

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
CRIMINAL REVISION No.260 of 2023

Arising Out of PS. Case No.-1026 Year-2020 Thana- FORBESGANJ District- Araria

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AJAY KUMAR RAJ @ AJAY KR. RAJ @ ANURAG YADAV @ ANURAJ
YADAV son of Gandeo Yadav @ Gandev Yadav Village- Saranpur Ward no-
7, Ps- Tara Bari Dist- Araria

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

The State of Bihar

... .. Respondent/s

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Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Gopal Kumar Jha

For the Respondent/s : Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh

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CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL KUMAR SINHA
ORAL ORDER

3 04-09-2023 Heard the parties.

2. The present Cr. Revision application has been filed against judgment and order dated 31.03.2023 passed in Cr. Appeal No. 14/2022 by the learned District Sessions Judge, Araria along with order dated 07.07.2022 passed by Juvenile Justice Board, Araria in connection with Forbesganj PS Case No. 1026/2020, JJB Case No. 03/2022 for the offence punishable under Section 392 of the IPC, whereunder both the learned courts below have refused to release the revisionist/petitioner on bail.

3. Prosecution case as narrated in the FIR that on the fateful day of 22/12/2020 after having collection of cash from the customers, the informant was on his way to Gori Yare



Chowk, he was intercepted by three unidentified masked motorcycle borne miscreants, who on the point of pistol, deprived the informant of his bag containing Rs. 3725/-, tablet and official documents and fled away.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner/revisionist has not committed any offence in the manner alleged and he has been implicated in this case on the basis of suspicion. It has next been submitted that the present FIR has been lodged against unknown and the name of this petitioner has falsely been implicated on his confessional statement. It has also been submitted that as per recommendation of the official of Child Welfare, Forbesganj, the petitioner needs proper education and family protection. 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 release of the petitioner from the protective custody will expose him to moral, physical and psychological danger and will also defeat the ends of justice and the juvenile/petitioner may also fall in bad company. It has next been submitted that the learned court below has passed the impugned order mechanically and without application of judicial mind.



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. 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.

8. Learned counsel 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 fall in the same environment.

9. 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.

10. From perusal of the records, it appears that



petitioner is in custody since 01.04.2022 and he has been declared juvenile on 03.03.2022 by Juvenile Justice Board, Araria.

11. A Bench of this Court in the judgment reported in **2019 (4) PLJR 833** in the case of **Lalu Kumar @ Lalbabu @ Lallu v. State of Bihar** while interpreting Section 12 of the Act has laid down the principle that the Board while considering the bail of a juvenile is duty bound to follow the principle of 'best interest', 'repatriation', and 'restoration' of child. The gravity and nature of offence are immaterial for consideration of bail of a juvenile. As per Section 12 of the Act of 2015 an application for bail is not decided by reference to classification of offences as bailable or non-bailable under the CrPC.

12. Having regard to the submissions made by the parties and taking into consideration the recommendation of the official of Child Welfare, Forbesganj, that the petitioner needs proper education and family protection and the fact that the petitioner is in custody since 01.04.2021, and there was no cogent material before the learned appellate court to come to the conclusion that the release of the petitioner from the protective custody will expose him to moral, physical and psychological danger, 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, judgment and order dated 31.03.2023 passed in Cr. Appeal No. 14/2022 by the learned District Sessions Judge, Araria along with order dated 07.07.2022 passed by Juvenile Justice Board, Araria in connection with Forbesganj PS Case No. 1026/2020, JJB Case No. 03/2022 for the offence punishable under Section 392 of the IPC, are hereby, set aside and the revisionist/petitioner, ***AJAY KUMAR RAJ @ AJAY KR. RAJ @ ANURAG YADAV @ ANURAJ YADAV*** 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, Araria in connection with aforementioned case.

14. With the aforesaid observations and directions, the instant application stands allowed.

(Anil Kumar Sinha, J)

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