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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-47448-2025

Date of decision: 25th February, 2026

Chirag Ahuja

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present: Mr. Vishal Garg Narwana, Advocate,
Ms. Deepika Chaudhary, Advocate,
Mr. Khushwant Sharma, Advocate,
Ms. Chetna Rao, Advocate and
Ms. Aashima Jindal, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Neeraj Poswal, Assistant Advocate General, Haryana.

Mr. Nishchal Chetanya Manchanda, Advocate,
Mr. Dinesh Chaudhary, Advocate and
Er. Vikram Singh, Advocate for the complainant.

MANISHA BATRA, J (ORAL):-

The present petition has been filed under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') by the petitioner seeking grant of regular bail in case bearing FIR No. 38 dated 31.01.2025 registered under Sections 318(4), 319, 336(3), 338, 308(2), 340, 241 read with Section 61(2) and 3(5) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNS') and 66-C and 66-D Information Technology Act, at Police Station Cyber Crime West, Gurugram.

2. The aforementioned FIR was registered on the basis of complaint

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lodged by complainant Dr. Anita, a retired Principal alleging that on the evening of 03.01.2025, she had received a call on her cell phone. The caller told her that several complaints were registered against her for violation of illegal advertisements and sending harassing messages and an FIR was registered against her. She was also informed that three cell phone numbers, which she was using, would be blocked within a short time. She also started receiving video calls from different numbers on her whatsapp and the callers told her that a bank account had been opened by her in favour of a person, who was accused of money laundering and committing frauds and she would be sent to jail for 14 years. She was forbidden from disclosing these facts to her family members under the threat that they would also be put to jail and their bank accounts would be frozen and that they would be mentally and physically tortured. She was forced to transfer a total amount of Rs.3,03,00,000/- from her bank accounts to different bank accounts, the numbers of which were disclosed by the callers. She was kept under virtual digital arrest till the transfer of the above said amount and was not even made to leave her room. She was made scared of her life. Last video call was made to her on 31.01.2025, whereby threats were again extended to her.

3. During the course of investigation, it was found that an amount of Rs. 62 lakh was transferred from the account of the complainant to the account of one Param Enterprises and out of the same, an amount of Rs. 9.95 lakh was transferred in an account in the name of the accused Yogesh Kumar at ICICI bank. He was arrested and on interrogation, he suffered disclosure

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statement to the effect that it was on asking of co-accused Rahul that he had given his bank account details to him and then as per the instructions of Rahul, he had withdrawn an amount of Rs. 9,90,000/- through cheque and had handed over the same to Rahul after keeping some commission. Another amount of Rs. 9,95,000/- was found to be transferred in the bank account in the name of accused Prince Jast, who was arrested on 03.02.2025 and on his disclosure, Jaswinder was nominated as additional accused. Subsequently, on disclosure of Jaswinder, Lucky and Naman Kumar were nominated as such. Naman Kumar took the name of the accused Shivam Goyal, who was arrested on 03.02.2025 and on his disclosure statement, Ashok Kumar was nominated as an accused. He was arrested on 06.02.2025 and he nominated the present petitioner. The petitioner was arrested on 07.02.2025. On interrogation, he suffered disclosure statement that he was trading in USDT since long. He disclosed that the accused Ashok Kumar who had come in contact with him had shown interest in buying and selling of US dollar and had asked him to transfer US dollars in the account of his acquaintances and had assured to give Indian currency notes in cash in lieu of commission and out of greed, the petitioner had joined his friend Lovepreet Singh and both of them had arranged US dollars worth Rs. 10,00,000/- and had transferred the same in the bank accounts mentioned by the accused Ashok and uploaded on AngelxsuperApp. Thereafter, the accused Ashok Kumar had given an amount of Rs. 10,00,000/- apart from commission to him. Investigation qua the petitioner stands concluded.

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4. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case. He was not named in the FIR. There is no allegation that he had induced the complainant to part with any money. He has been nominated on the basis of disclosure statement of the co-accused which cannot be considered to be admissible in evidence. No amount of money has ever been transferred into his bank. He is not beneficiary of any transaction. There is no material on record to link him with the crime. He has clean antecedents. His further incarceration would not serve any useful purpose. It is, thus, argued that the petition deserves to be allowed.

5. Status report has been filed. Learned State counsel assisted by learned counsel for the complainant submitted that the allegations against the petitioner are serious in nature. He was a part of the conspiracy hatched with the co-accused to cheat and defraud the complainant. There are chances of his absconding or committing similar offences, if extended benefit of bail. Therefore, it is stressed that the petition does not deserve to be allowed.

6. This Court has heard learned counsel for the parties at considerable length.

7. The petitioner who was involved in trading of USDT is alleged to have connived with the co-accused Ashok Kumar who by assuring him to give handsome commission, had asked him to transfer USDT having worth of Rs. 10,50,000/- in different bank accounts as disclosed by him (Ashok) and in response, the petitioner is alleged to have transferred the same through Angelxsuper App to the accounts as told by the accused Ashok in lieu of

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commission. The complainant in this case was duped of an amount of Rs. 3,03,00,000/- by the cyber fraudsters. The petitioner is alleged to have facilitated transfer of the money received by way of fraudulent transactions. The allegations make out a prima facie case for his complicity in the commission of the subject offences which are serious in nature. Crimes of this nature are on the rise and have become a growing menace in today's digital age. Cyber criminals are using sophisticated methods to target public persons and institutions. A stringent approach to deter offenders is required. The gamut of above discussed circumstances does not call for grant of benefit of bail to the petitioner. Accordingly, the petition does not deserve to be allowed and is dismissed.

8. It is, however, clarified that the observations made hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

9. Since the main petition has been dismissed, pending application, if any, is rendered infructuous.

[MANISHA BATRA]
JUDGE

25th February, 2026
Parveen Sharma

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| 1. Whether speaking/ reasoned | : | Yes / No |
| 2. Whether reportable | : | Yes / No |