

2026:PHHC:046231



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

CRWP-3075-2026

Date of decision :24.03.2026

MEWA SINGH

... Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASJIT SINGH BEDI

Present: Mr. R.K. Arya, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. M.S. Toor, A.A.G., Punjab.

Mr. B.S. Bajwa, Advocate with
Mr. Manthan Pathania, Advocate
for respondent No.4.

JASJIT SINGH BEDI, J. (ORAL)

The prayer in the present petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India is for issuance of a writ, order, direction or roving writ especially in the nature of Habeas Corpus for the release of the minor detainee Navdeep Kaur D/o petitioner who is illegally kidnapped and detained by respondent No.4.

2. The learned counsel for the petitioner contends that his daughter Navdeep Kaur who is of the age of 16 years has been confined by respondent No.4 and therefore, the custody of the minor be handed over to the petitioner.

3. The learned State counsel contends that the alleged detainee Navdeep Kaur is presently confined at Gandhi Vanita Ashram, Jalandhar as she is of the age of less than 18 years as per the birth certificate.

4. A reply dated 23.03.2026 has been filed on behalf of the respondent No.4 by the learned counsel for respondent No.4. The same is taken on record. He contends that a girl child was found in the village more than 16 years. The petitioner had sought permission from the Panchayat to adopt the child. It was in that situation that Navdeep Kaur came to reside with the petitioner. In fact, the petitioner is not her biological father. Therefore, it is prayed that the custody of the child be handed over to respondent No. 4, as they intend to get married.

5. Heard.

6. In view of the above, the present petition is disposed of with the directions that Navdeep Kaur (detenue) shall continue to reside at Gandhi Vanita Ashram, Jalandhar until she turns 18 years of age. Thereafter, she is at liberty to reside/marry with the person of her choice.

(JASJIT SINGH BEDI)
JUDGE

24.03.2026
JITESH

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