



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-12966-2026 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 10.03.2026

Ranga Singh @ Ranjit Singh

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.....Respondents

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

Present:- Ms. Varsha Choudhary, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Nitesh Sharma, DAG, Punjab.

NEERJA K. KALSON, J.

1. Instant petition has been filed by the petitioner under Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 (earlier section 482 Cr.P.C.) for quashing of the impugned order dated 04.08.2023 (Annexure P-2), passed by Ld. Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Ludhiana, in a case bearing FIR No. 59 dated 21.08.2018 under Sections 406, 498-A of IPC, 1860 (Annexure P-1) registered at Police Station Women, Police Commissionerate, Ludhiana.

2. It has been contended by learned counsel for the petitioner that during the course of the trial proceedings, the petitioner could not appear before the Ld. Trial Court due to the obstacle of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions prevailing at that time. Thereafter, the petitioner also suffered from certain health issues due to which he could not make his

presence. Thereafter, proclamation was ordered to be issued against the

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petitioner on 04.08.2023 after recording the statement of serving constable, the petitioner was declared a proclaimed offender. He further submits that there was no malafide on the part of the petitioner. He submits that now the petitioner is keen to join the proceedings and face the trial in the above said case and as such the order dated 04.08.2023 is liable to be set aside.

3. Mr. Nitesh Sharma, DAG, Punjab, has submitted that the petitioner has rightly been declared as proclaimed person by the trial Court as he remained absent from Court since the year 2023.

4. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and have perused the record of the case very carefully.

5. After hearing learned counsel for the parties and perusing the record, it is evident that the reason given by the petitioner for his non-appearance before the trial Court is due to the obstacle of COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions prevailing at that time. Thereafter, the petitioner also suffered from certain health issues and as such he was unable to appear before the trial Court on the dates fixed before it. Now the petitioner is keen to join the proceedings and face the trial. In these circumstances, when the petitioner is ready to join the proceedings and face the trial, no useful purpose would be served by sending him behind the bars, therefore, the order dated 04.03.2023 is set aside subject to payment of Rs.50,000/- as costs to be paid by the petitioner to the complainant by depositing the same before the trial Court.

7. The petitioner is directed to appear before the trial Court within a period of two weeks from today and file an appropriate application alongwith costs of Rs.50,000/- and the trial Court would grant him bail till

the disposal of the case on his furnishing bail/surety bonds to its

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satisfaction. The petitioner will have protection from arrest for a period of two weeks from today. The trial Court will issue notice to the complainant and thereafter, the costs of Rs.50,000/- shall be paid to the complainant forthwith on his appearance before it. The trial Court is free to impose any condition on the petitioner while admitting him to bail.

8. Needless to say that in case the petitioner fails to comply with the abovesaid direction, this order would be of no avail to him and the order dated 04.03.2023 will come in force and the present petition shall be deemed to have been dismissed.

9. Petition stands disposed of in abovesaid terms.

10.03.2026
Satyawar

(NEERJA K. KALSON)
JUDGE

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