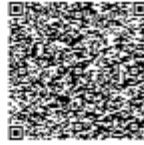


2025:PHHC:170110



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

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**CRM-M-67298-2025
Date of decision: 05.12.2025**

KIRANPAL KAUR @ MANPREET KAURPetitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJABRespondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ

Present: - Mr. Ankush Thakral, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Savi Nagpal, Asst. A.G. Punjab.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)

The instant petition has been filed under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, for the grant of regular bail in case bearing FIR No. 019 dated 23.06.2023, registered under Section(s) 66(D) of Information Technology Act and Section 384, 170, 420, 120-B, 506 of the IPC, 1860 (Sections 389 & 201 of the IPC added later on) at Police Station Punjab State Cyber Crime, Crime Wing, District SAS Nagar, Mohali.

2. Succinctly stated, the facts, as emerging from the FIR, are that the complainant Kanwaljit Singh alleged that in September 2021, he received a message from a girl who introduced herself as Manpreet, and thereafter both

began communicating through WhatsApp. In February 2022, the complainant received a WhatsApp video call from her and upon answering, he was shocked to find that an adult/pornographic video was playing, whereafter he immediately disconnected the call. It is further alleged that the said girl called the complainant to her aunt's house at Mansa. When he reached the location, three other persons who disclosed their names as Jaspreet, Sukhpreet Singh and Gurpiar Singh were present. They then showed the complainant a pornographic video wherein one half of the screen displayed his image. Thereafter, all the said persons allegedly began blackmailing him by threatening to lodge a false complaint of sexual harassment. It is also alleged that co-accused Ram Singh, who initially introduced himself to the complainant as Sukhpreet Singh, started calling the complainant and received money from him both in cash and by bank transfer. The bank account used for receiving the money was in the name of co-accused Harpinder Singh, who in turn transferred the amounts to Ram Singh. The complainant further alleged that co-accused Sukhpreet Singh continued to blackmail him by asserting that a false accident case had been filed against him and that money was being demanded by the SHO. It subsequently emerged during investigation that the girl who first established contact with the complainant through WhatsApp and telephonic calls was none other than the present petitioner-Kiranpal Kaur @ Manpreet Kaur. It is alleged that, acting in concert with the other co-accused, the petitioner extorted large sums of money from the complainant by resorting to threats and blackmail.

3. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner contends that no specific role has been attributed to the petitioner, nor has any recovery

been effected from her. It is submitted that the money allegedly extorted from the complainant was transferred to the account of Harpinder Singh, against whom the FIR already stands quashed vide order dated 30.07.2024 passed in CRM-M-22302-2024. Counsel further submits that the co-accused Ram Singh, to whom the said amount was allegedly further transferred, has also been granted the concession of regular bail vide order dated 29.05.2024 passed in CRM-M-62307-2023. It is further contended that the petitioner has been in custody since 07.08.2025 and has already undergone an actual custody of more than four months. The charge against the petitioner is yet to be framed, and the trial is likely to take considerable time before it reaches its conclusion.

4. Counsel for the respondent-State on the other hand contends that the petitioner has been nominated as accused in the case as well. She, however, does not dispute that the co-accused Ram Singh, who is alleged to have received the extorted amount, has already been granted the concession of regular bail nor does she dispute that the FIR stands quashed qua accused Harpinder Singh, in whose bank account the money was allegedly deposited.

5. I have heard learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respective parties.

6. In view of the facts noticed hereinabove, and having regard to the stage of the trial, the nature of allegations levelled against the petitioner, as well as the period of custody already undergone by her and further considering that the charge against the petitioner is yet to be framed and the conclusion of the trial is likely to take considerable time, I deem it appropriate to enlarge the

petitioner on regular bail, subject to her furnishing requisite bail bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court.

7. The instant petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing requisite bail bond/surety bond to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate, concerned.

8. It is made clear that the petitioner shall not extend any threat and shall not influence any prosecution witnesses in any manner directly or indirectly.

9. The observation made hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression on the merits of the case and the Trial Court shall decide the case on the basis of available material.

DECEMBER 05, 2025
Vishal Sharma

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether Reportable : Yes/No