *disposed of*. Ordered accordingly.

In view of the disposal of the appeal, pending I.A., if any, does not survive for consideration and the same is also disposed of.

FOOTNOTES

1. 2025 SCC Online SC 1320