



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-24274-2025
DECIDED ON: 21.05.2025

PARVEEN KUMAR @ PARVEEN PANGAL

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA

.....RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP MOUDGIL

Present: Ms. Bhupinder Kaur, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Mayuri Lakhanpal Kalia, DAG, Haryana.

SANDEEP MOUDGIL, J (ORAL)

1. **Relief sought**

The jurisdiction of this Court has been invoked under Section 483 of BNSS Act of 2023 for grant of Regular bail in the FIR No. 266 dated 17.10.2021 registered u/s 148, 149, 307, 342, 365, 377, 379-B, 385, 201,506, 468 of IPC and section 25 of Arms Act 1959, registered at Police Station Kosli District Kosli, Annexure P-1.

2. Prosecution story setup in the present case as per the version in the FIR as under:-

“Brief facts of the case are as under -To SHO Sahib, Police Station Kosli Sir, I request that I am Amit Kumar S/O Harbans Lal (Vicky), caste Punjabi, resident of Shiv Colony Railway Station and I have a shop by the name of Arora Fancy near the railway station. On 10.10.2021 I received a

message of Hello from a girl named Mananiya on Facebook. After this, on 11.12.13-10-2021 also I received a message on Facebook from a girl named Mananiya to which I did not reply. On 13-10-2021, I replied to Mananiya when she sent me a message on my birthday. After this on 14-10-2021 Mananiya came to my shop to buy chundri and took it after paying money. After this on 16-10-2021 I got a message from Mananiya to meet me and I closed the shop at around 9.30 pm and reached in front of Mananiya's house, there were already five seven eight men sitting there and they took me inside at gunpoint and forcibly made me remove my clothes and made a video of me with Mananiya and forcibly made me sit me in the car and took me to the fields, it was a Bolero car and took me to a deserted place and tied a blindfold on me and made a video of doing bad things with me, forcibly made me drink alcohol and demanded 50 lakh rupees in the name of Mananiya and said that after getting money, your video will be deleted, then under their pressure I agreed to give 15 lakh rupees on Monday. The name of one of them was Praveen Panghal resident of Vishwakarma Colony To Whom I know personally, he said that give me all the gold in your house and transfer your i.e breeze car in my name and when I refused, he fired at me from the pistol in his hand, I suddenly sat down and I survived. I told Praveen Panghal and his companion that I will give you five lakh rupees right now, they all came to my house with me and said that I will kill you if you do not give the money and snatched the gold chain from my neck, a locket, my purse with two thousand rupees cash and car papers and driving license and two ATMs and said that I will not let you live in Kosli. Last night I and my family were scared of this incident, today as soon as I switched on my mobile, I got a call from Praveen Panghal and he threatened to kill me if I do not give the money. I and my family should be protected from these anti- social elements and legal action should be taken against them.”

3. **Contentions**

On behalf of the petitioner

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case. He further contends that the only allegation against the petitioner is of causing gun shot fire upon the complainant, however, the complainant escaped unhurt. It has been further contended that the complainant in the present FIR has not supported the case of the prosecution, as is evident from Annexure P-3 i.e. statement of the complainant. He further contends that the petitioner is in custody since 22.10.2021 and after completion of the investigation, challan stands presented to Court on 01.01.2022, charges have been framed on 04.05.2022 and out of total 29 prosecution witnesses, only 09 witnesses have been examined, meaning thereby, the conclusion of the trial will take long time.

On behalf of the State

On the other hand, learned State counsel has produced the custody certificate of the petitioner today in Court, which is taken on record. He seeks dismissal of the instant petition on the ground that the petitioner is a habitual offender as he is involved in multiple cases.

4. **Analysis**

Be that as it may, considering the custody period undergone by the petitioner i.e. 03 years, 04 months and 29 days added with the facts that the complainant in the present FIR has not supported the case of the prosecution, as is evident from Annexure P-3 i.e. statement of the complainant; investigation is complete, wherein after framing of charges on 04.05.2023 out of total 29 prosecution witnesses, 09 witnesses have been examined, which is suffice for this Court to infer that the conclusion of trial

shall take considerable time, this Court is of the considering view that detaining the petitioner behind the bars for an indefinite period would serve no purpose.

Reliance can be placed upon the judgment of the Apex Court rendered in “***Dataram versus State of Uttar Pradesh and another***”, 2018(2) ***R.C.R. (Criminal) 131***, wherein it has been held that the grant of bail is a general rule and putting persons in jail or in prison or in correction home is an exception. Relevant paras of the said judgment is reproduced as under:-

“2. A fundamental postulate of criminal jurisprudence is the presumption of innocence, meaning thereby that a person is believed to be innocent until found guilty. However, there are instances in our criminal law where a reverse onus has been placed on an accused with regard to some specific offences but that is another matter and does not detract from the fundamental postulate in respect of other offences. Yet another important facet of our criminal jurisprudence is that the grant of bail is the general rule and putting a person in jail or in a prison or in a correction home (whichever expression one may wish to use) is an exception. Unfortunately, some of these basic principles appear to have been lost sight of with the result that more and more persons are being incarcerated and for longer periods. This does not do any good to our criminal jurisprudence or to our society.

3. There is no doubt that the grant or denial of bail is entirely the discretion of the judge considering a case but even so, the exercise of judicial discretion has been circumscribed by a large number of decisions rendered by this Court and by every High Court in the country. Yet, occasionally there is a necessity to introspect whether denying bail to an accused person is the right thing to do on the facts and in the circumstances of a case.

4. While so introspecting, among the factors that need to be considered is whether the accused was arrested during investigations when that person perhaps has the best

opportunity to tamper with the evidence or influence witnesses. If the investigating officer does not find it necessary to arrest an accused person during investigations, a strong case should be made out for placing that person in judicial custody after a charge sheet is filed. Similarly, it is important to ascertain whether the accused was participating in the investigations to the satisfaction of the investigating officer and was not absconding or not appearing when required by the investigating officer. Surely, if an accused is not hiding from the investigating officer or is hiding due to some genuine and expressed fear of being victimised, it would be a factor that a judge would need to consider in an appropriate case. It is also necessary for the judge to consider whether the accused is a first-time offender or has been accused of other offences and if so, the nature of such offences and his or her general conduct. The poverty or the deemed indigent status of an accused is also an extremely important factor and even Parliament has taken notice of it by incorporating an Explanation to section 436 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. An equally soft approach to incarceration has been taken by Parliament by inserting section 436A in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

*5. To put it shortly, a humane attitude is required to be adopted by a judge, while dealing with an application for remanding a suspect or an accused person to police custody or judicial custody. There are several reasons for this including maintaining the dignity of an accused person, howsoever poor that person might be, the requirements of Article 21 of the Constitution and the fact that there is enormous overcrowding in prisons, leading to social and other problems as noticed by this Court in *In Re-Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons*, 2017(4) RCR (Criminal) 416: 2017(5) Recent Apex Judgments (R.A.J.) 408 : (2017) 10 SCC 658*

*6. The historical background of the provision for bail has been elaborately and lucidly explained in a recent decision delivered in *Nikesh Tara chand Shah v. Union of India*, 2017*

(13) SCALE 609 going back to the days of the Magna Carta. In that decision, reference was made to Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia v. State of Punjab, (1980) 2 SCC 565 in which it is observed that it was held way back in Nagendra v. King-Emperor, AIR 1924 Calcutta 476 that bail is not to be withheld as a punishment. Reference was also made to Emperor v. Hutchinson, AIR 1931 Allahabad 356 wherein it was observed that grant of bail is the rule and refusal is the exception. The provision for bail is therefore age-old and the liberal interpretation to the provision for bail is almost a century old, going back to colonial days.

7. However, we should not be understood to mean that bail should be granted in every case. The grant or refusal of bail is entirely within the discretion of the judge hearing the matter and though that discretion is unfettered, it must be exercised judiciously and in a humane manner and compassionately. Also, conditions for the grant of bail ought not to be so strict as to be incapable of compliance, thereby making the grant of bail illusory.”

Therefore, to elucidate further, this Court is conscious of the basic and fundamental principle of law that right to speedy trial is a part of reasonable, fair and just procedure enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. This constitutional right cannot be denied to the accused as is the mandate of the Apex court in “**Balwinder Singh versus State of Punjab and Another**”, **SLP (Crl.) No.8523/2024**. Relevant paras of the said judgment reads as under:-

“7. An accused has a right to a fair trial and while a hurried trial is frowned upon as it may not give sufficient time to prepare for the defence, an inordinate delay in conclusion of the trial would infringe the right of an accused guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

8. *It is not for nothing the Author Oscar Wilde in “The Ballad of Reading Gaol”, wrote the following poignant lines while being incarcerated:*

*“I know not whether Laws be right,
Or whether Laws be wrong;
All that we know who be in jail
Is that the wall is strong;
And that each day is like a year,
A year whose days are long.”*

As far as the pendency of other cases and involvement of the petitioner in other cases is concerned, reliance can be placed upon the order of this Court rendered in CRM-M-25914-2022 titled as **“Baljinder Singh alias Rock vs. State of Punjab”** decided on 02.03.2023, wherein, while referring Article 21 of the Constitution of India, this Court has held that no doubt, at the time of granting bail, the criminal antecedents of the petitioner are to be looked into but at the same time it is equally true that the appreciation of evidence during the course of trial has to be looked into with reference to the evidence in that case alone and not with respect to the evidence in the other pending cases. In such eventuality, strict adherence to the rule of denial of bail on account of pendency of other cases/convictions in all probability would land the petitioner in a situation of denial of concession of bail.

5. **RELIEF:**

In view of the discussions made hereinabove, the petitioner is hereby directed to be released on regular bail on him furnishing bail and surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate, concerned.

In the afore-said terms, the present petition is hereby allowed.

However, it is made clear that anything stated hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

21.05.2025

Poonam Negi

(SANDEEP MOUDGIL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No