



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

134

CRM-M-23519-2026
Decided on : 13.05.2026

Rakesh @ Rakesh Kandal . . . Petitioner(s)
Versus
State of Haryana . . . Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

PRESENT: Mr. Mandeep Singh Lamba, Advocate
for the petitioner(s).

Mr. P.K. Jhanda, Sr. DAG, Haryana.

SANJAY VASHISTH, J. (Oral)

1. Instant petition, under Section 528 of the BNSS, 2023 (earlier Section 482 Cr.P.C.), has been filed for quashing of the order dated 27.02.2026 (Annexure P-2), passed by Ld. Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Kurukshetra, whereby after cancelling the bail of the petitioner, warrants of arrest have been issued against him, in case CHI/130/2018, titled as, “State v. Akash etc.”, on account of his non-appearance in the following FIR:-

FIR No.	Date	Section(s)	Police Station	District
563	15.06.2017	S. 147, 149, 186, 283, 332, 341, 353 of IPC and S. 3 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984	City Thanesar	Kurukshetra

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that after having been granted anticipatory bail on 07.07.2018 (Annexure P-4) by the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Kurukshetra, the petitioner had been regularly appearing before the trial Court and was never absent, except on 27.02.2026.

It is submitted that the case was earlier fixed for 26.02.2026 and

on the said date, the petitioner duly appeared before the trial Court and marked his presence. Thereafter, the case was adjourned to the very next day, i.e., 27.02.2026, for arguments on charge.

Learned counsel further submits that since the petitioner is running his business in Chandigarh and had to return there by the evening of 26.02.2026 owing to certain urgent business exigencies, he could not appear in person before the trial Court on 27.02.2026. Consequently, the learned trial Court, while cancelling the bail order and forfeiting the bail/surety bonds to the State, issued warrants of arrest against the petitioner.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner further submits that immediately upon coming to know about the lapse and the consequential order passed by the trial Court, the petitioner approached this Court by way of filing the present petition. Thus, it is contended that absence of the petitioner was neither intentional nor deliberate, but occurred due to the circumstances noticed here-above.

4. Learned Counsel further submits that now petitioner is ready to join the process of law, however, he be directed to be released on bail, on his surrendering before the Court and thus, be protected from arrest. In case, one opportunity is granted, petitioner also undertakes that he would not absent himself in future, without there being prior permission from the Court, and fully cooperate for early disposal of the trial.

5. Notice of motion.

6. Learned State counsel puts an appearance, and opposes the request of the petitioner by submitting that petitioner does not deserve any sympathy, because, he has misused the concession of bail granted by the Court. Learned State counsel by pointing out the irresponsible conduct of the

petitioner, submits that there is every possibility that for the purpose of delaying the trial, he would again be absenting during the proceedings.

7. In number of cases, this Court has been experiencing the situation wherein, accused stopped appearing before trial Court in the criminal cases after being released on bail and thereby compelling the Court to issue non-bailable warrants by cancelling the bail already granted or such accused has been declared 'Proclaimed Person'/Proclaimed Offender'. After examining the facts from several cases, this Court has formulated and applied a uniform method by satisfying itself that such accused would appear before the concerned Court, to enable it to proceed further, instead of delaying the proceedings to await the presence of accused.

Intentional or unintentional default of the accused can be dealt with by examining the facts from case to case in which he is involved, and where it is realised that absence or prolonged absence of such accused is intentional to evade the process of law, he/she can be penalized after examining the nature of crime in which he is facing the proceedings and thereupon by imposing some cost amount subject to his/her capacity to pay.

Primary object of every Court is only to examine the commission of crime in question before it *vis a vis* the person/accused, who is subjected to such proceedings, and if possible justice be imparted at the earliest without unnecessary delay. It is not expected that undue time would be devoted in securing the presence of absconded accused and also to waste energy by enforcing the special mechanism to arrest such accused.

Considering all such aspects, this Court in the case of ***Ashish Kumar Honda @ Ashish Handa Vs. State of Punjab, 2022 (4) RCR (criminal) 765; Law Finder Doc Id # 20238111*** considered similar plea of

appearance, expressed at the instance of the accused, who failed to appear before the Court at appropriate time, and observed that:

“paramount consideration of the Court is to secure presence of accused on each and every date for speeding up the trial for its final conclusion. Already Courts are flooded with so much litigation, resulting in slow pace of work, because of more than one reason. The required energy and manpower be used for expediting the proceedings of the Court, instead of running after the accused persons to get hold of them.”

Again, this Court has considered the aforementioned similar plea in case *Veena @ Veena Devi v. State of Punjab* (CRM-M-2206-2025, *decided on 16.01.2025*).

8. I have considered the submissions of both the sides and examined the relevant material available on record. The petitioner has remiss in appearing before the Court only on one date, and consequently, on 27.02.2026, when impugned order cancelling the bail and issuance of warrants of arrest, has been passed against him. It also cannot be left unnoticed that within three months of the absence from the Court, and on coming to know about passing of the impugned order, the petitioner has moved the present petition, showing his inclination to submit himself before the trial Court.

9. In totality of circumstances, I am of the view that the petitioner can be given one chance to appear before the trial Court, so that proceedings may restart and continue in smooth manner. Accordingly, plea of the petitioner is accepted. Impugned order (supra) is **set aside** to the extent of issuance of warrants against the petitioner, and he is directed to be released on bail, in the eventuality of surrender by him before the trial Court on or before **29.05.2026**.

The petitioner shall also furnish fresh bail bonds/surety bonds to

the satisfaction of the trial Court, in case the bail bonds have already been forfeited. Besides, petitioner would also submit specific undertaking/affidavit that he will keep appearing during the proceedings of the trial in future and the proceedings would not be delayed because of his conduct.

However, this order shall be subject to the payment of Rs.10,000/- as costs, to be deposited by the petitioner in an Old Age Home of the area, as may be decided by the learned Trial Court. The Trial Court shall also specify the time frame within which such costs will be required to be deposited, but not more than two weeks, failing which this order would not be of any advantage to the petitioner.

10. **With aforementioned terms, present petition stands disposed of.**

Pending misc. application, if any, also stand(s) disposed of.

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

May 13, 2026

J.Ram

Whether speaking/reasoned: *Yes/No*

Whether Reportable: *Yes/No*