

CRM-M-71263-2025 (O&M)

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266 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-71263-2025 (O&M)
Date of decision: 22.12.2025

HARPREET @ PATWARI

...PETITIONER

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB

...RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH BHARDWAJ

Present: Mr. Yashpal Thakur, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. K.D. Sachdeva, DAG, Punjab.

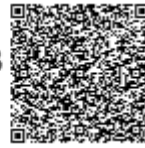
RAJESH BHARDWAJ, J. (ORAL)CRM-51261-2025

Allowed as prayed for.

Main case

1. Petitioner has approached this Court by way of present petitions praying for granting them regular bail in case FIR No.154 dated 05.11.2023, under Sections 304-34 IPC, registered at Police Station Koatwali Nabha, Patiala.

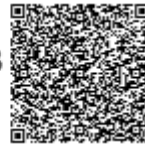
2 As per the facts of the case, the FIR was lodged on the statement of complainant, namely, Nirmla Rani. It was alleged that she was married with Manoj Kumar (deceased) about 12 years ago. On 17.02.2022, her husband did not return home in the evening and she called him about 08:00 pm. He informed her that he was with his friends, namely, Babbi, Ravi, Happy @ Patwari (present petitioner) and Ganga Ram. Though he did not return in the night, however, on the next day at about 11:00 am her brother-in-law Vikram received a call from Ganga Ram who told him that his brother Manoj is lying unconscious at Patwari's house. Immediately, they reached there and found Manoj was lying

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unconscious. He was shifted to the Government Hospital, Nabha, where, he was declared dead. It was alleged that all his friends in conspiracy with each other had administered poison to her husband and thus, the request was made to take the legal action against the culprits. On registration of FIR, investigation commenced. Postmortem of dead body was conducted. Petitioner was arrested on 16.01.2024. On completion of investigation, challan was filed and on framing of charges, trial commenced. The petitioner approached learned Additional Sessions Judge, Patiala, praying for grant of bail, however, finding no merit, his application was declined after hearing both the sides by Learned trial Court vide order dated 23.05.2025. Aggrieved by the same, petitioner is before this Court praying for grant of bail by way of filing of present petition.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner, at the outset, prays for the grant of bail to the petitioner on the basis of parity with that of the co-accused, namely, Ravi, Ganga Ram @ Pardeep Chand and Chanchal @ Babbi. He has drawn the attention of this Court to the order dated 05.12.2025, passed in CRM-M-2489-2025, CRM-M-50274-2025 and CRM-M-54127-2025, whereby, co-accused Ravi, Ganga Ram @ Pardeep Chand and Chanchal @ Babbi have been granted regular bail by this Court. He submits that the petitioner is behind bars since 16.01.2024. He submits that on the basis of the parity, the petitioner deserves to be granted bail as the case of the petitioner is similar to that of the said co-accused, who has already been granted bail.

4. Learned State counsel has endorsed the factum of grant of bail to the co-accused of the petitioner as stated above and has not denied that the petitioner is at par with the co-accused, namely, Ravi, Ganga Ram @ Pardeep Chand and Chanchal @ Babbi. On instructions, he has submitted that out of total 18

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certificate of the petitioner today in the Court and the same is taken on record.

5. After hearing learned counsel for the parties and perusing the record, it is deciphered that the petitioner is behind bars since 16.01.2024. Co-accused, namely, Ravi, Ganga Ram @ Pardeep Chand and Chanchal @ Babbi are on bail and the case of the petitioner as stated is at par with them. As submitted before this Court, the petitioner has completed incarceration of about 1 year and 11 months and 03 days and he is involved in three more cases, however, he has been convicted in two cases and has already undergone the sentence and is on bail in the third case. Out of 18 prosecution witnesses, 03 have been examined.

6. This Court would refrain itself from commenting anything on the merits of the case. Keeping in view the arguments raised by both the sides, this Court is of the opinion that learned counsel for the petitioner succeeds in making out a case for grant of regular bail to the petitioner on the basis of parity. Accordingly, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the concerned trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

7. Nothing said herein shall be treated as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

22.12.2025
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(RAJESH BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

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