IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
CRIMINAL MISCELLANEOUS No.75942 of 2026

CNR No. BRHC011083232026

Arising Out of PS. Case No.-22 Year-2026 Thana- VIGILANCE District- Patna

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Ashutosh Kumar Pandey @ Ashutosh Kumar S/o Awadhesh Kumar Pandey @ Awadhesh Pandey R/o Village - Rampur Udaybhan, P.S. - Kotwali, Dist. - Ballia(Uttar Pradesh).

... ... Petitioner

Versus

1. The State of Bihar
2. The Vigilance Department, Govt. of Bihar, Patna. Bihar

... ... Opposite Party

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Appearance :
For the Petitioner/s : Mr.Kunal Tiwary, Advocate
Ms.Mimansha Singh, Advocate
For the Opposite Party/s : Mr.Parmanand Prasad, APP
For the Vigilance : Mr.Arvind Kumar, Advocate

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CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE CHANDRA SHEKHAR JHA

ORAL ORDER

2 28-10-2026 Heard learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner and learned A.P.P. for the State.

2. The accused/petitioner seeks bail in connection with SVU Patna Case No. 22 of 2026 registered for the offences under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 61(2)(a) of the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023 (in short, the 'B.N.S.').

3. The accused/petitioner is not named in the First Information Report and is in custody since 07.08.2026.

4. As per FIR, informant alleged that the concerned

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Junior Engineer demanded bribe of Rs. 25,000/- for desired electric connection and related documents verification.

5. It is submitted by learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner that petitioner joined the office only on 13.05.2026. It is pointed out that from the audio recording, it transpires that this petitioner was not involved anywhere and it was the Pankaj and Junior Engineer namely, Bharat Mallick, who were the main conspirators, had demanded the alleged bribe money against desired electric connection.

6. It is submitted that petitioner received a cash of Rs. 10,000/- only on the direction of Junior Engineer namely, Bharat Mallick without having any knowledge that the money was the bribe money.

7. While concluding argument, it is submitted that petitioner is a man of clean antecedent and, moreover, investigation of this case has already concluded, for which charge-sheet has been submitted and as such, there is no chance of tampering with the evidence.

8. Learned counsel appearing for the SVU, while opposing the prayer for bail of the petitioner, submitted that petitioner was trapped with paid bribe money of Rs. 10,000/-.

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It is further submitted that same was also supported through chemical analysis, however, it is not disputed that petitioner was not named during audio conversation.

9. In view of aforesaid factual submission and by taking note of the fact as available audio conversation, which is a part of FIR itself, *prima facie* failed to suggest any involvement of this petitioner with present crime in question, coupled with the fact that investigation of this case has already concluded, wherein petitioner, who is a man of clean antecedent, remains in custody since 07.08.2026, accordingly, above-named petitioner is directed to be released on bail, furnishing bail bond of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) with two sureties of the like amount each to the satisfaction of learned Special Judge, Vigilance, Patna/concerned court, in connection with SVU Patna Case No. 22 of 2026, subject to the condition as laid down under Section 437(3) Cr.P.C/Section 480(3) of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (in short "B.N.S.S.").

(Chandra Shekhar Jha, J.)

Rajeev/-

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