



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK
WPCRL No.6 of 2026

Sarat Majhi

...

Petitioner

Mr. Asutosh Rout, Advocate

-Versus-

State of Odisha and others

...

Opposite Parties

Ms.Aishwaraya Dash, Additional Standing Counsel

CORAM:
THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
AND
THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MURAHARI SRI RAMAN

ORDER
04.05.2026

Order No.

- 01.** 1. A serious issue appears to have been raised in the instant writ petition regarding the juvenile who was called at the police station and detained for several hours on the pretext of an investigation. The report also reveals several questions were put to the juvenile by the investigating officer.
2. It does not appear that there is any child-friendly corner established at the said police station. Even if a juvenile who is a child in conflict with law does not deserve to be treated like the others nor the authorities can undermine the legislative mandate of the juvenile justice law prevalent in the country.
3. It is high time that the Court should seriously take note of the fact that the juvenile is called to the police station for the purpose of investigation and there is no infrastructural facility



provided for such child in conflict with law by setting up a child-friendly corner or a child-friendly unit.

4. The Superintendent of Police, Bhadrak is directed to remain personally present before this Court to explain whether there is any child-friendly corner in the said police station or any police station within his jurisdiction.

5. List this matter on 18th May, 2026.

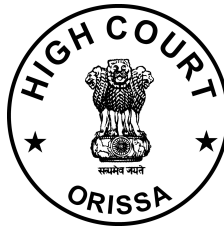
(Harish Tandon)
Chief Justice

(M.S. Raman)
Judge

Aswini

Signature Not
Verified

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Signed by: ASWINI KUMAR
SETHY
Designation: PERSONAL
ASSISTANT (SECY, LC)
Reason: Authentication
Location: ORISSA HIGH COURT,
CUTTACK
Date: 05-May-2026 15:19:51



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Petitioner

Represented by Adv.–
Mr. Asutosh Rout, Advocate

-Versus-

State of Odisha and others

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Opposite Parties

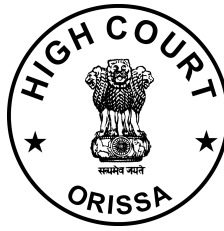
Represented by Adv.–
Ms. Aishwarya Dash, Addl. Standing Counsel

**CORAM:
HON' BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
AND
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MURAHARI SRI RAMAN**

Order No.

**ORDER
18.05.2026**

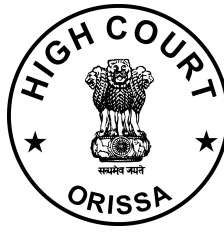
- 02.
1. Pursuant to an order dated 4th May, 2026, Mr. Manoj Kumar Rout, Superintendent of Police, Bhadrak is personally present in Court today. He files an affidavit disclosing that the concerned police station i.e. Pirahat Police Station has a child friendly corner with all amenities and/or facilities required to be provided in this regard.
 2. The affidavit would further reveal that the incident alleged to have happened on 2nd November, 2025, has no semblance of truth



and further reveal that all steps required to be taken under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 have been taken care of and the child was treated as mandated under the said Act. It is further disclosed that the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) has also been constituted in the District and the concerned Officer in the said Police Station is entrusted with the task to discharge the duties and functions of Child Welfare Police Officer.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner, on instructions, submits that the child was taken at the Police Station to a place which was not covered under the CCTV and was physically assaulted. To corroborate the aforesaid stand, the discharge/referral certificate issued by the Medical Officer of District Headquarter Hospital Bhadrak is relied on being annexed to the writ petition.

4. It appears from the instructions submitted by opposite party No.4 that the minor boy was called at the police station and in fact the Officer-in-charge of the Police Station interrogated him and also the investigation was done by them and not by the Special Juvenile Police Officer. Though the affidavit is indicative of the fact that the child friendly corners are set up in the said Police Station, but from Annexure-1 to the instruction submitted by opposite party No.4, a



presumption appears that the IIC herself investigated and interrogated the child as well as the father i.e. the petitioner herein.

5. The petitioner is still insisting and banking upon the statement that the child was mercilessly beaten and physically assaulted, which would be corroborated from the CCTV footage installed at the Police Station.

6. We, therefore, direct the Superintendent of Police, Bhadrak to produce the CCTV footage of 2nd November, 2025 for the period from 8PM to 12 mid night on the next date.

7. Taking into account Annexure-1 to the instruction submitted by opposite party No.4, the IIC of Pirahat Police Station and the Child Welfare Police Officer are directed to remain personally present along with the Superintendent of Police, Bhadrak on the next date.

8. List this matter on 29th June, 2026.

(Harish Tandon)
Chief Justice

(M.S. Raman)
Judge

S.K. Guin/PA

Signature Not Verified

Digitally Signed
Signed by: SUBASH KUMAR GUIN
Reason: Authentication
Location: High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
Date: 22-May-2026 18:14:16



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

WPCRL No. 6 of 2026

Sarat Majhi

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Petitioner

Mr. Asutosh Rout, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha and others

....

Opposite parties

Mr. Kailash Chandra Kar, Government Advocate assisted by
Ms. Aishwarya Dash, Additional Standing Counsel

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

HON'BLE MR JUSTICE MURAHARI SRI RAMAN

ORDER

29.06.2026

Order No.

03. 1. Pursuant to the order dated 18th May, 2026, the Superintendent of Police, Bhadrak has produced the CCTV footage of 2nd November, 2025 between the period from 8 PM to 12 Midnight and the IIC, Pirahat Police Station, the Child Welfare Police Officer of the same police station and the Superintendent of Police, Bhadrak are personally present before this Court.
2. We perused the excerpts of the CCTV footage which is forwarded by Mr. Kailash Chandra Kar, learned Government Advocate appearing for the State-opposite parties and after perusal thereof, we noticed certain discrepancies, violations and non-adherence of the statutory provisions.



3. Though the instant writ petition in the nature of the *habeas corpus* is in relation to an independent judicial inquiry for illegal detention and torture of a minor child, but we do not find from the CCTV footage that there was any physical assault being inflicted. Even apart, the medical document produced by the petitioner in the instant writ petition does not corroborate the same except that the child was admitted on 4th November, 2025 and discharged on 5th November, 2025.

4. Be that as it may, since the child who was brought to the police station at 7:52 PM and left the police station with his father at 12:04 AM on 2nd November, 2025, the question of illegal detention does not appear to have been made. However, it raises a serious concern when in pursuit of determining the cause, we noticed that the said child was treated differently than what is warranted under the Odisha Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2018 and the parent Act. There is a complete apathy which is shown by the Police Administration in inculcating the sense of responsibility while treating the child whether in conflict with law or otherwise.



5. We, therefore, feel that the instant writ petition should be converted into a regular Public Interest Litigation, so as to deal with the cases where there has been rampant violation and/or implementation of various provisions of the Act concerning children.

6. The Registry is directed to register a separate Public Interest Litigation and the documents and records pertaining to the instant writ petition be included therein.

7. Since the larger issue shall be dealt with by this Court in a Public Interest Litigation, there is no point in keeping the instant writ petition pending and the same shall be treated to have been disposed of.

8. Personal appearance of Mr. Manoj Kumar Rout, Superintendent of Police, Bhadrak, Ms. Rojalin Behera, IIC, Pirahat Police Station and Mr. Shyamsundar Nayak, SI, Pirahat Police Station is dispensed with.

(Harish Tandon)
Chief Justice

(M.S. Raman)
Judge