



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

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**CRM-M-28616-2026
Decided on : 20.05.2026**

Gulab Singh

... Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of Punjab

... Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

PRESENT: None for the petitioner(s).

Mr. Vinay Malhotra, DAG, Punjab.

SANJAY VASHISTH, J. (Oral)

Some of the Members of the Bar are abstaining from working during the post lunch session today.

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 19.02.2026 (Annexure P-1), passed by Ld. Additional Sessions Judge, Bathinda, whereby after cancelling the bail of the petitioner, non-bailable warrants have been issued against him, on account of his non-appearance in a case FIR No. 131, dated 21.10.2024, under Sections 109, 304 (newly added provision), 305, 324(2), 62, 351(3), 115(2), 126(2), 191(3), 190 of BNS, 2023 [erstwhile Sections 307, 380, 426, 511, 506, 323, 341, 148, 149 of IPC), registered at Police Station Nahianwala, District Bathinda.

2. After registration of FIR in question, petitioner was granted concession of anticipatory bail by the Coordinate Bench of this Court, vide order dated 15.02.2025, passed in CRM-M-2066-2025 (P-3). Thereafter, petitioner joined the proceedings before trial Court, and at present case is

stated to be at the stage of pre-charge proceedings.

It is also averred in the petition that on certain subsequent dates, petitioner could not appear before trial Court due to bona fide and unavoidable circumstances, as he was in custody in another case bearing FIR No.164, dated 24.09.2023, registered at Police Station Nahianwala, District Bathinda. Consequently, on 19.02.2026, due to petitioner's non-appearance appear before the trial Court and on that account his bail was cancelled and non-bailable warrants of arrest were issued against him.

3. It is further noticed that on coming to know the factum of issuing of non-bailable warrants of arrest and cancellation of bail, petitioner has immediately approach this Court. Learned counsel, thus, submits that absence of the petitioner was neither intentional nor deliberate, but due to the reasons, as mentioned above.

4. A perusal of case files shows 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 absents during the proceedings.

7. In number of cases, wherein, accused stopped appearing in 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 is declared 'Proclaimed Person'/Proclaimed Offender', after examining the facts, this Court has formulated to apply 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 due to some unavoidable circumstances, and consequently, on 19.02.2026 (P-1), impugned order cancelling the bail and issuance of non-bailable warrants of arrest, has been passed against him. It also cannot be left unnoticed that on coming to know about passing of the impugned order, 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 dated 19.02.2026 (P-1) is hereby **set aside** to the extent of issuance of non-bailable 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 **05.06.2026**.

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(s), if any, also stand(s) disposed of.

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

May 20, 2026

J.Ram

Whether speaking/reasoned: *Yes/No*

Whether Reportable: *Yes/No*