

CRM-M-11707 of 2026(O&M)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

2026:PHHC:079097



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Reserved on: 18.05.2026.

Pronounced on:20.05.2026

Uploaded on:20.05.2026

Ram Bhul alias Rahul

..Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana and another

..Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL

Present: Mr. Suraj Mandhan, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Kshitij Bharti, AAG Haryana.

None for respondent No.2 despite service.

SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL, J.

1. Petitioner seeks regular bail in case vide FIR No. 366 dated 11.05.2024, under Sections 346 IPC Police Station Karnal City, District Karnal. Challan has been presented under Sections 363, 366, 376(3) IPC and Section 4 of POCSO Act. This is the first petition for regular bail.

2. Father of the minor prosecutrix 'S' reported to SHO Police Station City Police Station, Karnal, that 'S' was missing since 10.05.2024 and that she left home without informing anyone. On 12.05.2024, the prosecutrix was produced in the police station by her mother. Her statement under Section 164 Cr.P.C. was recorded whereupon Sections 376(3), 506 and 6 of POCSO Act were added. In her statement under Section 164 Cr.P.C.

on record as Annexure R-1 prosecutrix stated that on 10.05.2024, Rahul

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forcibly took her from home to his house in Uttar Pradesh where he slept with her and did wrong acts. Thereafter he left her in the police station with his father.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that petitioner was in custody w.e.f. 13.05.2024. Though trial had commenced, only two prosecution witnesses i.e. the victim and complainant were recorded and 17 were yet to be recorded. DNA report was not incriminating. Statement of the prosecutrix and her mother were contradictory. Conclusion of trial would take long, therefore, petitioner deserved to be enlarged on bail.

4. Learned State counsel has filed status report in the form of affidavit of Sandeep Kumar, H.P.S. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Headquarters, Karnal, alongwith custody certificate and has opposed the prayer for bail on the ground of serious nature of allegations against the petitioner and pendency of one other case vide FIR No. 366 of 2025 dated N/A, under Section 497 BNS, Police Station City Karnal, Karnal against him.

5. Petitioner is in custody w.e.f. 15.05.2024 i.e. for the last more than two years. Statements of the prosecutrix and her father have been recorded during the course of trial. Prosecution cannot apprehend that petitioner would influence them or would obstruct the course of justice. Petitioner has a right to speedy trial. Considering the period of custody and the stage of the trial wherein only two prosecution witnesses have been examined, petitioner's right of speedy trial is being infringed. Mere pendency of another criminal case cannot be a ground to refuse bail.

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Considering all relevant facts and circumstances of the case, the period of incarceration, but without commenting on merits, petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail subject to his furnishing adequate bail and surety bonds to the satisfaction of trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

All the pending miscellaneous applications, if any, stand disposed of.

(SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL)
JUDGE

20.05.2026

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Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes
Whether reportable : No