



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M No.24803 of 2026 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 18.05.2026

Jobanpreet Singh

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SURYA PARTAP SINGH

Present: Mr. Jagdeep Singh Chahal, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Jasdev Singh Thind, DAG, Punjab.

Mr. Didar Singh, Advocate for the complainant.

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.89 dated 01.04.2026 for the commission of offence punishable under Sections 109, 115(2), 190 and 191(3) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 and Section 25 of Arms Act, Police Station Sohana, District SAS Nagar.

2. Briefly stating the facts emerging from record are that the FIR of this case came into being at the instance of 'Anuj', hereinafter being referred to as 'complainant' only. It was stated by the above-named complainant that 3-4 days ago on the occasion of birthday of 'Hasrat', an altercation had taken place between his faction and opposite faction, and that on 01.04.2026 at about 5.10 P.M. when he along his friend 'Rishabh Phogat' and others had gone to old Kabaddi ground village Bhagomajra, 'Reetinder Singh' and 'Honey Adlakha'



along with 7-8 persons came and with an intention to kill them resorted to gun-shot firing. As per complainant in the above mentioned incident one gun-shot hit the left arm of his friend 'Rishabh Phogat', and when they screamed for help the assailants fled from the spot.

3. It is the case of the prosecution that pursuant to above-mentioned statement, formal FIR of this case was lodged and the investigation taken up.

4 **Notice of motion.**

5 Since advance notice has already been served upon the State, Mr. Jasdev Singh Thind, DAG, Punjab, has appeared on behalf of respondent-State. Hence, service of notice upon the State is hereby dispensed with. The learned State Counsel has filed custody certificate of the petitioner. The same be taken on record. No formal reply has been filed by the State. However, the learned State counsel has orally opposed the present petition.

6 Mr. Didar Singh, Advocate puts in appearance on behalf of the complainant. He has filed a Power of Attorney. The same be taken on record.

7. Heard.

8. It has been contended by learned counsel for the petitioner that the petitioner and the complainant, are students of B.Tech., and that the petitioner is already in custody for a period of one month and ten days. According to learned counsel for the petitioner no fatal injury, whatsoever, was suffered by the injured 'Rishabh Phogat', and that the name of the petitioner does not figure in the FIR.

9 In addition to above, the learned counsel for the petitioner has further contended that both the parties have reached to compromise, and in



view of above mentioned compromise the complainant vis-a-vis injured do not want to prosecute the petitioner. It has also been contended by learned counsel for the petitioner that the injured has already been discharged from the hospital and nothing has been left to be recovered from the possession of petitioner.

10. The learned State has controverted the above mentioned arguments, on the ground that the allegations against the petitioner are of serious nature, and that the petitioner was member of an unlawful assembly involved in the incident of gun-shot firing with an intention to kill 'Rishabh Phogat'.

11 The learned counsel for the complainant has not opted to oppose the present petition.

12. The record has been perused carefully.

13. A perusal of the record shows that following are the relevant factors which are required to be taken into consideration for a decision in the present petition:-

- i) that the petitioner is already in custody for a period of one month and ten days;
- ii) that the petitioner has clean antecedents;
- iii) that the injured has already been discharged from the hospital;
- iv) that the name of the petitioner does not find mentioned in the FIR;
- v) that the investigation and trial are not likely to be concluded in near future;
- vi) that nothing has been left to be recovered from the possession



of petitioner;

- 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 while on bail, the petitioner is likely to tamper with the evidence or influence the witnesses; and
- ix) that there is nothing on record to show that while on bail, the petitioner will not participate/cooperate in trial.

14. 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”.

15. 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”.

16. 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”.

17. 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.

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

19. 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.

20. 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

18.05.2026
Manoj Bhutani

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