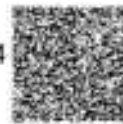


IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

2026.PHHC.009854



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CRM-M-60084 of 2024(O&M)

Reserved on: 22.01.2026

Pronounced on:23.01.2026

Uploaded on:23.01.2026

Harjit Singh

..Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL

Present: Mr. Ranjodh Singh Sidhu, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sukhbeer Singh, DAG Punjab.

Ms. Meena, Advocate for
Mr. Amit Arora, Advocate
for the complainant.

SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL, J.

Petitioner seeks regular bail in case vide FIR No.111 dated 17.07.2023, under Sections 363, 366-A, 375, 506 IPC and Section 6 of POCSO Act, 2012, Police Station Bhikhiwind, District Tarn Taran. This is the first petition for regular bail.

Complainant, father of the prosecutrix stated that he was a labourer, had five children and prosecutrix 'PK' his eldest daughter was 12-13 years old. It being season of Paddy, he used to leave in the morning with his entire family to return in the evening. On 17.07.2023 at about 6:30 a.m. his eldest daughter 'PK' who was left at home was asked to bring food and

water to the fields where rest of the family including his wife was working. They waited for 'PK' to arrive with food and water but she did not turn up. Thereafter, he along with his wife went back to his house where they found 'PK' missing. They tried to search her in the neighbourhood and in the house of relatives but no avail. He suspected that their neighbour Harjit Singh had kidnapped his daughter on the pretext of marriage.

Learned counsel for the petitioner prays for release of petitioner on regular bail arguing that the petitioner was innocent and had been falsely implicated in the FIR. He neither lured daughter of the complainant nor participated in the offence. Even if the allegations were believed, it was a case of love affair between the prosecutrix and the petitioner. DNA report procured by the prosecution was not incriminating.

Learned State counsel has filed status report and assisted by Ms. Meena, learned counsel for the complainant prays for dismissal of the bail application arguing that prosecutrix reiterated her first version in her statement under Section 183 BNSS. Even though the DNA report was negative, prosecutrix appeared in the Court and supported prosecution version. Five witnesses had been examined during trial and ten were remaining.

Petitioner is behind bars for the last more than two years and six months. He is not stated to be involved in any other criminal case. His antecedents are clean. Statement of the prosecutrix has been recorded and there is no prospect of the petitioner influencing the witness. 10 witnesses are yet to be recorded and trial is not likely to conclude by an early date.

Prolonged custody and delay in trial entitles the petitioner to bail. Law in this regard has been settled by Hon’ble the Supreme Court of India in *Sagar Ashok Satkar Versus The State of Maharashtra, Crl. Appeal No. 2870 of 2024 decided on 12.07.2024*; *Nilesh Vithoba Gadade Versus The State of Maharashtra and another, Crl. Appeal No.3040 of 2025 decided on 18.07.2025* and *Balwinder Singh Versus State of Punjab and another Special Leave to Appeal (Criminal) No. 8523 of 2024 decided on 09.09.2024*.

In the facts and circumstances of the case but without commenting on merits, petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail subject to his furnishing adequate bail and surety bonds to the satisfaction of trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

All the pending miscellaneous applications, if any, stand disposed of.

(SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL)
JUDGE

23.01.2026

reema
Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes
Whether reportable : No