



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

221

CRM-M-8537-2026 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 05.03.2026

Praveet Kumar

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana and another

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE NEERJA K. KALSON

Present:- Mr. Devender Arya, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Atul Gaur, AAG, Haryana.

NEERJA K. KALSON, J.

1. This petition has been filed under Section 483 of the Bharatiya
Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) for grant of regular bail to the
petitioner in case FIR No. 46 dated 31.07.2025, registered under Section
376(2) (n) of IPC, Section 6 of the POCSO Act, and Section 67 of the
Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008, registered at Women
Police Station, Narnaul (Annexure P-1).

2. As per the case of the prosecution, the victim submitted a
complaint before the police stating that on 10.06.2017 the petitioner, who is
her brother-in-law being the husband of her sister, came to her
(complainant) house to pick the complainant's sister. At that time, her
mother and sister had gone to the market and her father had gone outside for
work. It is alleged that the petitioner committed a wrong act with her and



the life of the victim as well as her family members. It has further been alleged that thereafter the petitioner frequently visited the house and continued to sexually exploit the victim by threatening to make her photographs and videos viral. It is further the allegation that after the engagement of the victim with one Manish, the petitioner started threatening her and ultimately sent obscene photographs and videos of the victim to the mother of her fiancé, due to which the engagement of the victim was broken.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has argued that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case and that there is an inordinate and unexplained delay of about seven years in lodging the FIR as the alleged first incident is stated to have taken place in the year 2017 whereas the complaint was filed only on 31.07.2025. It has further been contended that the digital material including WhatsApp chats and photographs would demonstrate that the relationship between the parties was consensual and that the prosecutrix had voluntarily remained in contact with the petitioner even after attaining majority. It is further submitted that the prosecutrix had voluntarily visited a hotel at Rewari to meet the petitioner and the statement of the hotel Manager suggests that she appeared normal and did not raise any alarm. It has also been argued that there is no medical or forensic evidence supporting the allegations and no objectionable material has been recovered from the petitioner. Learned counsel further submits that the petitioner is in custody since 01.08.2025, the investigation is complete, the challan has already been presented and out of 24 witnesses, about 13 witnesses have already been examined and therefore, there is no possibility of the petitioner tampering with the prosecution evidence.

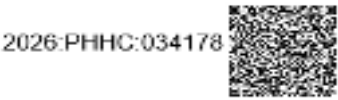


4. Per contra, learned State counsel has filed status report dated 27.02.2026 in Court today which is taken on record. Learned State counsel has opposed the prayer for bail and submitted that the petitioner is a close relative of the victim being her brother-in-law and thus occupied a position of trust within the family. It has been argued that the allegations against the petitioner are grave in nature as he repeatedly subjected the victim to sexual assault by threatening to disclose her obscene photographs and videos and by threatening to break the marriage with her sister. He submits that the victim was minor on the date of first incident i.e. in the year 2017. It has further been submitted that the victim, her father and other material witnesses, who have already been examined before the trial Court, have supported the prosecution version. It is also submitted that the mobile phone of the petitioner has been sent to the forensic laboratory for analysis and the report is still awaited.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the record.

6. The allegations levelled against the petitioner are serious in nature. The petitioner is stated to be the husband of the sister of the victim and thus, a person who was expected to protect the dignity and trust of the family. The prosecution case alleges repeated sexual exploitation of the victim since 2017, when she was a minor by extending threats and by blackmailing her with obscene photographs and videos.

7. Further the allegation that the petitioner transmitted obscene material of the victim to the mother of her fiancé resulting in the breaking of her engagement, prima facie indicates the gravity of the conduct attributed to the petitioner. At the stage of consideration of bail application, this Court



is not required to minutely examine the evidence or record any finding on the merits of the case. All the evidence placed on record will be appreciated during trial and cannot be conclusively adjudicated at the stage of bail, particularly in cases involving allegations of sexual offences where the victim may take time to come forward due to fear, social stigma and family pressures. It is also not disputed that material witnesses including the victim have already been examined before the trial Court and have supported the prosecution case. Furthermore, the forensic report regarding the mobile phone of the petitioner is still awaited.

8. Considering the nature and gravity of the allegations, the relationship between the parties, and the stage of the trial, this Court is of the considered opinion that no ground is made out for grant of regular bail to the petitioner. The learned trial Court has rightly rejected the bail application and this Court does not find any reason to take a different view. Accordingly, the present petition is dismissed.

9. Nothing observed herein shall be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

05.03.2026
Satyawar

(NEERJA K. KALSON)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned:

Yes/No

Whether Reportable:

Yes/No