

2026:PHHC:026573



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

**CRM-M-62936-2025
Decided on:19.02.2026**

Maninder Singh @ Mani @ Money

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

**CRM-M-61423-2025
Decided on:19.02.2026**

Vikas Sharma alias Billa

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

Coram : Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bhardwaj

Present: Mr. Amandeep Saini, Advocate,
for the petitioner in CRM-M-62936-2025.

Mr. GBS Dhillon, Senior Advocate, with
Mr. Jagdeep Singh Bajwa, Advocate,
for the petitioner in CRM-M-61423-2025.

Mr. Raj Karan Singh, AAG, Punjab.

Rajesh Bhardwaj, J. (Oral)

1. Petitioners have approached this Court by way of filing the present petitions praying for granting them regular bail in case FIR No.140 dated 29.08.2025, registered under Sections 109, 118(1), 351(2), 115(2), 190, 191(3) and 125(a) of the BNS, 2023 and Section 25 of the Arms Act, 1959, at Police Station Sri Anandpur Sahib, District Rupnagar.

2. Succinctly, facts of the case are that the FIR in question was registered on the statement of Balwant Singh, in which it was alleged that on 28.08.2025, when he (Balwant Singh) was closing his Café at about 11.30 pm, two cars came there, out of which 4-5 persons, namely, Arshi, Dharamvir alias

Raja, Neeraj, Maninder alias Mani and Vasu disembarked and came inside his

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Café. Upon coming inside, Arshi gave a *kirpan* blow to him and Vikas Sharma alias Billa (petitioner in CRM-M-61423-2025) started firing from his revolver. On hearing the sound of fire arm, lot of people gathered there and the accused persons ran away from there in their vehicles along with their respective weapons while extending threats. Being seriously injured, he was got admitted in the hospital by his friends. The request was made to take legal action against the culprits involved. On registration of the FIR, the investigation commenced and during investigation, complicity of the petitioners surfaced and they were arrested 29.08.2025 and 31.08.2025 respectively. Petitioners approached the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Rupnagar praying for grant of regular bail, however, after hearing both the sides, the learned Court finding no merit in the same, dismissed the bail applications filed by the petitioners vide common order dated 08.10.2025. Hence, the petitioners are before this Court by way of filing the present petitions praying for grant of regular bail.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioners have vehemently contended that the present case is a case of version and cross-version and it was the side of the complainant who had opened an attack upon the petitioners' side. It is submitted that one Neeraj had died from the petitioners' side in the same occurrence who was injured by the complainant's side. They further submitted that the petitioners have been falsely and frivolously implicated in the present case. It is submitted that though petitioner Maninder Singh @ Mani @ Money has been named in the FIR but neither any weapon nor any specific role has been attributed to him and insofar as petitioner Vikas Sharma @ Billa is concerned, he is alleged to have opened fire, however, no one was injured by the alleged fire. It is submitted that *prima facie*, no case, as alleged, is made out against the petitioners and, thus, they may be released on regular bail

during pendency of the trial.

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4. *Per contra*, learned State counsel has opposed the bail applications while submitting that the petitioners have duly participated in the commission of offence, however, he is not in a position to controvert the fact that the present case is a case of version and cross-version and one Neeraj had died from the petitioners' side in the said occurrence. He further submitted that investigation in the present case has been completed, challan has been presented and now the case is fixed before the trial Court for framing of charge. It is also submitted that though petitioner Maninder Singh @ Mani @ Money is not involved in any other criminal case, but petitioner Vikas Sharma @ Billa is involved in five other criminal cases and, thus, the present petitions deserve dismissal.

5. After hearing learned counsel for the parties and perusing the record, it is deciphered that the case in hand is a case of version and cross-version and no weapon or specific role has been attributed to petitioner Maninder Singh @ Mani @ Money, however, he is alleged to have been a part of the unlawful assembly. Petitioner Vikas Sharma @ Billa is alleged to have opened fire with his fire arm but no one injured by the same and being a case of version and cross-version, it would be a matter of trial to assess that which party was the aggressor. Both the petitioners are in custody since 29.08.2025 and 31.08.2025 respectively and the case is fixed before the learned trial Court for framing of charge and the trial did not even commence. Moreso, Arshdeep Singh, who is alleged to have given a *kirpan* blow to the complainant, has already been granted anticipatory bail by this Court. Needless to say that speedy trial is the fundamental right of every accused.

6. The veracity of the allegations would be assessed only after the conclusion of the trial and on the appreciation of evidence to be led by both the parties before the trial Court.

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7. This Court would refrain itself from commenting anything on the merits of the case. Thus, keeping in view the overall facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is of the opinion that learned counsel for the petitioners succeed in making out a case for grant of regular bail. Accordingly, both the petitions are allowed. Petitioners are ordered to be released on bail on their furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the concerned trial Court/Duty Magistrate. Nothing said herein shall be treated as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

8. In case the bail bonds are not furnished by petitioner-Vikas Sharma @ Billa, during the period of 07 days from today, then his further custody period after one week will not be counted in the present case.

February 19, 2026
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(Rajesh Bhardwaj)
Judge

Whether Speaking/Reasoned: NO/YES
Whether Reportable: NO/YES