

## Supreme Court clarifies

# BAIL REQUIRES REASON, NOT ROUTINE

Recently, the Supreme Court in the case of *X vs. The State of Uttar Pradesh & Another MANU/SC/0040/2026*, reiterated a fundamental principle of criminal jurisprudence:

*“While bail is not to be refused mechanically, it must not be granted on irrelevant considerations.”*



In a POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012) matter involving alleged sexual offences against a minor, the Court while relying on the judgment of ***State of Bihar vs. Rajballav Prasad, MANU/SC/1525/2016*** set aside Allahabad High Court's bail order because it overlooked key factors including the gravity of the offence, victim safety, and impact on the trial process.

## Key takeaways



Bail cannot be granted without a proper evaluation of all relevant materials.



The nature of the offence, risk of evidence tampering, or threat to the victim are critical in serious cases.



Orders lacking reasoned application of mind are open to interference.

*This ruling serves as a timely reminder that the liberty of an accused and the integrity of legal processes must be balanced with reasoned judicial analysis, not checklist exercises.*



**How do you think courts should balance personal liberty with the lived fears & safety of victims?**