



**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATES OF PUNJAB AND
HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH**

294

CRM-M-31118-2025 (O&M)
Date of decision: 20.08.2025

Sukhdeep Singh**...Petitioner**

Versus

State of Punjab**...Respondent****CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA**

Present:- Mr. Narinder S. Lucky, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Vivek Sharma, AAG, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J. (Oral)

1. CRM-29590-2025

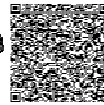
Allowed as prayed for.

Annexure P-3 is taken on record.

2. CRM-M-31118-2025 (O&M)

The instant petition has been filed by the petitioner under Section 528 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (*for short 'BNSS'*) for quashing of order dated 28.04.2025 (Annexure P-2), passed by the Court of learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Khadoor Sahib in case titled as ***State vs. Sukhdeep Singh***, arising out of FIR No. 14 dated 22.02.2021, registered under Section 379 of IPC and Section 21(1) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 at Police Station Verowal, District Tarn Taran, whereby the petitioner had been declared a proclaimed offender.

3. The present petition has been filed by the petitioner on the grounds and it has been argued by his counsel that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the aforementioned case. The petitioner was on bail and



was regularly appearing before the learned trial Court. However, he absented himself on 24.10.2024 due to non-communication of date of hearing by his counsel, consequent to which, his bail was cancelled and non-bailable warrants were issued against him. Subsequently, the petitioner could not appear before the Court as he was never served with any notice/warrants issued by the learned trial Court. More so, the petitioner had been declared a proclaimed offender without following the proper procedure prescribed under Section 84 of BNSS (*which is pari materia with Section 82 of Cr.P.C.*). He is ready to join the Court proceedings. Hence, it is urged that the impugned order is liable to be set aside.

4. *Per contra*, learned Assistant Advocate General, Punjab has resisted the petition by submitting that there is no infirmity in the impugned order and the petitioner has rightly been declared a proclaimed offender as he was running away from the process of Court. It is, thus, urged that the petition is liable to be dismissed.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties at considerable length and have also gone through the material placed on record.

6. On giving due deliberations to the contentions as raised by learned counsel for the parties and on an overall perusal of the orders passed by the learned trial Court from the date of initiating proceedings under Section 84 of BNSS as against the petitioner till the date of declaring him a proclaimed offender, I am of the considered opinion that the impugned order dated 28.04.2025 suffers from material illegalities and is liable to be quashed with all the consequential proceedings arising therefrom.

7. After going through the material placed on record as well as the copies of zimni orders passed by the learned trial Court, it is revealed that on

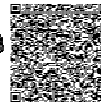


14.02.2025, since the non-bailable warrants issued against the petitioner were received back unserved, the learned trial Court had ordered for issuance of proclamation against him for 01.04.2025. A bare perusal of this order shows that the learned trial Court before ordering for publication of proclamation has not recorded its proper satisfaction that the petitioner had absconded or was concealing himself so that the warrant of arrest, previously issued, cannot be executed, despite reasonable diligence, which was in violation of the provisions of Section 84(1) of BNSS. Reliance in this regard can be placed upon ***Rohit Kumar Vs. State of Delhi : 2008 CrL J. 2561.***

8. Further, a perusal of the statement of the serving police official reveals that the proclamation was not publically read over in some conspicuous place of the town or village in which the petitioner was supposed to be residing. As per Section 84 (2) of BNSS for publication, the proclamation has to be first publicly read in some conspicuous place of the town or village in which the accused ordinarily resides; then the same has to be affixed to some conspicuous part of the house or homestead in which the accused ordinarily resides or to some conspicuous place of such town or village and thereafter a copy of the proclamation has to be affixed to some conspicuous part of the Court-house. The three sub-clauses (a)-(c) in Section 84 (4) of BNSS are conjunctive and not disjunctive, which means that there would be no valid publication of the proclamation unless all the three modes of publication are proved. Reliance in this regard can be placed upon ***Pawan Kumar Gupta Vs. The State of W.B. : 1973 CriLJ 1368.***

9. Accordingly, in view of the discussion as made above and also in view of the ratio of law as laid down in above cited authorities, the present petition is allowed and the impugned order dated 28.04.2025 (Annexure P-2),

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passed by the Court of learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Khadoor Sahib in case titled as ***State vs. Sukhdeep Singh***, arising out of FIR No. 14 dated 22.02.2021, registered under Section 379 of IPC and Section 21(1) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 at Police Station Verowal, District Tarn Taran, whereby the petitioner had been declared a proclaimed offender, is quashed with all consequential proceedings arising therefrom.

10. Keeping in view the fact that the petitioner is ready to join the Court proceedings which would obviously help in speedy conclusion of trial, he is directed to surrender before the learned trial Court within a period of 04 weeks from today and on doing so, the learned trial Court shall release him on bail, subject to his furnishing fresh personal/surety bonds to its satisfaction.

11. Till the appearance of the petitioner before the learned trial Court, his arrest shall remain stayed.

12. It is made clear that in case the petitioner fails to appear before the learned trial Court within the stipulated time, this petition shall be deemed to be dismissed.

13. However, this relief shall be subject to payment of cost of Rs. 10,000/-, to be deposited by the petitioner with the Punjab and Haryana High Court Employees' Welfare Association, Chandigarh.

20.08.2025

*Waseem Ansari***(MANISHA BATRA)**
JUDGE*Whether speaking/reasoned**Yes/No**Whether reportable**Yes/No*