



CRM-M-8965-2026 (O&M) -1-

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

236

**CRM-M-8965-2026 (O&M)
Decided on: 30.04.2026**

JOHN @ LADI @ JOHAN**.....Petitioner****Versus****STATE OF PUNJAB****.....Respondent****CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBHAS MEHLA**

Present: Ms. Hasrat Brar, Advocate with
Mr. Chirag Vansh, Advocate for the petitioner.

SUBHAS MEHLA, J. (Oral)

1. The present petition has been filed under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 seeking grant of regular bail in case bearing FIR No.128 dated 06.07.2025, registered under Sections 140 (3), 308(2), 127(2), 351(2), 3(5) 61(2), 140(2) of BNS, 2023, at Police Station Baghapurana, District Moga, Punjab.

2. The case of the prosecution is that the petitioner, along with co-accused, allegedly kidnapped the complainant and gave beatings to him. It is further alleged that they forcibly recorded a video of the complainant with one lady after stripping him half naked and threatened to make the video viral on social media. It is also alleged that a sum of Rs.10 lakhs as ransom was demanded by the accused which was later settled at Rs.4 lakhs.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner contended that petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case; the petitioner is in custody for the last more than 09 months; he is having clean and clear



CRM-M-8965-2026 (O&M) -2-

antecedents and is not involved in any other case. It is further submitted that co-accused, namely, Jaspreet Singh @ Gobhi, Raj Rani and Major Singh have already been granted regular bail by the Coordinate Bench of this Court vide separate orders of even dated 19.01.2026 passed in CRM-M-56660-2025, CRM-M-47774-2025 and CRM-M-48034-2025, respectively; co-accused, namely, Mamta Rani & Vijay Kumar have already been granted concession of regular bail by this Court vide orders dated 23.04.2026 & 24.04.2026, respectively, passed in CRM-M-6259-2026 & CRM-M-16360-2026, respectively. Hence, learned counsel prayed for concession of regular bail to the petitioner.

4. Notice of motion.

5. Mr. Sandeep Kumar, DAG, Punjab, who is present in Court, accepted notice on behalf of respondent-State and by way of filing of custody certificate dated 29.04.2026, opposed the concession of regular bail to the petitioner while submitting that the present petitioner has actively participated in the commission of the offence in the present case. However, it is not disputed that the present petitioner is on similar footing as that of the aforementioned co-accused, who have been granted concession of regular bail by this Court. It is further submitted that the petitioner is involved in one more case, however, he has been acquitted in that case.

6. Heard.



7. Taking into consideration the facts & circumstances of the present case and the rival contentions of the parties, this Court finds merit in the present petition on the following aspects:

- (I) the petitioner has been in custody for the last 09 months & 21 days;
- (II) investigation has been completed & challan has been filed;
- (III) petitioner is on similar footing as that of co-accused, namely, Jaspreet Singh @ Gobhi, Raj Rani & Major Singh who have been granted regular bail by the Coordinate Bench of this Court vide separate orders of even dated 19.01.2026 passed in CRM-M-56660-2025, CRM-M-47774-2025 and CRM-M-48034-2025, respectively; co-accused, namely, Mamta Rani & Vijay Kumar who have also been granted concession of regular bail by this Court vide orders dated 23.04.2026 & 24.04.2026, respectively, passed in CRM-M-6259-2026 & CRM-M-16360-2026, respectively;
- (IV) trial is likely take sufficient time to conclude and as such, no fruitful purpose would be served by keeping him in custody for indefinite period.

8. Concession of bail cannot be denied just as a measure of punishment as culpability is to be decided by trial Court after appreciating evidence adduced by the parties, and it is a trite principle of



criminal jurisprudence that bail is rule, jail is an exception, this Court deems it a fit case to grant the concession of regular bail to the petitioner.

9. Therefore, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the present petition is **allowed**. The petitioner is directed to be released on regular bail on his furnishing requisite bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate/Chief Judicial Magistrate concerned.

10. Nothing observed herein shall be construed as an opinion on the merits of the main case.

(SUBHAS MEHLA)
JUDGE

30.04.2026

Sonia Puri

Whether Speaking/Reasoned: YES/NO
Whether Reportable: YES/NO