HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

CRIMINAL MISC. BAIL APPLICATION No. - 33594 of 2026

Akshatesh Pandey

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

State Of U.P. And 3 Others

.....Opposite Party(s)

Counsel for Applicant(s)	:	Ram Sewak
Counsel for Opposite Party(s)	:	G.A.

Court No. - 67

HON'BLE JITENDRA KUMAR SINHA, J.

1. Heard Sri Ram Sewak, learned counsel for the applicant and Sri B.P. Maurya, learned A.G.A. for the State and perused the record.

2. The instant bail application has been filed with a prayer to release the applicant on bail in Case Crime No. 80 of 2024, under Sections 323, 363, 366, 376 IPC and Section 5L/6 of POCSO Act, Police Station Phephna, District Ballia, during the pendency of the trial.

3. At the very outset, learned AGA submits that notice has been served on the first informant.

4. It is contended by the learned counsel for the applicant that the applicant has been falsely implicated in the present case and the victim in her statement recorded under Sections 161 and 164 CrPC has stated that she had left her home on her free will and she had entered into matrimonial alliance with the applicant with her free consent. It is further submitted that the age of the victim has been found to be 17 years, 11 months and 05 days as per school record of Class 5th, however, there is no High School certificate or the certificate of school first attended and no radio-logical examination of the victim has been conducted for her age determination. It is further submitted that the medico-legal report of the victim does not support the commission of rape on her. It is also submitted that the applicant has been languishing in jail since 26.4.2025 and he is having no criminal history. It is lastly submitted that in case the applicant is granted bail, he will not misuse the liberty of bail and would

cooperate in the trial proceedings.

5. Per contra, learned A.G.A. has vehemently opposed the prayer for bail but could not dispute the aforesaid facts**.**

6. As per the allegation in the FIR, the applicant is said to have enticed away the daughter of the first informant, however, the victim has been recovered and the victim in her statement recorded under Sections 161 and 164 CrPC has stated that she had left her home on her free will and she had entered into matrimonial alliance with the applicant with her free consent. The age of the victim has been found to be 17 years, 11 months and 05 days as per school record of Class 5th, however, there is no High School certificate or the certificate of school first attended and no radio-logical examination of the victim has been conducted for her age determination and the medico-legal report of the victim does not support the commission of rape on her. The applicant has been languishing in jail since 26.4.2025 and he is having no criminal history.

7. Considering the entire facts and circumstances of the case, submissions of learned counsel for the parties and keeping in view the nature of offence, evidence, complicity of the accused and taking into account overcrowded jails and heavy pendency of criminal cases before the trial courts as well as considering the mandate of the judgement of the Apex Court in the case of ***Kapil Wadhawan vs Central Bureau of Investigation*** reported in 2025 SCC OnLine SC 3038 as well as guideline of this Court in the case of ***Maya Tiwari Vs. State of U.P.*** reported in 2024 SCC Online All 6765 regarding grant of bail and without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, I am of the opinion that the applicant is entitled to be enlarged on bail.

8. Accordingly, the present application is **ALLOWED**.

9. Let the applicant- **Akshatesh Pandey** involved in the aforementioned crime be released on bail, on his furnishing a personal bond and two sureties each in the like amount, to the satisfaction of the court concerned, with the following conditions:-

(i) The applicant shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement,

threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer or tamper with the evidence.

(ii) The applicant shall cooperate in the trial/investigation sincerely without seeking any adjournment.

(iii) The applicant shall not indulge in any criminal activity or commission of any crime after being released on bail.

(iv) The applicant shall attend in accordance with the conditions of the bond executed by him.

10. In case of breach of any of the above conditions, it shall be a ground for cancellation of bail.

11. Identity, status and residence proof of the applicant and sureties be verified by the court concerned before the bonds are accepted. Verification of mobile number and Aadhaar card of the applicant as well as sureties should be verified by the court concerned.

12. It is further directed that the trial court shall send the release order to the concerned jail through Bail Order Management System (BOMS) to ensure early release of the applicant.

13. Office is directed to send a copy of this order to the applicant through **concerned Jail Superintendent** via e-mail or e-prison portal within 24 hours in compliance of the order of the Apex Court in the case of **Policy Strategy for Grant of Bail, In Re: Suo Motu Writ Petition (Crl.) No.4 of 2021 decided on 31.01.2023** reported in (2024) 10 SCC 685.

(Jitendra Kumar Sinha,J.)

October 24, 2026
Abhishek

Digitally signed by :-
ABHISHEK AGRAHARI
High Court of Judicature at Allahabad