



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK
CRLA No.566 of 2026

Abhishek @ Abhisek Satapathy* ... *Appellant

Mr. S.K.Sahu, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha and another* ... *Respondents

Mr. T.K. Acharya, Addl. PP

CORAM: JUSTICE G. SATAPATHY

ORDER(ORAL):28.07.2026

Order No.

02.

1. This matter is taken up through Hybrid Arrangement (Virtual/Physical Mode).
2. This criminal appeal in the nature of bail U/S.14-A of the Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 together with amendment Act, 2016 (in short, "the Act") is directed against the impugned order dated 30.04.2026 passed in GR SC & ST Case No.28 of 2025 by which the learned 2nd Addl. Sessions Judge, Berhampur has refused to grant bail to the appellant in connection with B.N.Pur PS Case No.172 of 2025, for commission of offence punishable U/Ss. 296/79/75/308(3)/351(2) of BNS r/w Section 3(1)(r)(s)/3(2)(va) of the Act, on the main allegation of molesting the victim belonging to SC community and sexually harassing her and getting her obscene photographs & video viral by taking advantage of her caste.
3. Heard, Mr. Swagat Kumar Sahu, learned counsel for the appellant; Mr.Nrusingh Patro, learned counsel for the informant and Mr. T.K. Acharya, learned Additional Public Prosecutor in the matter and perused the record.



At the outset, Mr.Nrusingh Patro, learned counsel for the informant-victim does not raise any objection to the bail application of the appellant.

4. After having considered the rival submissions and taking into consideration the nature and gravity of the offence alleged against the appellant vis-a-vis the accusations sought to be brought against him and regard being had to the pre-trial detention of the appellant in custody since 25.12.2025 with submission of charge sheet in the meantime and there being no objection to the bail application of the appellant by the victim herself and taking into account the other circumstances on record in entirety including the inherent right of the accused-appellant to be presumed innocent until proven guilty at the trial, this Court without expressing any view on the merits, considers it proper to admit the appellant to bail.

5. Hence, the CRLA stands allowed and the impugned order is, hereby, set aside. Consequently, the appellant is directed to be released on bail on such terms and conditions as deem fit and proper by the learned Court in seisin over the matter.

6. Issue urgent certified copy of the order as per Rules. A soft copy of this order be immediately communicated to the concerned Court, who shall afterwards communicate the same to the concerned Jail through e-mail for reference.

(G. Satapathy)
Judge