

2025:PHHC:054513



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**

Sr. No.217

**CRM-M-16214-2025 (O&M)
Date of decision : 28.04.2025**

Manjri

..... Petitioner

VERSUS

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE KIRTI SINGH

Present: Mr. Robin Dutt, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr. R.S. Thind, DAG, Punjab.

Mr. Vikas Kuthiala, Advocate, for the complainant.

KIRTI SINGH, J. (Oral)

The jurisdiction of this Court under Section 483 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS, 2023) has been invoked for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.40 dated 19.02.2025 under Sections 123, 316(2), 85 & 61(2) of BNS, registered at Police Station City South Moga, District Moga.

2. The translated version of the FIR is reproduced below:-

'To The SSP Moga Punjab Police, Moga. Subject For registration of FIR against accused Pradeep Synghal S/o Sh. Jodhjit Synghal Rio Backside Geeta Bhawan, Moga Mobile No 96462-93043 and an unknown female accomplice naming her as Manjari in recorded conversation for attempting to commit murder and to kill the complainant and continuously demanding and taking dowry and for misappropriation of dowry articles worth more than Rs 1 Crore and continuous acts of torture and physical abuse on complainant Respected Sir, It is requested that the husband of the complainant viz. accused Pradeep RSAMI Synghal Slo Sh. Jodhajit Synghal R/o Backside Geeta Bhawan, Moga Mobile No. 96462-93043 and an unknown female accomplice are making conspiracy to commit murder of the complainant by giving poisonous substances as the Pardeep Synghal and his female compliance have been symmetrically administrating a poisoning substance in small

2025:PHHC:054513



but continuous doses leading to the saviour decline in physical and mental health of the complainant as a result of this calculated poisoning the complainant has become vulnerable to infection which leads to the death of the complainant and suddenly on 07-02-2025 the accused Pardeep Synghal has administered a piousness substance in a water solution and after that the health of the complaint was got serious and she suffered serious pain in abdomen and starting continuous vomiting and when the complainant told about the same to her husband/accused Pardeep Synghal he ignored the same and on 08-02-2025 the accused ran away from the house on his vehicle as he knew the fact very well that this all has happened due to administration of poisonous substance given by him to the complainant and the mother in law of the complainant has already gone out of station in Maharashtra as she knew this fact very well that the life of the complainant will be finished very soon by the accused and when the health of the complainant become very serious then she informed her brother who has taken her to the doctor for medical assistance where she got admitted for whole of the day and doctor detected the food poisoning and dehydration which is a result of calculated poisoning given by the accused Pardeep Synghal and his female compliance with whom the accused Pardeep Synghal is in illicit relationship. There after the complainant was discharged from the hospital after his health was stabilized. Even it is more disturbing that the recorded conversation between accused Pardeep Synghal and his female compliance to whom the Pardeep Synghal is naming as Manjar reveals confirms their sinister intentions, the discussion clearly establishes that they are actively seeking to hire a contract killer by paying him any amount to eliminate the complainant at the earliest opportunity Their ultimate goal is to remove the complainant from their path permanently by murdering her, enabling them to live together without any obstruction and they are naming the contract killer being Lal Kitab The compelling evidence leave no doubt about the accused malicious intent making it evident that they are not only guilty of poisoning the complainant but are also engaged in a premeditated plot to take the life of the complainant. There action and conspiracy are a grave and heinous crime. It is pertinent to mention here that the accused Pradeep Synghal was duly appointed as a Judicial Officer in the State of Punjab in December 2010. The complainant was married in a arranged marriage to accused Pradeep Synghal S/o Sh Jodhajit Synghal on 25.02. 2011 at City Park, Moga and the family member of the complainant has spent more than 2 for the solemnization of their marriage and apart from this the parent accused Pardeep Synghal with the complainant exhibited a deep and a lavish marriage was performed by the parent of the complainant Crore of Rupees as demanded by the

2025:PHHC:054513



accused and his family members of the complainant has given the valuable gold, silver and diamond in form of valuable ornament worth more than Rs. 1 Crore and out of this wedlock 2 children viz; Lehar (DoB 28.02.2012) and Garv (DoB 09.03.2013) were born. From the very beginning of the marriage the routed sense of entitlement and greed subjecting the complainant to relentless and unlawful demands of dowry. The accused treated the institution of marriage as a financial arrangement, pressurizing the complainant and her family members to provide exorbitant some of money, luxury items and valuable articles to satisfy his ever growing desires. The accused Pradeep Synghal S/o Sh. Jodhajit Synghal continuous acts of torture and physical abuse on the complainant were regularly ignored by the complainant due to the fear of society and family. The parents of the complainant has continuously met with the Illegal demand of money and valuable articles made by the accused for the betterment of her matrimonial life and moreover whenever the complainant and her family refused these illegal demands of the accused and his family members, they resorted to cruelty and violence The accused subject the complainant to severe physical assault, verbal abuse and relentless mental harassment making her life unbearable. The accused repeatedly humiliated the complainant taunting her for not bringing enough dowry and threatening to abandon her, if the complainant resisted to meet with financial expectation of the accused Pardeep Synghal and family members Pertinently all my valuable dowry articles and jeweler are lying in the custody of the accused and his family members, which have not been given to the complainant despite her repeated requests. Subsequently, the accused Pradeep Synghal was dismissed from his post of Judicial Officer, Punjab by the Government of Punjab, on the recommendation of the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court at Chandigarh in the Month of December 2023.after due and proper disciplinary proceedings for misconduct were carried out. The accused Pradeep Synghal has filed CWP No 6448 of 2024 titled as "Pradeep Synghai Vs State of Punjab & ors before the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court at Chandigarh challenging his dismissal orders therein. That during the period of his suspension and subsequent dismissal as the Judicial Officer in the State of Punjab, in order to support the family. accused Pradeep Synghal regularly demanded and took money and other expensive things regularly from the father of the complainant, through the complainant (the mother of the complainant has passed. away on 30.06.2022). The father of the complainant having no other option fulfilled the financial and other demands of the accused Pradeep Synghal in order to safeguard the matrimonial life and home of his daughter/complainant. That the accused used to have alcohol on social and private functions, however, after his

2025:PHHC:054513



dismissal from the post of Judicial Officer the accused had started drinking alcohol on regular basis and in heavy quantity and his drinking spiraled out of control Turning into the daily habit marked by excessive and reckless consumption When the complainant tried to make the accused understand the vices of his vice, the accused Pradeep Synghal used to give her severe beating and also abused her mentally as a woman of no values and no social understanding and each time she was met with brutal physical violence and accused would mercilessly beat her. subjecting her to inhumane cruelty. Further the accused Pradeep Synghal in his drunken state used to tell the complainant that he is going to make his life with a modern girl who he already knows from his past posting at Fazilka and if she will come in their way they will eliminate her The complainant getting suspicious of the behavior and conduct of the accused told her father about the same The father of the complainant made efforts to find out about the said relationship of the accused with a lady. The telephone conversation between the accused Pradeep Synghal and his unknown female accomplice got revealed which are presented in a pen drive The conversation between the accused persons Pradeep Synghal and the female accomplice clearly and unambiguously reveals that the accused person Pradeep Synghal and the female accomplice are in constant touch and illicit relationship with each other Further they are actively conspiring to kill the complainant and also manage the outcome of the CWP No. 6448 of 2024 titled as "Pradeep Synghal Vs State of Punjab & ors" before the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court at Chandigarh. The contents of recorded conversation exposes a shocking a celebrate criminal conspiracy between the accused Pardeep Synghal and his female compliance the evidence clearly reveals that they have been systematically administering a poisonous substance to the complainant and they have attempted for the murder of the complainant by any means or by hiring a contract killer at any cost they want to kill the complainant. The contents of pen drive reveal the accused Pradeep Synghal and the lady accomplice were giving poisonous substance in small quantity to the complainant which has led to deterioration of her physical and mental health making her venerable to infection and mortal disease. Further the conversation between the accused Pradeep Synghal and unknown female accomplice shows that are actively looking for a hired assassin to commit the murder of the complainant at the earliest so that the accused persons can live together it is stated here that the accused Pradeep Synghal claims that Police will be very careful to take action against a Judicial Officer once he is reinstated as a Judicial Officer as he is sure that he has managed the outcome of the CWP No 6448 of 2024 titled as "Pradeep Synghal Vs State of Punjab & ors before the Hon'ble

2025.PHHC:054513



Punjab & Haryana High Court at Chandigarh for a favorable order. It is therefore requested that strict action be taken and FIR under relevant sections be registered against accused Pradeep Synghal Sio Sh. Jodhajit Synghal Rio Backside Geeta Bhawan, Moga Mobile No 96462-93043 and an unknown female accomplice for conspiracy to commit murder of the complainant and continuous acts of torture and physical abuse Thanking you Yours Faithfully Sd/-Ishita Synghal W/o Pradeep Synghal Rio Backside Geeta Bhawan, Moga Mobile No 98141-46568 98761-72858, 268-PC4/25 14/2/25 PGD-529439 SP(HQ) for necessary action as per law & report Sd/-Sr. Supdt of Police Moga 14.2.2025'

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner *inter alia* submits that the petitioner has been falsely implicated on the allegation of being the female accomplice of the husband of the complainant, who is the co-accused in this case. He further submits that the matter has been compromised between the complainant and the main accused i.e. her husband of the complainant, and he placed a copy of order dated 22.04.2025 passed by this Court in CRM-M-13485-2025 titled as 'Pradeep Synghal Vs. State of Punjab' vide which the co-accused has been granted anticipatory bail on the basis of said compromise. He submits that the petitioner has undergone an actual custody of 01 month and 01 day and is not involved in any other criminal case.

4. *Per contra*, learned State counsel has vehemently opposed the submissions made by the learned counsel for the petitioner. He states that the petitioner was actively involved in the commission of the offence. He has filed custody certificate in Court today and the same is taken on record. As per custody certificate, the petitioner has undergone an actual custody of 01 month and 01 day and is not involved in any other criminal case. He submits that the matter is under investigation. He however, submits that in view of

2025:PHHC:054513



the serious allegations against the petitioner, he is not entitled to the concession of regular bail.

5. Vide order dated 03.04.2025 passed in CRM-13878-2025 by this Court, the petitioner has been granted the interim bail during the pendency of the regular bail. The same is reproduced below:-

‘This is an application under Section 528 of BNSS for grant of interim bail during the pendency of the regular bail petition to the applicant.

Learned counsel for the applicant-petitioner submits that the applicant-petitioner has been falsely implicated on the allegation of being the female accomplice of the husband of the complainant, who is the co-accused in this case. He submits that in essence, the issue is of matrimonial disputes between the complainant and the husband, who has even been granted interim anticipatory bail by this Court vide order dated 12.03.2025 (Annexure P3) . It is further submitted that the complainant and her husband have been referred to mediation for an amicable settlement of the dispute and a positive outcome is expected from the same.

Learned State counsel has not disputed the submissions made by the learned counsel for the applicant-petitioner.

In view of above submission application stands allowed and applicant is granted interim bail during the pendency of regular bail petition, on her furnishing bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court/duty Magistrate concerned, on such terms and conditions as may be imposed.’

6. Heard the rival submissions made by learned counsel for the parties.

7. On a perusal of the case in hand, it transpires that the main accused i.e. husband of the complainant was granted the concession of

2025:PHHC:054513



anticipatory bail by this Court vide order dated 22.04.2025 passed in CRM-M-13485-2025, on the basis of compromise arrived at between the complainant and the accused-husband. On the ground of the said compromise, the petitioner in the instant case was also granted interim bail vide order dated 03.04.2025. There is no other criminal case registered against the petitioner, who is behind bars since 03.03.2025. The culpability, if any, would be determined at the time of trial. No useful purpose shall be served by further detention of the accused/petitioner. Keeping the petitioner in further detention without the prospect of the trial being concluded in the near future, would be violative of his rights under Article 21 of the Constitution of India including the right to speedy trial, and is against the principle “Bail is a rule, jail is an exception” as elucidated in the judgment of Apex Court in *“Dataram Singh vs. State of Uttar Pradesh and another”, (2018) 3 SCC 22*.

8. Without commenting anything on the merits of the case, lest it may prejudice the trial, the present petition is allowed and interim bail granted to the petitioner vide order dated 03.04.2025 is made absolute subject to the following conditions:-

- (I) The petitioner will not tamper with the evidence during the trial.
- (II) The petitioner will not pressurize/intimidate the prosecution witness(s).
- (III) The petitioner will appear before the trial Court on the date fixed, unless personal presence is exempted.

2025.PHHC:054513



(IV) The petitioner shall not commit an offence similar to the offence of which she is accused of, or for commission of which she is suspected.

(V) The petitioner shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer or tamper with the evidence.

9. In case of breach of any of the above conditions, the prosecution shall be at liberty to move an application for cancellation of bail before this Court.

10. However, nothing stated above shall be construed as a final expression of opinion on the merits of the case and the trial Court would proceed independently of the observations made in the present case which are only for the purpose of adjudicating the present bail petition.

Pending miscellaneous application(s), if any, also stands disposed of.

(KIRTI SINGH)
JUDGE

28.04.2025

Ramandeep Singh

Whether speaking / reasoned

Whether Reportable

Yes/No

Yes/No