



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

219

CRM-M No.21987 of 2026 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 21.05.2026

Ankit Soni

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SURYA PARTAP SINGH

Present: Mr. Navdeep Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.
(through hybrid mode).

Ms. Deepali Verma, AAG, Haryana.

SURYA PARTAP SINGH, J. (Oral):

This is first petition for bail, filed by the petitioner under Section 483 of the 'Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023'. This petition pertains to a case arising out of FIR No.335 dated 19.09.2025, for the commission of offence punishable under Sections 109(1), 332(b) 3(5), 238(b), 61, 114(4), 111(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Section 25 and 27 of Arms Act, Police Station Section 40, District Gurugram.

2. In nut-shell, the facts emerging from record are that the FIR of this case came into being at the instance of 'Rajesh Kumar', hereinafter being referred to as 'complainant' only. It was stated by the above named complainant that being a Chowkidar in 'MNR Build Mark' he was performing duty at the main gate along with his colleague 'Lalu Ram', on 18.09.2025. As per complainant at about 09:05 PM, four unknown young boys, with muffled faces and armed with firearms, scaled over the gate and entered the premises.



According to complainant, immediately on arrival they started firing gun-shot and hit the doors and windows of the car parked there. It was also stated that he (complainant) and his colleague narrowly escaped from being hit by the bullet, as they ran inside, for cover. As per complainant, about 25-30 rounds were fired by the above named assailants and thereafter they fled from the spot.

3. It is the case of the prosecution that in view of above mentioned complaint formal FIR of this case was lodged and the investigation taken up. According to prosecution during the course of investigation co-accused, namely 'Narendra @ Baba' and 'Mohit @ Chintu' were arrested in another FIR No. 161 dated 22.10.2025 and during investigation they suffered confessional statement, wherein they confessed their involvement in the commission of instant crime and that in view of their disclosure statements 'Arun Soni @ Annu' was arrested, who nominated the present petitioner 'Ankit Soni'.

4. The learned State Counsel has filed custody certificate of the petitioner. The same be taken on record. Reply filed on behalf of State is already on record.

5. Heard.

6. The record has been perused carefully.

7. If the facts and circumstances of the present case are analyzed in the light of above-mentioned principles of law, it transpires that:-

- i) that the petitioner is already in custody for a period of six months and eighteen days;
- ii) that the only evidence, collected by the investigating agency against the petitioner, is the disclosure statement of co-accused of the petitioner, and there is a question mark with regard to credibility & admissibility of above-mentioned statement in evidence, as the same was recorded when the co-accused of the



petitioner was in police custody. Since pursuant to above-mentioned disclosure statement recovery of any incriminating material or discovery of fact has not taken place, *prima facie* the abovementioned statement appears to be hit by Section-23 of Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam;

- iii) that nothing has been recovered from the possession of petitioner;
- iv) that the name of the petitioner does not figure in the FIR;
- v) that the challan qua petitioner has been filed, and therefore, nothing has been left to be recovered from the possession of petitioner;
- vi) that the trial of this case is not likely to be concluded in near future;
- vii) that the detention of petitioner in judicial lock-up is not likely to serve any purpose;
- viii) that there is nothing on record to show that if released on bail, the petitioner may tamper with the evidence or influence the witnesses;
- ix) that there is nothing on record to show that if released on bail, the petitioner will not co-operate/participate in the trial.

8. In the present case, the principles of law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the case of 'Dataram versus State of Uttar Pradesh and another', (2018) 3 SCC 22, are relevant, wherein it has been observed that "a fundamental postulate of criminal jurisprudence is the presumption of innocence, meaning thereby that a person is believed to be innocent until found guilty. However, there are instances in our criminal law where a reverse onus has been placed on an accused with regard to some specific offences but that is another matter and does not detract from the fundamental postulate in respect



of other offences. Yet another important facet of our criminal jurisprudence is that the grant of bail is the general rule and putting a person in jail or in a prison or in a correction home (whichever expression one may wish to use) is an exception. Unfortunately, some of these basic principles appear to have been lost sight of with the result that more and more persons are being incarcerated and for longer periods. This does not do any good to our criminal jurisprudence or to our society. There is no doubt that the grant or denial of bail is entirely the discretion of the judge considering a case but even so, the exercise of judicial discretion has been circumscribed by a large number of decisions rendered by this Court and by every High Court in the country. Yet, occasionally there is a necessity to introspect whether denying bail to an accused person is the right thing to do on the facts and in the circumstances of a case”.

9. The principles laid down by the Hon’ble the Supreme Court of India in the case of ‘Satender Kumar Antil v. Central Bureau of Investigation’ (2022) 10 SCC 51 are also relevant in this case. In the abovementioned case, it has been observed that “the rate of conviction in criminal cases in India is abysmally low. It appears to us that this factor weighs on the mind of the Court while deciding the bail applications in a negative sense. Courts tend to think that the possibility of a conviction being nearer to rarity, bail applications will have to be decided strictly, contrary to legal principles. We cannot mix up consideration of a bail application, which is not punitive in nature with that of a possible adjudication by way of trial. On the contrary, an ultimate acquittal with continued custody would be a case of grave injustice”.

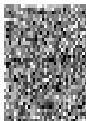


10. Recently, in the case of ‘Tapas Kumar Palit Vs. State of Chhattisgarh’, 2025 SCC Online SC 322, the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India has observed that “if an accused is to get a final verdict after incarceration of six to seven years in jail as an undertrial prisoner, then, definitely, it could be said that his right to have a speedy trial under Article 21 of the Constitution has been infringed”. It has also been observed by the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in the abovementioned case that “delays are bad for the accused and extremely bad for the victims, for Indian society and for the credibility of our justice system, which is valued. Judges are the masters of their Courtrooms and the Criminal Procedure Code provides many tools for the Judges to use in order to ensure that cases proceed efficiently”.

11. To elucidate further, this Court is conscious of the basic and fundamental principle of law that right to speedy trial is a part of reasonable, fair and just procedure enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. This constitutional right cannot be denied to an undertrial prisoner, as mandated by Hon’ble Apex court in ‘Balwinder Singh versus State of Punjab and another’ 2024 SCC Online SC 4354.

12. Taking into consideration the cumulative effect of all the aforesaid factors, it is hereby held that the petitioner is entitled to the concession of bail, and that the present petition deserves to be allowed.

13. Accordingly, without commenting anything on the merits of the case, the present petition is hereby **allowed**. The petitioner is hereby ordered to be released on bail on furnishing personal bond and surety bond(s) to the satisfaction of learned trial Court. However, the abovesaid benefit shall be



subject to following conditions:-

- i) that the petitioner shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case, so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any other authority;
- ii) that the petitioner shall at the time of execution of bond, furnish the address to the Court concerned and shall notify the change in address to the trial Court, till the final decision of the trial; and
- iii) that the petitioner shall not leave India without prior permission of trial Court.

14. It is, however, made clear that any observation made hereinabove is only for the purpose of deciding the present petition and the same shall have no bearing on the merits of the case.

(SURYA PARTAP SINGH)
JUDGE

21.05.2026
Manoj Bhutani

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