



CRM-M-25803-2026 (O&M)

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

229

CRM-M-25803-2026 (O&M)

Date of decision: 12.05.2026

Birbal

...Petitioner

VERSUS

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ

Present :- Mr. Mayur Karkra, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Mohit Kapoor, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

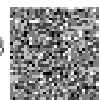
VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)**CRM-20163-2026**

Allowed as prayed for.

Main case

1. The present second petition has been filed under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case bearing FIR No.29 dated 27.08.2025, under Section(s) 61(2), 316(2), 318(4), 336(3), 338, 340(2), 351(2) of BNS, 2023 and Section 66(C) of Information Technology Act, 2000, registered at Police Station Cyber-Crime, District Patiala.

2. The present FIR has been registered on the statement of Aneetu daughter of Kirpa Ram, alleging that the accused Manga Singh, Arshdeep and Pankaj had opened a bank account in her name on the pretext of providing her employment. However, no job was ever provided to her and, instead, the said account was misused by the accused persons for depositing amounts obtained by defrauding innocent persons through internet banking and UPI



transactions.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the FIR has been registered against three co-accused namely Manga, Arshdeep Singh and Pankaj, on the allegation that they had opened bank accounts by misusing the documents submitted by the complainant on the allurements of providing her a job. It is contended that on the basis of the said documents, they used to open bank accounts and operate them to defraud other persons. It is contended that the role against the petitioner is to the effect that the sim cards used by the aforesaid three persons were obtained from the petitioner, who is a licenced vendor, and his name was cropped up in the disclosure of co-accused Pankaj. He further contends that the petitioner is in custody since 01.09.2025 and the investigation in the case stands concluded, the final report stands submitted and the charges have also been framed. It is submitted that the offences in question are triable by the Court of Magistrate and that the trial is yet to commence wherein a total of 24 prosecution witnesses are to be examined. It is contended that co-accused namely Arshdeep Singh has already been granted the concession of regular bail by this Court vide order dated 07.05.2026 passed in CRM-M-12728-2026 titled as 'Arshdeep Singh Vs. State of Punjab'.

5. Learned State counsel does not dispute the period of custody, the stage of trial as well as the role attributed to the petitioner.

6.. Having heard learned counsel for the parties and taking into the consideration the nature of allegations levelled against the petitioner, the period of custody already undergone by him, his clean antecedents and the stage of the trial, I deem it appropriate to allow the instant petition.



7. Accordingly, the instant petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be admitted to regular bail subject to his/her furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate/Illaqa Magistrate concerned. However, the petitioner shall continue to appear before the trial Court so that final adjudication of the trial will not be delayed.
8. It is made clear that the petitioner shall not extend any threat and shall not influence any prosecution witness in any manner directly or indirectly.
9. The observation made hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression on the merits of the case and the trial Court shall decide the case on the basis of available material.
10. Pending application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed of.

12.05.2026
monika

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

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