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2026:PHHC:039078



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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-41822-2024

Prabhjit Singh @ Prabh

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

Date of Decision: March 13, 2026
Date of Uploading: March 13, 2026

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUMEET GOEL

Present:- Mr. Karnail Singh Ahhi, Advocate and
Mr. Rupinder Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Baljinder Singh Sra, Additional AG Punjab.

SUMEET GOEL, J. (ORAL)

Present petition has been filed under Section 439 of the Cr. P.C. seeking grant of regular bail to the petitioner, in cross case DDR No.25 dated 20.06.2022, registered under Sections 302, 148, 149 of IPC, Sections 25/ 27/ 54/ 59 of the Arms Act, 1959, in FIR No.119 dated 20.06.2022, registered under Sections 307, 148, 149 of IPC and Sections 25/27 of the Arms Act, 1959, at Police Station Beas, District Amritsar Rural.

2. The gravamen of allegation against the petitioner is that the petitioner had fired shot towards Rishiwant Singh, which hit at his forehead and died in the hospital later on.

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3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has argued that the petitioner is in custody since 20.06.2022. Learned counsel has iterated that the petitioner has been falsely implicated into the FIR in question. Learned counsel has argued that case in hand is one of version and cross-version. Learned counsel has further submitted that the petitioner is in custody for more than 03 years. Learned counsel has iterated that co-accused, namely, Hakikat Singh @ Aalam has been afforded concession of regular bail by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide order dated 05.02.2024 passed in **Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s).14352/2023**. Learned counsel has further submitted that the petitioner has suffered incarceration for more than 03½ years. Thus, regular bail is prayed for.

4. Learned State counsel has opposed the present petition by arguing that allegations raised against the petitioner are serious in nature and, thus, the petitioner does not deserve the concession of the regular bail. Learned State counsel has further submitted that in case, the petitioner is granted concession of regular bail, there is all likelihood that he may abscond from the process of justice and also interfere/ intimidate the prosecution evidence/ witnesses. Learned State counsel seeks to place on record the custody certificate dated 12.03.2026, in the Court today, which is taken on record.

5. I have heard counsel for the parties and have gone through the available records of the case.

6. The petitioner was arrested on 20.06.2022, whereinafter, the investigation was carried out and the challan has been presented on

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21.09.2022. Out of total 39 cited prosecution witnesses, 04 have been examined till date. Indubitably, conclusion of the trial will take long.

At this juncture, it would be apposite to refer herein a judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Javed Gulam Nabi Shaikh vs. State of Maharashtra and anothers, 2024(3) RCR (Criminal) 494*, which reads thus:

“18. Criminals are not born out but made. The human potential in everyone is good and so, never write off any criminal as beyond redemption. This humanist fundamental is often missed when dealing with delinquents, juvenile and adult. Indeed, every saint has a past and every sinner a future. When a crime is committed, a variety of factors is responsible for making the offender commit the crime. Those factors may be social and economic, may be, the result of value erosion or parental neglect; may be, because of the stress of circumstances, or the manifestation of temptations in a milieu of affluence contrasted with indigence or other privations.

19. If the State or any prosecuting agency including the court concerned has no wherewithal to provide or protect the fundamental right of an accused to have a speedy trial as enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution then the State or any other prosecuting agency should not oppose the plea for bail on the ground that the crime committed is serious. Article 21 of the Constitution applies irrespective of the nature of the crime.

20. We may hasten to add that the petitioner is still an accused; not a convict. The over-arching postulate of criminal jurisprudence that an accused is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty cannot be brushed aside lightly, howsoever stringent the penal law may be.

21. We are convinced that the manner in which the prosecuting agency as well as the Court have proceeded, the right of the accused to have a speedy trial could be said to have been infringed thereby violating Article 21 of the Constitution.”

The rival contention raised at Bar give rise to debatable issued, which shall essentially be ratiocinated upon during the course of trial. This Court does not deem it appropriate to delve deep into these rival contentions, at this stage, *lest* it may prejudice the trial. Nothing tangible has been brought forward to indicate the likelihood of the petitioner absconding from the process of justice or interfering with the prosecution evidence.

6.1. As per custody certificate dated 12.03.2026 filed by learned State counsel, the petitioner has already suffered incarceration for a period

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of 03 years, 08 months and 13 days, & the petitioner is not shown to be involved in any other IPC case.

Suffice to say, further detention of the petitioner as an undertrial is not warranted in the facts and circumstances of the case.

7. In view of above, the present petition is allowed. Petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail, if not required in any other case, on his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Ld. concerned CJM/Duty Magistrate. However, in addition to conditions that may be imposed by the concerned CJM/Duty Magistrate, the petitioner shall remain bound by the following conditions:

- (i) The petitioner shall not mis-use the liberty granted.
- (ii) The petitioner shall not tamper with any evidence, oral or documentary, during the trial.
- (iii) The petitioner shall not absent himself on any date before the trial.
- (iv) The petitioner shall not commit any offence while on bail.
- (v) The petitioner shall deposit his passport, if any, with the trial Court.
- (vi) The petitioner shall give his cellphone number to the Investigating Officer/SHO of concerned Police Station and shall not change his cell-phone number without prior permission of the trial Court/Illaqa Magistrate.
- (vii) The petitioner shall not in any manner try to delay the trial.

8. In case of breach of any of the aforesaid conditions and those which may be imposed by concerned CJM/Duty Magistrate as directed hereinabove or upon showing any other sufficient cause, the State/complainant shall be at liberty to move cancellation of bail of the petitioner.

9. Ordered accordingly.

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10. Nothing said hereinabove shall be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.
11. Since the main case has been decided, pending miscellaneous application, if any, shall also stands disposed off.

(SUMEET GOEL)
JUDGE

March 13, 2026

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Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No

Whether reportable: Yes/No