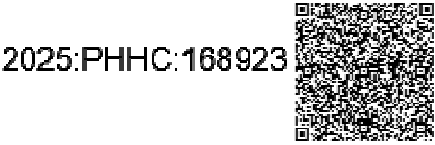


CRM-M-63559-2025



220
IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH
CRM-M-63559-2025

Irfan @ Babbu
.....Petitioner
versus
State of Punjab
.....Respondent

Date of decision: December 04, 2025
Date of Uploading: December 04, 2025

CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE SUMEET GOEL

Present:- Mr. Arkash Mani Garg, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Baljinder Singh Sra, Additional AG Punjab.

SUMEET GOEL, J. (ORAL)

Present petition has been filed under Section 483 of the Bharatiya
Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short ‘BNSS’) for grant of regular bail to
the petitioner in case bearing FIR No.53 dated 22.05.2024, registered for the
offences punishable under Sections 302, 120-B, 201 & 34 of the Indian Penal
Code, 1860 (for short ‘IPC’), registered at Police Station Amargarh, District
Malerkotla.

2. The gravamen of the FIR in question is that on 22.05.2024, the
Inspector/SHO of Police Station Amargarh, along with the accompanying
police party, was present at the bridge of the drain near Village Abaspura in
connection with the investigation of an unidentified dead body of a woman. At
about 1:30 PM, the Inspector/SHO received secret information stating that the
dead body found on the right-side pavement of the drain near Naushera was of
a woman who had been the mistress (concubine) of co-accused, namely,
Mandeep Singh @ Mani for a considerable period of time. It was further

CRM-M-63559-2025

revealed that there had been illicit relations between said woman and Mandeep Singh @ Mani for a long duration. The deceased woman frequently quarreled with Mandeep Singh @ Mani, insisting upon marrying her. However, both Mandeep Singh @ Mani and his mother, Ranjit Kaur @ Rani, were unwilling to solemnize the marriage. Due to this ongoing dispute, tensions had persisted between them for some time. It was further alleged that, as a result of this strained relationship, Mandeep Singh @ Mani and his mother Ranjit Kaur @ Rani conspired to eliminate the woman. In pursuance of their plan, on the intervening night of 21/22.05.2024, the said accused persons, in connivance with other unidentified accomplices, murdered the woman. Thereafter, they disposed of the body by throwing it near the banks of the drain at a deserted location. Subsequently, after committing the offence, the accused persons locked their house and fled from the scene in order to evade arrest.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has iterated that the petitioner is in custody since 23.08.2024. Learned counsel has further iterated that the petitioner has been falsely implicated into the FIR in question. Learned counsel has also iterated that prime prosecution evidence available against the petitioner is that of disclosure of co-accused, which is not tenable in law. Learned counsel has further submitted that the petitioner has suffered incarceration of about 01½ years. Thus, regular bail is prayed for.

4. Learned State counsel has opposed the present petition by arguing that the allegations raised against the petitioner are serious in nature and thus, the petitioner does not deserve the concession of the regular bail. Learned State counsel seeks to place on record the custody certificate dated 03.12.2025, in the Court today, which is taken on record.

5. I have heard counsel for the rival parties and have gone through the available records of the case.

CRM-M-63559-2025

6. The petitioner was arrested on 23.08.2024 whereinafter investigation was carried out and challan has been presented. Total 16 prosecution witnesses have been cited, out of which, only 01 has been examined till date. It is thus, indubitable that conclusion of the trial will take long time. The rival contentions raised at Bar give rise to debatable issues, which shall be ratiocinated upon during the course of trial. This Court does not deem it appropriate to delve deep into these rival contentions, at this stage, lest it may prejudice the trial. Nothing tangible has been brought forward to indicate the likelihood of the petitioner absconding from the process of justice or interfering with the prosecution evidence.

6.1. At this juncture, it would be apposite to refer herein a judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Javed Gulam Nabi Shaikh vs. State of Maharashtra and anothers, 2024(3) RCR (Criminal) 494*, which reads thus:

“18. Criminals are not born out but made. The human potential in everyone is good and so, never write off any criminal as beyond redemption. This humanist fundamental is often missed when dealing with delinquents, juvenile and adult. Indeed, every saint has a past and every sinner a future. When a crime is committed, a variety of factors is responsible for making the offender commit the crime. Those factors may be social and economic, may be, the result of value erosion or parental neglect; may be, because of the stress of circumstances, or the manifestation of temptations in a milieu of affluence contrasted with indigence or other privations.

19. If the State or any prosecuting agency including the court concerned has no wherewithal to provide or protect the fundamental right of an accused to have a speedy trial as enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution then the State or any other prosecuting agency should not oppose the plea for bail on the ground that the crime committed is serious. Article 21 of the Constitution applies irrespective of the nature of the crime.

20. We may hasten to add that the petitioner is still an accused; not a convict. The over-arching postulate of criminal jurisprudence that an accused is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty cannot be brushed aside lightly, howsoever stringent the penal law may be.

21. We are convinced that the manner in which the prosecuting agency as well as the Court have proceeded, the right of the accused to have a speedy trial could be said to have been infringed thereby violating Article 21 of the Constitution.”

CRM-M-63559-2025

6.2. As per custody certificate dated 03.12.2025 filed by learned State counsel, the petitioner has already suffered incarceration for a period of 01 year, 03 months and 08 days. Further, as per the said custody certificate the petitioner is stated to be involved in other FIR(s). However, this factum cannot be a ground sufficient by itself, to decline the concession of regular bail to the petitioner in the FIR in question when a case is made out for grant of regular bail *qua* the FIR in question by ratiocinating upon the facts/circumstances of the said FIR. Reliance in this regard can be placed upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Maulana Mohd. Amir Rashadi v. State of U.P. and another, 2012 (1) RCR (Criminal) 586*, a Division Bench judgment of the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court in case of *Sridhar Das v. State, 1998 (2) RCR (Criminal) 477* & judgments of this Court in CRM-M No.38822-2022 titled as *Akhilesh Singh v. State of Haryana*, decided on 29.11.2021, and *Balraj v. State of Haryana, 1998 (3) RCR (Criminal) 191*.

Suffice to say, further detention of the petitioner as an undertrial is not warranted in the facts and circumstances of the case.

7. In view of above, the present petition is allowed. Petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Ld. concerned CJM/Duty Magistrate. However, in addition to conditions that may be imposed by the concerned CJM/Duty Magistrate, the petitioner shall remain bound by the following conditions:

- (i) The petitioner shall not mis-use the liberty granted.
- (ii) The petitioner shall not tamper with any evidence, oral or documentary, during the trial.
- (iii) The petitioner shall not absent himself on any date before the trial.
- (iv) The petitioner shall not commit any offence while on bail.
- (v) The petitioner shall deposit his passport, if any, with the trial Court.
- (vi) The petitioner shall give his cellphone number to the Investigating Officer/SHO of concerned Police Station and

CRM-M-63559-2025

shall not change his cell-phone number without prior permission of the trial Court/Illaqa Magistrate.
(vii) The petitioner shall not in any manner try to delay the trial.

8. In case of breach of any of the aforesaid conditions and those which may be imposed by concerned CJM/Duty Magistrate as directed hereinabove or upon showing any other sufficient cause, the State/complainant shall be at liberty to move cancellation of bail of the petitioner.

9. Ordered accordingly.

10. Nothing said hereinabove shall be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

11. Since the main case has been decided, pending miscellaneous application, if any, shall also stands disposed off.

(SUMEET GOEL)
JUDGE

December 04, 2025
mahavir

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