IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
Cr. Revision No. 1198 of 2026

Pawan Singh @ Pawan Kumar Singh, son of late Anand Singh @ late Anant Singh, aged about 16 years, represented through his mother and natural guardian Urmila Devi, wife of late Anand Singh @ late Anant Singh resident of village Garhwatand, P.O. and P.S. Barwadih, District-Latehar, Jharkhand

..... … Petitioner

Versus

The State of Jharkhand ..... … Opposite Party

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR DWIVEDI

For the Petitioner :Mr. Prashant Kr. Rahul, Advocate
For the State : Mr. Sunil Kr. Dubey, A.P.P.

05/ 06.11.2026: Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and learned counsel for the State.

2. This criminal revision has been preferred against the order dated 27.08.2026 passed by the learned Additional Sessions Judge-I-cum-Children Court, Latehar in Criminal Appeal No. 72 of 2026 whereby the learned court has been pleased to dismiss the appeal affirming order dated 11.07.2026 passed by the learned Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board, Latehar in connection with Latehar P.S. Case No. 70 of 2026, corresponding to E.R Case No. 16/2026, pending in the Court of learned Juvenile Justice Board, Latehar.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner was aged about 16 years at the time of alleged crime and filed the present revision application through his mother. He submits that the mother is ready to give undertaking that she will keep the petitioner in good behaviour and character in future and prevent him from associating with any known criminals and she will not allow the child to expose to any moral, physical, or psychological danger and in this regard she is ready to swear affidavit. He further submits that false allegation is made of subjecting to commit suicide by the deceased. He submits that deceased and petitioner are juvenile and they were familiar to each other. He submits that the deceased called the petitioner but the petitioner did not go there due to which the deceased committed suicide. He next submits that in the social investigation report there is nothing adverse against the petitioner. He submits that petitioner has no criminal antecedent He submits that the petitioner is in Remand Home since 25.04.2026 and in this view of the matter petitioner may kindly be

released on bail.

4. Learned counsel for the State opposes the prayer and submits that the learned courts have rightly passed the order on the ground of lack of parental care.

5. In view of above facts, it is an admitted position that the petitioner was aged about 16 years at the time of alleged crime. The petitioner is juvenile and he is in Remand Home since 25.04.2026. The allegation is that deceased called the petitioner but the petitioner did not go there due to which the deceased committed suicide. In the social investigation report there is nothing adverse against the petitioner. The petitioner has no criminal antecedent. The petitioner is being represented by his mother and she is ready to give undertaking that she will take care of the child.

6. It appears that both the courts have been pleased to reject the bail application of the petitioner on the ground that there is lack of parental care.

7. In view of above discussions, the Court finds that the reasoning and conclusion of the learned appellate court as well as Juvenile Justice Board is not founded on reasonable grounds in the light of Section 12 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protect of Children) Act, 2015.

8. Section 12 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, deals with bail to juveniles. On perusal of Section 12 of the J.J. Act, 2015, it is crystal clear that that Section 12 of the Act overrides the bail provisions as contained in the Criminal Procedure, 1973 or any other law for time being in force. It is further crystal clear that bail to the juvenile is a rule and refusal of the same is an exception and juvenile can be denied bail only on the following three grounds (i) if there appears reasonable grounds for believing that the release is likely to bring that person into association with any known criminal, or (ii) expose the said person to moral, physical or psychological danger, or, (iii) the person's release would defeat the ends of justice.

9. The Juvenile Justice Act is based on belief that children are the future of the society and in case they go into conflict with law under some circumstances, they should be reformed and rehabilitated and not punished. No society can afford to punish its children. Punitive approach towards

children in conflict with law would be self-destructive for the society. At the same time if the keeping of the child in custody is helpful in his development and rehabilitation or protection, only then it could be said that release of the child would defeat the ends of justice.

10. In the absence of any material or evidence of reasonable grounds, it cannot be said that his release would defeat the ends of justice and learned courts have failed to give reasons on three contingencies for declining the bail to the revisionist. The findings recorded by the Juvenile Justice Board as well as appellate court are that the petitioner will come in contact with dreaded criminals and lack of parental care. Thus, the order dated 27.08.2026 passed by the learned Additional Sessions Judge-I-cum-Children Court, Latehar in Criminal Appeal No. 72 of 2026 and order dated 11.07.2026 passed by the learned Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board, Latehar in connection with Latehar P.S. Case No. 70 of 2026, corresponding to E.R Case No. 16/2026, are not sustainable in the eye of law and hence both the orders are set aside and the present criminal revision is allowed.

11. Let the revisionist who is in Remand Home, Latehar since 25.04.2026 be released on bail via assurance and surety given by his natural guardian/mother, in connection with Latehar P.S. Case No. 70 of 2026, corresponding to E.R Case No. 16/2026, after furnishing a personal bond on his mother (Urmila Devi) with two sureties of her relatives each in the like amount to the satisfaction of the Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board, Lateher subject to the following conditions:

(i) Natural guardian/mother will furnish an undertaking that upon release on bail the revisionist will not be permitted to go into contact or association with any known criminal or allowed to be exposed to any moral, physical, or psychological danger and further that the father will ensure that the juvenile will not repeat the offence.

(ii) Natural guardian/mother will further furnish an undertaking to the effect that the juvenile will pursue his study at the appropriate level which he would be encouraged to do besides other constructive activities and not be allowed to waste his time in unproductive and excessive recreational pursuits.

(iii) Juvenile and natural guardian/mother will report to the Probation

Officer on the First Monday of every calendar month commencing with the First Monday of December, 2026 and if during any calendar month the First Monday falls on a holiday, then on the following working day.

(iv) The Probation Officer will keep a strict vigil on the activities of the juvenile and regularly draw up his social investigation report that would be submitted to the Juvenile Justice Board, Latehar, on such a periodical basis as the Juvenile Justice Board may determine.

12. This criminal revision petition is allowed and disposed of. Pending I.A, if any, stands disposed of.

(Sanjay **Kumar Dwivedi, J.)**

Dt. 06.11.2026
Satyarthi/-