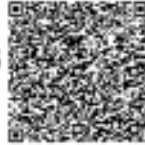


2026:PHHC:064566



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

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CRM-M-22143-2026
Date of decision: 28.04.2026

SANDEEP KUMAR @ BABBU

... Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present : Mr. Bipin Ghai, Sr. Advocate with
Mr. Nikhil Ghai and Mr. Joban Singh
Dhaliwal, Advocates for the petitioner

Mr. M.S. Atwal, DAG, Punjab.

AMAN CHAUDHARY, J. (ORAL)

1. Prayer in the present petition filed under Section 483 BNSS is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.001 dated 24.01.2026, under Section 316(5) of BNS and Section 13(1) A read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 as amended by PC (Amendment) Act, 2018 registered at Police Station State Vigilance Bureau, Bathinda Range, Bathinda.

2. Learned Senior Counsel contends that the petitioner has been in custody for the last about 03 months. He was posted as Senior Assistant (Accounts) and allegations against him are of making excess/double payment to certain godown owners who, as a matter of fact, were the beneficiaries and have deposited a major part of the amount with the PUNSUP as is depicted in the FIR, as also the letter dated 16.10.2025 written by the Managing Director, PUNSUP, which is a part of the challan that was presented before the Illaqa Magistrate on 20.03.2026. Charges are yet to be framed and in all there are total 19 prosecution witnesses and all of them are official. The petitioner is not involved in any other case.

3. Learned State Counsel opposes the bail on the ground that there are

specific allegations against the petitioner of having embezzled huge amount of money inasmuch as excess payments were made to the godown owners. However, he is unable to controvert the submissions with regard to stage of trial, charges having not been framed and the petitioner being not involved in any other case.

4. Heard.

5. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, in particular that the petitioner is in custody for the last about 3 months; not involved in any other case; charges having not been framed as yet; there being 19 prosecution witnesses, the trial is likely to take a considerable time, further incarceration of the petitioner would be violative of his right enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, the present petition is allowed.

6. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing bail bonds/surety to the satisfaction of trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned, if not required in any other case

7. It is made abundantly clear that in case there is any breach of the aforesaid conditions, the State shall be at liberty to seek cancellation of bail as granted to the petitioner by this order.

8. In view of the above, it is clarified that the observations made herein above are limited for the purpose of present proceedings and would not be construed as any opinion on the merits of the case and the trial would proceed independently of the aforesaid observations.

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE

28.04.2026
Rajender

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