

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

2026:PHHC:034597



120

CRM-M-62169-2025 (O&M)
Date of decision:06.03.2026

Dharma

... Petitioner

Vs.

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present: Mr. Puneet Kumar Bansal, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Ruchika Sabherwal, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

...

Manisha Batra, J. (Oral).

1. The petitioner is seeking indulgence of this Court for grant of regular bail in case arising out of FIR No.157, dated 23.07.2020, registered under Sections 379-B and 120-B IPC (offence under Section 411 IPC was added lateron), at Police Station Bhikhi, District Mansa, on the allegations that on 23.07.2020, he along with the co-accused had snatched a bag containing an amount of Rs.2.50 lakhs. He was arrested on 31.03.2020 in another case and suffered disclosure statement in that case on the basis of which he was nominated as an accused in this case.

2. The petitioner had been extended benefit of regular bail vide order dated 05.05.2021 passed by the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Mansa. As per the record, he absented himself on

15.09.2022, due to which his bail was cancelled and bonds were forfeited to the State. Proceedings under Section 82 Cr.P.C. were initiated against him and he was declared a proclaimed person vide order dated 01.09.2023. He was again arrested on 19.05.2025 and is in custody since then. An application for grant of regular bail as moved by him was dismissed by the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Mansa vide order dated 01.10.2025.

3. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he is in custody since long. The trial will take considerable time to conclude since only 04 out of 20 prosecution witnesses have been examined so far. He could not appear before the trial Court since his mother as well as brother had expired and due to this fact, he had gone into depression. He undertakes to appear on each and every date of hearing and to abide by the terms and conditions to be imposed upon him. It is, therefore, argued that the petition deserves to be allowed.

4. Per contra, learned State counsel while placing reliance upon the status report has argued that there are serious allegations against the petitioner. He has been declared as a proclaimed person. There are chances of his absconding again, if extended benefit of bail. It is, thus, stressed that the petition does not deserve to be allowed.

5. This Court has heard the rival submissions made by learned counsel for the parties.

6. The petitioner is in custody since 19.05.2025. The chances of conclusion of trial in near future are obviously bleak as only 04 prosecution witnesses have been examined so far. The continued detention of the

petitioner would not serve any useful purpose. Taking into consideration the above discussed facts but without meaning to make any comment on the merits of the case, the petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail, subject to his furnishing personal as well as surety bonds by two sureties in the like amount each to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate/Chief Judicial Magistrate concerned and on the following conditions:-

- (i) The petitioner shall appear before trial Court on each and every date of hearing.
- (ii) The petitioner shall provide his address where he would be residing after release and shall not change the same without informing the concerned IO/SHO.
- (iii) The petitioner shall upon his release give his mobile phone number to concerned IO/SHO and shall keep his mobile phone switched on all times.
- (iv) The petitioner shall surrender his passport, if any, furnish details of his cell phone and Aadhar card, and shall not change his mobile number(s) during the pendency of the trial.

7. However, it will be open for the prosecution to apply for cancellation of bail in case the petitioners are found involved in any other subsequent case.
8. Since the main petition has been allowed, pending application, if any, is rendered infructuous.

06.03.2026

harjeet

Whether speaking/reasoned :	Yes/No
Whether reportable :	Yes/No

(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE