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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M No.21164 of 2026 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 24.04.2026

Deepak Kumar

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH BHARDWAJ

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Present: Mr. Deepak Jaglan, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Tanuj Sharma, AAG, Haryana.

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<u>RAJESH BHARDWAJ, J.</u>

1. Present second petition has been filed praying for the grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case bearing FIR No.75, dated 24.01.2025, under Sections 406, 420 of IPC, Section 3 of Haryana Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act and Sections 21, 22 of Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, registered at Police Station Sadar Karnal, District Karnal.

2. Succinctly, the facts of the case are that FIR in the present case was got registered on the statement of complainant, namely, Shubham. It was alleged that the mother of complainant, namely, Sunita Devi, on the advice of Deepak Kumar, i.e. the petitioner, who was the

branch manager of Human Welfare Credit Thrift Co-operative Society Limited, deposited money in the form of RD, FD, DDS in Human Welfare Credit Thrift Co-operative Society Limited and he assured that when the tenure gets complete, the money would be returned with mature amount. But, after completion of tenure, the petitioner refused to return the amount deposited by his mother and other people, amounting to Rs.35 lakhs to 40 lakhs. It was alleged that Deepak Kumar had not returned the amount to the account holders even though all the amount was received by him being Branch Manager, however, he refused to release the same despite much persuasion. Thus, the request was made to take legal action against the accused. On the basis of the same, FIR was registered. On registration of the FIR, the investigation commenced. Resultantly, the petitioner was arrested on 17.09.2025. On completion of the investigation, the challan was presented. The petitioner approached the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Karnal praying for the grant of regular bail. However, after hearing both the sides and finding no merit in the same, the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Karnal declined the bail application filed by the petitioner vide order dated 28.11.2025. Being aggrieved, the petitioner earlier approached this Court praying for the grant of regular bail by way of filing CRM-M-70155-2025, however, the same was dismissed as withdrawn vide order dated 19.01.2026. Hence being aggrieved, the petitioner is again before this Court praying for the grant of regular bail by way of filing the present second petition.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case. He has submitted that the petitioner is behind bars from last more than 07 months. He has submitted that nothing has been recovered from the petitioner. He has submitted that the petitioner himself is also a victim of the alleged fraud committed by Human Welfare Credit Thrift Co-operative Society Ltd. and has invested his hard earned money in the said society and therefore, cannot be held liable for the alleged act. He has further submitted that after investing in the scheme of the society, the petitioner came to know about the fraud committed by the society and then, on 02/03.12.2024 he stopped the website, software and mobile app without prior intimation/permission with an intention to grab the money of public. He has further submitted that the petitioner also gave detailed complaint dated 24.12.2024 about the fraud committed by the society to Additional Secretary-cum-Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Govt. of India. He has submitted that an FIR No.22, dated 22.01.2025, at Police Station Murthal, Sonepat was also registered against the Society and thereafter, the petitioner also gave complaint bearing No.11507 dated 03.02.2025 to DGP, Haryana and complaint No.1292 dated 21.02.2025 to Superintendent of Police, Karnal, but till date no action has been taken on the same. He has submitted that the petitioner has been implicated in the present case only with an intention to extract money from him, whereas the petitioner has no concern with the allegations levelled against him.

He has further submitted that the investigation qua the petitioner already stands completed. To buttress his arguments, learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the petitioner has no criminal antecedents as he has never been involved in any other case. He has further submitted that the dispute in the present case is of civil nature, which has been given a colour of criminal nature. He has submitted that in the facts and circumstances, the petitioner deserves to be granted regular bail.

4. *Per contra*, learned counsel for the State, however, has vehemently opposed the submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioner. He has submitted that name of the petitioner has been specifically mentioned in the FIR. He has submitted that the allegations of fraud allegedly made against the petitioner are serious in nature. He has submitted that the petitioner, being the Manager of the Society, had duped the money of many persons by instigating them to get their money deposited in the account of Human Welfare Credit Thrift Co-operative Society Ltd. with assurance that they would get huge return. He has further submitted that the investigation is complete and only the challan has been presented in this case. He has further submitted that no case for the grant of bail to the petitioner is made out and thus, the present petition deserves to be dismissed. He has produced custody certificate of the petitioner today in the Court, which is taken on record.

5. Heard.

6. Perusal of the record would show that when this Court was not inclined to grant the concession of regular bail to the petitioner, his first bail petition bearing CRM-M-70155 of 2025 was allowed to be dismissed as withdrawn vide order dated 19.01.2026. Hence, this is the second petition praying for the grant of regular bail, however, there is no change in the circumstances.

7. After hearing learned counsel for the parties and perusing the record, it is deciphered that the complicity of the petitioner in the present case has been *prima facie* established. The allegations against the petitioner have been specifically found, that the petitioner, being the Branch Manager of the Human Welfare Credit Thrift Co-operative Society Ltd. had duped the money amounting to Rs.35 Lakhs to Rs.40 Lakhs of many persons by instigating them to get deposited in the account of the Society. Only the investigation is complete and the challan has been presented in the present case. The learned trial Court has specifically mentioned in the order dated 28.11.2025 that it is a case in which general public has been duped of crores of rupees by the members of Society, i.e. Human Welfare Credit Thrift Co-operative Society Ltd. in collusion with each other and the police has not been able to connect them with the case or to get any amount recovered for the reasons best known to them. The learned trial Court concerned had also directed the Superintendent of Police, Karnal to get the case properly investigated

along with all other FIRs registered against the society. The allegations allegedly made in the present case are serious in nature.

8. Keeping in view the above said position, this Court does not find any ground to release the petitioner on bail at this stage. Hence, the present second petition is hereby dismissed.

9. Nothing said herein shall be treated as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case. Pending application, bearing CRM-17920-2026 also stands dismissed.

(RAJESH BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

24.04.2026

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