IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
Criminal Appeal (S.J.) No.590 of 2026

Piyush Kumar @ Piyush Kumar Pandey, aged about 32 years, S/o Late Arjun Pandey, R/o Ganga Gouri Duplex No.1, Bagan, Area, Baliguma, Dimna, P.O. & P.S. Mango, District East Singhbhum, Jharkhand

…. …. Appellant(s)

-Versus-

1. The State of Jharkhand
2. Dr. Archana Nupur Khalkho, W/o Manoj Prabhakar Oraon, R/o Karamtoli Chowk, Morabadi Road, P.O. & P.S. Lalpur, District Ranchi, Jharkhand

…. …. Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH KUMAR

For the Appellant : Mr. Praveen Shankar Dayal, Advocate
For the State : Mr. Vineet Kr. Vashistha, A.P.P
For the Respondent No.2 : Mr. Rishu Ranjan, Adv.

06/Dated: 03rd November, 2026

1. Heard the parties.

2. The present criminal appeal has been filed against the order dated 18.05.2026 passed in Misc. Criminal Application No.948 of 2026 by the learned A.J.C-II *cum* Special Judge, SC/ST, Ranchi, by which the prayer for grant of bail to the appellant has been rejected in connection with SC/ST P.S. Case No.27 of 2025, for the offence under Sections 126(2)/115(2)/74/352/ 351(3) & 3(5) of the BNS, 2023 and Sections 3(1)(r) & 3 (1)(s) & 3(1)(w)(i) of the SC/ST (PoA) Act. The case is now pending in the court of the learned A.J.C-II-cum-Spl. Judge, SC/ST (PoA) Case at Ranchi.

3. It has been submitted by the learned counsel for the appellant that no offence under the SC/ST Act is made out. There is a dispute between the brother and sister and the present appellant has been roped in the present case as a friend of the brother. It has further been submitted that the appellant is in custody since 25.04.2026 and he undertakes to participate in the trial. On the above basis, prayer for bail has been made.

4. Learned counsel for the State and learned for the respondent No.2 have opposed the prayer for bail by stating that there is a dispute between the brother

and sister and that an earlier incident had also taken place. However, no complaint has been made against the brother.

Thus, argument has been advanced by the learned counsel that the alleged victim was smart enough not to implead the brother so that to make out the case under the SC/ST (PoA) Act. This is nothing but misuse of the protective provisions of the SC/ST (PoA) Act.

5. Considering the above facts, the appellant named above, is directed to be released on bail, on his furnishing bail bond of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) with two sureties of like amount each to the satisfaction of the learned A.J.C-II-cum-Spl. Judge SC/ST (PoA) Case at Ranchi in connection with SC/ST P.S. Case No.27 of 2025, *subject to the condition that the appellant will submit self-attested photocopy of his Aadhaar Card and also submit his mobile number before the learned trial court which he shall always keep active and will not change it during pendency of this case without prior permission of the court*.

6. In the result, the instant criminal appeal stands allowed and accordingly disposed of.

(Rajesh Kumar, J.)

Dated: **03rd November, 2026**
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