

2025:PHHC:112136



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

CRM-M-51544-2024

Date of decision : 22.08.2025

Harpreet Singh @ Pastor Johnson

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE

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

Mr. Salil Sabhlok, Senior DAG, Punjab.

SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE (Oral)

1. The petitioner, who is in custody since 10.05.2024 has filed this first petition for grant of regular bail in FIR No. 98 dated 02.05.2024, under Sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 471 IPC, Sections 66 (C), 66 (D) IT Act, 2000 and Sections 3, 9 of Official Secrets Act, registered at Police Station, Model Town, District Hoshiarpur.

2. Custody certificate filed on behalf of the State is taken on record.

3. The petitioner is in custody since 01 year, 03 months and 12 days as on 22.08.2025 and is alleged with the offence of cheating and forgery as well as the offences under the IT Act, 2000 and Official Secrets Act.

4. Learned counsel for the State indicates that the petitioner is alleged with sharing secret documents. The allegation is that the petitioner being Pastor visited Pakistan twice and came in touch with Pakistan Intelligence Agency. There are allegations of obtaining fake Indian SIMs, registering the same on WhatsApp and other internet Apps and by using the same, the petitioner carried out activities against India.

5. Looking to the gravity of the offence and the fact that none of the prosecution witnesses have been examined after the charge-sheet was submitted on 06.08.2024, this Court is of the view that though there is some prejudice caused to the petitioner by prolonged undertrial custody, but the same gets outweighed by the gravity of the offence and therefore, present petition stands dismissed with liberty to re-visit the Court in case the trial gets further delayed. With the aforesaid liberty, the petition stands dismissed.

**(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE**

August 22, 2025
Ajay Prasher

Whether speaking/reasoned	: Yes/No
Whether reportable	: Yes/No