

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRWP-3874-2026
DECIDED ON: 20.04.2026

MANPREET SINGHPETITIONER

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERSRESPONDENTS

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH.

Present: None for the petitioner.

Mr. Jasdeep Singh, Addl. AG, Punjab.

SANJAY VASHISTH, J (ORAL)

1. Instant criminal writ petition, has been filed by the petitioner – Manpreet Singh, aged about 22 years, under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, for issuance of a Writ in the nature of Habeas Corpus, directing official respondents to release Harmanpreet Kaur(detenu here), from the illegal custody of respondents No.4 to 6.
2. After hearing the submissions addressed by counsel for the petitioner, on 06.04.2026, following order was passed:-

“1. xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that around two years ago, while petitioner was studying at University College, Barnala, he came in contact with the detenue through mutual friends, and over time, they developed mutual affection and decided to solemnize marriage. Both petitioner and detenue are major and belong to different castes. Relevant documents, including the petitioner’s Aadhaar card and passport, are annexed as Annexures P-1 and P-2.
In May 2025, petitioner and detenue disclosed their intention to marry to their respective families. Petitioner’s father visited the detenue’s house in the first week of June 2025, where the private respondents (parents and maternal uncle of the detenue) initially agreed to the union, with plans to fix the engagement and marriage later in the year. However, to the petitioner’s shock, private respondents subsequently refused to permit the marriage, began threatening the petitioner with

physical harm and false criminal allegations, and illegally confined the detainee in her room, taking away her phone. Screenshots of messages from the detainee are annexed as Annexure P-3.

Despite earlier complaints to respondent no. 2 and DSP, Mehal Kalan in October 2025 (Annexure P-4), no concrete action was taken. Recently, detainee informed the petitioner through a common friend that her parents have finalized her alliance with another person and that she may attempt suicide if forced to marry against her wishes. She has requested the petitioner's intervention to rescue her (Annexure P-5).

Learned counsel submits that both the petitioner and detainee are entitled to marry of their own free will, but the private respondents are illegally preventing this, creating imminent danger to their life and liberty, and urgent intervention is necessary to protect them. Consequently, present Habeas Corpus petition has been filed before this Hon'ble Court, seeking the immediate release of the detainee

3. Notice of motion.

4. On asking of the Court, Mr. Jasdeep Singh, Addl. A.G., Punjab, accepts notice on behalf of respondent Nos.1 to 3 (State). Let requisite copies of the complete paper book be handed over to the learned State counsel, during the course of the day.

5. Meanwhile, respondent No.2 – Senior Superintendent of Police, Barnala (however, wrongly mentioned as Senior Superintendent of Police, Mohali, in the memo of parties)– is directed to immediately depute police officer(s)/official(s), not below the rank of Sub-Inspector, and if possible, the officer deputed should be a woman, or, if not, must be accompanied by a female member in the team of other police officials. The deputed officer(s) shall visit the house(s) of private respondents No.4 to 6 or any other place where the alleged detainee, 'Harmanpreet Kaur', is allegedly being illegally detained. The concerned officer(s) shall record the statement of the alleged detainee, 'Harmanpreet Kaur', ensuring that it is given voluntarily and is free from any influence, coercion, threat, or undue pressure. Thereafter, a report prepared by the officer(s) shall be submitted before this Court on or before the next date of hearing.

6. After recording the statement, if the officer(s)/official(s) finds that detainee is a major and has been illegally detained, she shall be released immediately.

7. Adjourned to 20.04.2026."

3. Although, there is no representation on behalf of the petitioner, but detainee namely Harmanpreet Kaur along with Lady Constable Amandeep Kaur, is present in the Court.

4. On being asked by the Court, detainee Harmanpreet Kaur clearly stated that she is happily residing with her parents, and as of now, she is not interested in joining the company of the petitioner.
5. In view of the stand taken by the detainee – Harmanpreet Kaur, as stated before this Court, this Court does not find any ground to continue with the proceedings in the present petition.
6. Hence, present petition stands disposed of.

20.04.2026
Lavisha

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

<i>Whether speaking/reasoned</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>
<i>Whether reportable</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>