

News

The Supreme Court gave a college teacher bail for obscene content that was pro-Pakistani, but the ban will continue.



Last month, the highest court strongly disagreed with his social media posts last month, calling him a threat to female students because of claims that he watched women and made rude comments about them online.

On Monday, the Supreme Court gave bail to a college teacher who was arrested for sharing inappropriate and anti-India content on social media.

However, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi made it clear that the bail order should not allow him to go back to the teaching job he had been suspended from.

The Court let the accused go after six months in jail because of the case about social media posts.

"He is also said to have been named in two other cases in which he claimed to have sexually assaulted female students at work. The prosecution's job is to question four people who saw what happened. It will take a while for the trial to end. Petitioner is in prison since 6 months. Taking all of these things into account, he should be allowed to go home on bail as long as he can give bail bonds. He should be at every court meeting. This order shall not be construed as a ground for reinstatement of the petitioner and it is highly advisable that he is not, since there are claims of acts against girl students," the Court ordered.

The accused, Joyanal Abedin, who was a professor at Gossaigaon College, had moved the top court after the Gauhati High Court in July refused to release him on bail.

In a Facebook post, he is claimed to have said that "we are with the brother of Pakistani citizens" and that "we will be with them in future also." According to prosecution, the post was posted when tensions were high between India and Pakistan.

The High Court had said that Abedin was a supporter of Pakistan and that he had violated his basic duties.

"On a plain reading of the Facebook message, it is clear that at this point, the petitioner supports Pakistan, not his own country. The petitioner has not complied with the directive principles as put down in Article 51A of the Constitution of India," High Court Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia had noted.

Abedin had then sought bail before the top court. Last month, the top court had taken a strong exception to his social media content and described him as a threat to female students, in view of claims that he had stalked women and made obscene remarks against them as well online.

However, the Court today noted that the trial against him would take time and proceeded to give him bail.

"Let him be given bail since trial will take time. But let college suspension stay.. since he was alleged to have committed obscene acts," CJI Kant said.

Lawread