

In Liquor Smuggling Case HC denies bail to minor citing risk of criminal influence

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Raipur: The Chhattisgarh high court dismissed the bail application of a child accused in a liquor smuggling case, citing concerns that his release would compromise the interests of justice.

Justice Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal rejected the revision petition filed against the orders of the Juvenile Justice Board and the Additional Sessions Judge. In a recent order, the court ruled that granting bail to the applicant, who was a child in conflict with the law, could expose him to moral, physical, and psychological danger by bringing him into association with known criminals.

According to the case details, excise officials raided a spot in Bastar district on June 1, 2025, based on a tip-off. They seized 50 bottles of foreign liquor from the accused. He later led them to a culvert where 1,200 more bottles were recovered. A total of 225 litres of foreign liquor was seized from the child.

The child's counsel argued that he was falsely implicated and had no criminal record. However, the state's counsel opposed the plea, stating that the child's mother was deceased and he was in-



involved in the crime with two major co-accused who are absconding.

The Juvenile Justice Board initially rejected the bail plea, citing the risk of the child associating with criminals. The Appellate Court later upheld this decision.

The high court's order noted that the child was not living with his family and was residing with his aunt after his mother's death a decade ago. It concluded that releasing him could lead to re-association with the absconding co-accused.

The court said that granting bail would not be appropriate at this stage as the charge sheet has not been filed yet.

"Upon careful consideration of all these factors, I conclude that granting bail to the applicant would compromise the interests of justice. Therefore, I find no grounds to interfere with the well-reasoned orders of the Juvenile Justice Board and the Appellate Court," observed Justice Jaiswal in the case.