

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
CRIMINAL REVISION No.132 of 2023**

Arising Out of PS. Case No.-11 Year-2021 Thana- MAHILA P.S. District- Sheohar

AJAY KUMAR @ AJAY RAUT @ MUNNU @ MUNNA S/o Raghuvir Ray
@ Raghuvir Raut R/o Village- Sugiya Katsari, P.S. and Distt- Sheohar.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

The State of Bihar

... .. Respondent/s

Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Abhay Shankar Singh, Adv.
For the Respondent/s : Mr. Rajendra Prasad Nat, APP

**CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL KUMAR SINHA
ORAL ORDER**

3 31-07-2023 Heard Mr. Abhay Shankar Singh, learned counsel
for revisionist/petitioner and Mr. Rajendra Prasad Nat, learned
APP for the State.

2. The present Cr. Revision application has been filed against the judgment and order dated 26.12.2022 passed in Cr. Appeal No. 27/2022 by the learned 1st Additional Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge, POCSO, Sheohar along with order dated 11.10.2022 passed by learned Juvenile Justice Board, Sheohar in connection with JJB No.200/2022 arising out of Mahila Sheohar PS Case No. 11/2021 for the offence punishable under Sections 376/313/34 of the IPC and Section 4 of the POCSO Act whereby and whereunder both the learned courts below have refused to release the revisionist/petitioner on bail.

3. The prosecution case as disclosed by the informant



is that his daughter was in love with the petitioner and on the pretext of performing marriage, the petitioner kept on exploiting sexually the daughter of the informant and got her impregnated. When the informant came to know about this incident, he along with his some well wishers went to the father and other family members of the petitioner who gave a promise that they would solemnize marriage between the petitioner and the victim girl. It is further alleged that 05.07.2021 mother of the petitioner gave some medicine mixed with milk to the victim in order to get the pregnancy terminated due to which, the victim got unconscious. Thereafter, a *Panchayati* took place on 20.07.2021 wherein a consent was figured out between both the parties for marriage between the petitioner and the victim on 26.07.2021 but the same proved to be fruitless as the side of the petitioner denied to marry with the daughter of the informant.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner/revisionist has falsely been implicated in this case due to village politics and grudge. He next submits that the petitioner has completed his intermediate and he has got a promising career. The findings arrived at by the learned appellate courts for rejection of the bail application are based upon no material who by impugned judgment arrived at an



erroneous conclusion that the release of the petitioner is likely to expose him to moral, physical or psychological danger or the petitioner's release would defeat the ends of justice. It has next been submitted that the learned court below has passed the impugned order mechanically and without application of judicial mind. He next submits that the petitioner is in judicial custody since 17.08.2022 and he was declared juvenile by the court of J.J. Board, Sheohar.

5. Learned counsel has placed reliance upon Sections 3 (i) (iv) (v) and (xiv) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act') which are quoted hereinbelow:-

(i) Principle of presumption of innocence: Any child shall be presumed to be an innocent of any mala fide or criminal intent up to the age of eighteen years.

(iv) Principle of best interest: All decisions regarding the child shall be based on the primary consideration that they are in the best interest of the child and to help the child to develop full potential.



(v) Principle of family responsibility:- The primary responsibility of care, nurture and protection of the child shall be that of the biological family or adoptive or foster parents, as the case may be.

(xiv) Principle of fresh start: All past records of any child under the Juvenile Justice system should be erased except in special circumstances.

6. Learned counsel, referring to the above mentioned provisions, submits that as per the scheme of the Act, there is presumption of innocence of a child in conflict with law and all decisions regarding the child shall be taken in consonance with the principle of best interest of the child. Learned counsel further submits that the principle of family responsibility and principle of fresh start have also been recognized in the Act.

7. Learned counsel further relies upon Section 12 of the Act which is as follows:-

12. Bail to a person who is apparently a child alleged to be in conflict with law.--

(1) When any person, who is apparently a child and is



alleged to have committed a bailable or non-bailable offence, is apprehended or detained by the police or appears or brought before a Board, such person shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 or in any other law for the time being in force, be released on bail with or without surety or placed under the supervision of a probation officer or under the care of any fit person: Provided that such person shall not be so released if there appears reasonable grounds for believing that the release is likely to bring that person into association with any known criminal or expose the said person to moral, physical or psychological danger or the person's release would defeat the ends of justice, and the Board shall record the reasons for denying the bail and circumstances that led to such a decision.

(2) When such person having been apprehended is not released on bail under sub-section (1) by the officer-in-charge of the police station, such officer shall cause the person to be kept only in an observation home in such manner as may be prescribed until the person can be brought before a Board.

(3) When such person is not released on bail under sub-section (1) by the Board, it shall make an order sending him to an observation home or a place of safety, as the case maybe,



for such period during the pendency of the inquiry regarding the person, as may be specified in the order.

(4) When a child in conflict with law is unable to fulfill the conditions of bail order within seven days of the bail order, such child shall be produced before the Board for modification of the conditions of bail.

8. In reference to Section 12 of the Act, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that bail to a child in conflict with law is a rule and denial is an exception.

9. Learned counsel for the petitioner, in the aforesaid background, submits that the learned court below has failed to consider the scheme of the Act and has committed material irregularity in arriving at the conclusion that the petitioner, if released on bail would defeat the ends of justice as the petitioner has committed a heinous crime.

10. On the other hand, learned counsel for the State submits that from perusal of Section 12 of the Act, it appears that bail is a matter of right to the petitioner and denial is an exception, this Court may consider to pass an appropriate order in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

11. From perusal of the records, it appears that petitioner is in custody since 17.08.2022.



12. Having regard to the submissions made by the parties and taking into consideration the material on record and the fact that there was no material before the learned appellate court to come to the conclusion that the release of the petitioner is likely to expose him to moral, physical or psychological danger or the petitioner's release would defeat the ends of justice and taking into consideration the period of incarceration of the petitioner as well as in the best interest of CICA this Court is of the considered view that the impugned judgment and order passed by both the courts below are not sustainable in the eyes of law inasmuch as they are not consistent with the aims and objects of the Act.

13. Accordingly, the judgment and order dated 26.12.2022 passed in Cr. Appeal No. 27/2022 by the learned 1st Additional Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge, POCSO, Sheohar along with order dated 11.10.2022 passed by learned Juvenile Justice Board, Sheohar in connection with JJB No.200/2022 arising out of Mahila Sheohar PS Case No. 11/2021 for the offence punishable under Sections 376/313/34 of the IPC and Section 4 of the POCSO, are hereby, set aside and the revisionist/petitioner, ***Ajay Kumar @ Ajay Raut @ Munnu @ Munna*** is directed to be released on bail on



furnishing bail bond of Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand) with two sureties of the like amount each to the satisfaction of learned Juvenile Justice Board, Sheohar in connection with JJB No.200/2022 arising out of Mahila Sheohar PS Case No. 11/2021, subject to the condition that one of the bailors will be the father of the petitioner.

14. With the aforesaid observation and direction, the instant application stands allowed.

(Anil Kumar Sinha, J)

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