

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

236

CRM-M-26385-2026

Date of decision: 14.05.2026

SANDEEP SINGH @ SUNNY

.....PETITIONER

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

..... RESPONDENT

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SURYA PARTAP SINGH**

Present: Mr. Ritesh Pandey, Advocate  
for the petitioner.

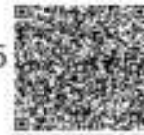
Mr. J.S. Thind, DAG, Punjab.

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**SURYA PARTAP SINGH, J.**

1. This petition for bail is the first petition, filed by the petitioner under Section 483 of 'the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023'. This petition has been filed with regard to a case arising out of FIR No.127 dated 21.07.2025 for the commission of offence punishable under Sections 308(4), 125, 351(2), 61(2) [Section 111 added later on] of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and Section 25 of Arms Act, Police Station Ghuman, Batala.

2. In nut-shell, the facts emerging from record are that the FIR of this case came into being on 21.07.2025 on the statement of 'Rupinder Singh @ Romi', hereinafter being referred to as complainant only. According to prosecution, the above-named complainant stated that in the intervening night



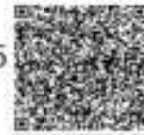
of 20/21 July, 2025 at about 12:40 A.M, he heard a commotion on his gate, and when he went to the roof to see what was happening on the gate, he did not find anybody. The complainant further stated that thereafter he went to sleep. As per complainant on next morning he found that there were two empty cartridges lying near his gate, and there was a bullet mark, also, on the gate also.

3. It was further stated by the complainant that on the same day, he received a WhatsApp call on his mobile number from a person, who disclosed his name as 'Mannu Agwan'. According to complainant, the above-named caller demanded a ransom of Rs.50,00,000/- by threatening that, if the money was not paid, the complainant would be done to death.

4. It is the case of the prosecution that in view of abovementioned statement, formal FIR of this case was lodged and the investigation taken up. As per prosecution, during the course of investigation it was found that on 24.07.2025, another call was received by the complainant, which was made by 'Rana Partap Singh', presently residing in America, who had reiterated the demand of ransom. According to prosecution, subsequently the supplementary statement of complainant was recorded, who nominated 'Rana Partap Singh' and his brother 'Ranpreet Singh'. The prosecution has alleged that in view of abovementioned development, the petitioner has been arrested.

5 Notice of motion.

6. Since advance notice has already been served upon the State, Mr. J.S. Thind, DAG, Punjab, accepts notice on behalf of respondent-State. Hence, the 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.

7. Heard.

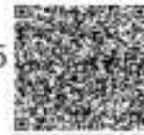
8. It has been contended on behalf of petitioner that the petitioner is innocent, and that without any basis and without any evidence, he has been arrested in the present case. According to learned counsel for the petitioner, nothing has been recovered from the possession of the petitioner, but he is facing prolonged incarceration. While pleading that the trial is not likely to be concluded in near future, the learned counsel for the petitioner has urged for the benefit of bail for the petitioner.

9. *Per contra*, the learned State Counsel has argued that the petitioner is member of a gang, involved in the crime of collecting ransom, and that there is very specific evidence with regard to call, made by the co-accused of the petitioner, whereby ransom, from the complainant, was demanded. The learned State Counsel has further contended that if the petitioner is released on bail, he may hamper the investigation and influence the witnesses.

10. The record has been perused carefully.

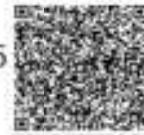
11. A perusal of record shows that in the present case, following are the relevant factors which are required to be taken into consideration for a decision: -

- i) that the petitioner is already in custody for a period of more than two months and twenty two days;
- ii) that the benefit of bail has already been accorded to the co-accused;
- iii) that nothing has been recovered from the possession of petitioner, to show that the petitioner has got any kind of link with the commission of crime;



- iv) that even the weapon of offence allegedly used for the purpose of firing gunshots has not been recovered by the Investigating Officer, despite the fact that the petitioner is in custody for a period of more than 02 months;
- v) that the investigation in this case is already complete, and the final report has been filed in the Court
- vi) that the trial 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 useful 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.

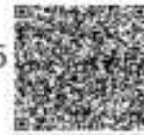
12. In the present case, the principles of law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the case of 'Dataram versus State of Uttar Pradesh and another', (2018) 3 SCC 22, are relevant, wherein it has been observed that "a fundamental postulate of criminal jurisprudence is the presumption of 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”.

13. The principles laid down by the Hon’ble the Supreme Court of India in the case of ‘Satender Kumar Antil Vs. Central Bureau of Investigation and Another’ (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”.

14. 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”.

15. 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 the accused as mandated by Hon’ble Apex court in “Balwinder Singh versus State of Punjab and Another”, 2024 SCC Online SC 4354.

16. If the cumulative effect of all the abovementioned factors, involved in the instant case, is taken into consideration, it leads to a conclusion that the petitioner is entitled for the benefit of bail, and that the present petition deserves to be allowed.

17. 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 concession 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 to disclose 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 the trial Court.

(SURYA PARTAP SINGH)  
JUDGE

14.05.2026

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|---------------------------|--------|
| Whether speaking/reasoned | Yes/No |
| Whether reportable        | Yes/No |