



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

CRLA No.1461 of 2025

Akash Pradhan

...

Appellant

*Mr. D.P. Dhal, Sr. Advocate along
with Mr. K. Mohanty, Advocate
-versus-*

State of Odisha & another

...

Respondents

*Mr. M.R. Patra, Addl. PP
Mr. T.P. Mohapatra, Advocate (informant)*

**CORAM:
JUSTICE G. SATAPATHY
ORDER(ORAL)
24.02.2026**

Order No.

02.

1. This matter is taken up through Hybrid Arrangement (Virtual/Physical Mode).
2. This criminal appeal Under Section 14-A(2) of the Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 together with amendment Act, 2016 (in short, "the Act") in nature of bail is directed against the impugned order dated 03.12.2025 passed by the learned Special Judge, Puri in T.R. Case No.156 of 2025 (Special G.R. Case No. 185 of 2025) arising out of Sea beach P.S. Case No.297 of 2025 refusing to grant bail to the appellant for commission of offence punishable U/Ss. 69/296/351(2)/3(5) of BNS r/w. Sec. 3(1)(r)(s)/3(2)(va) of the Act, on the main allegation of co-habiting with the victim by giving false assurance of marriage by taking advantage of her caste.
3. Heard, Mr. Debi Prasad Dhal, learned Senior Counsel, who is being assisted by Mr. Kaustuva Mohanty, learned counsel for the appellant, Mr. M.R. Patra, learned Addl. Public Prosecutor and Mr. Tara



Prasad Mohapatra, learned counsel for the informant appearing virtually in the matter and perused the record.

4. After having considered the rival submissions and taking into consideration the nature and gravity of the offences as alleged against the appellant vis-à-vis the accusations sought to be brought against him and regard being had to the pretrial detention of the appellant in custody since 11.10.2025 with submission of charge sheet in the meantime and taking into account the other circumstances on record in entirety including the statement of the victim and keeping in view the inherent right of an accused to be presumed innocent until proven guilty at the trial, this Court without expressing any opinion on merits, considers it proper to admit the appellant to bail.

5. Hence, the Criminal Appeal stands allowed and the impugned order is hereby set aside. Consequently, the appellant be released on bail on such terms and conditions as deems fit and proper by the learned Court in seisin of the case with following condition:-

(i) the appellant shall not threaten, induce, influence or coerce any of the witnesses including the family members of the victim acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade them from disclosing such facts before the Court.

6. Accordingly, the CRLA stands disposed of. 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