



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M No.18013 of 2025

Manpreet Singh alias Mani ... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab ... Respondent

1.	The date when the judgment is reserved	12.02.2026
2.	The date when the judgment is pronounced	27.02.2026
3.	The date when the judgment is uploaded on the website	27.02.2026
4.	Whether only operative part of the judgment is pronounced or whether the full judgment is pronounced	Full
5.	The delay, if any, of the pronouncement of full judgment, and reasons thereof	Not applicable

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present: Dr. Anmol Rattan Sidhu, Senior Advocate with
Mr. Pratham Sethi, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

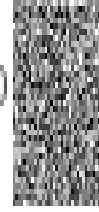
Ms. Sakshi Bakshi, AAG, Punjab,
for the respondent-State.

Mr. Anupinder Singh Brar, Advocate,
for the complainant.

MANISHA BATRA, J.

1. The present petition has been filed by the petitioner under

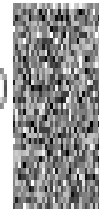
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Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (For short “BNSS”) seeking regular bail in DDR No.17 dated 10.07.2024 registered under Sections 103, 109, 132, 221, 324(4), 191(3), 190, 303(2), 317(2), 238 and 328 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (For short “BNS”) and Sections 25, 27 and 30 of Arms Act, 1959 (For short “Act, 1959”) which is cross version of FIR No.77 dated 08.07.2024 registered under Sections 103, 109, 302, 132, 221, 324(4), 191(3), 190, 303(2), 317(2) and 238 of BNS and Sections 25, 27 and 30 of Act, 1959 at Police Station Shri Hargobindpur, Police District Batala, District Gurdaspur.

2. As per the allegations, on 07.07.2024, on receipt of an information by the police to the effect that an altercation had taken place between the members of two groups, one of which was headed by **Angrej Singh** and another by **Tarsem Singh**, a police party had rushed at Light Chowk, Shri Hargobindpur and it was found that there was exchange of fire between the members of both the groups and two persons namely, Shamsheer Singh and Baljit Singh who were members of group of Angrej Singh, had died whereas Nirmal Singh and Balraj Singh, members of group of Tarsem Singh, had sustained firearm injuries and were rushed to the hospital. After registration of FIR, investigation proceedings were initiated. The victims Nirmal Singh and Balraj Singh had also died. Postmortem examination of dead bodies of all the victims had conducted. On 10.07.2024, Tarsem Singh (**member of group No.2**) recorded his statement saying that on 07.07.2024, his nephew Varinder Singh and his wife Jasbir Kaur were followed by the members of group of Angrej Singh who by forming membership of an

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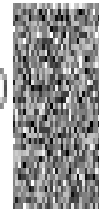


unlawful assembly were intending to kill them. On receipt of that information, Tarsem Singh along with his family members and other associates, had rushed towards the informed place, where accused Angrej Singh along with the co-accused, were found present. Accused Angrej Singh had made an exhortation and then shots were fired at them thereby causing firearm injuries to his brother Nirmal, Balraj Singh and nephew Gurpreet Singh. Others had also sustained injuries. On the basis of his disclosure, 22 persons including the petitioner Manpreet Singh were nominated as accused vide DDR No.17. Subsequently, on the statement of Angrej Singh, cross DDR No.20 was registered. Investigation now stands completed and the petitioner along with the co-accused is facing trial for commission of aforementioned offences.

3. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case. He is in custody since 22.10.2024. He is on bail in another case of simple hurt as registered against him. It is a case of version and cross version. Two members of his group had sustained fatal injuries in the incident. The members of his group were not the aggressors. The trial will take considerable time to conclude. No useful purpose would be served by detaining him in custody any more. It is, therefore, argued that the petition deserves to be allowed.

4. Per contra, learned Assistant Advocate General, Punjab assisted by learned counsel for the complainant has argued that the allegations against the petitioner are quite grave in nature as he was firstly seen armed with a dang and had then thrown bricks towards the members of the other

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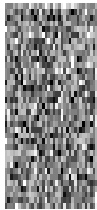


party. He was subsequently seen in possession of one revolver as well as dang. He did not sustain any injury in the incident. He suffered disclosure statement that he had snatched .32 bore and .22 bore revolvers respectively from the victim Dilsher Singh and injured Angrej Singh. The allegations prima facie establish his active complicity in the crime by firing shot with a pistol thereby causing homicidal death of victim Balraj Singh. Recovery of the revolver used at the time of occurrence has been effected at his instance. The trial is going on at a proper pace and there is nothing to show that there would be any undue delay in conclusion of the same. With these broad submissions, it is urged that the petition does not deserve to be allowed.

5. This Court has considered the rival submissions.

6. The petitioner is alleged to have formed membership of an unlawful assembly with the co-accused and in prosecution of common object of that unlawful assembly to have used two firearms thereby causing injuries to victim Balraj Singh who had succumbed to the same. The allegations against him are serious in nature. He has been linked to the acts attributed with the aid of Section 190 of BNS. The ingredients of this offence are that there must be an unlawful assembly; the commission of offence may be by any member of the assembly and such offence must be such as the members of the assembly knew to be likely to be committed. The allegations prima facie show the clear involvement/participation of the petitioner in the occurrence while having knowledge that such offences were likely to be committed in prosecution of common object. The petitioner along with the co-accused stands accused of heinous crime which is

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punishable with life imprisonment or capital punishment. While length of incarceration is a factor that weighs with the Court in considering bail, it cannot overshadow the seriousness of the accusation of murder under Section 302 IPC. The trial has commenced and there is nothing on record to show that there would be any undue delay in conclusion of the same. It is well settled proposition of law that grant of bail is a discretionary relief to be granted or denied based on specific facts and circumstance of each case and there cannot be any exhaustive parameters set out for considering the application for grant of bail. The factors such as nature of accusations, severity of punishment if the accusations entail a conviction and nature of evidence in support of accusations are to be seen. That apart, reasonable apprehension of tampering with evidence or threatening the material witnesses are also to be weighed. Frivolity of prosecution should always be considered.

7. In light of the foregoing legal principles and other circumstances as discussed above, this Court finds no compelling ground to allow this petition. Accordingly, the petition is dismissed.

8. It is, however, clarified that observations made hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

27.02.2026
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(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No