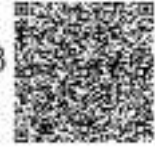


2026:PHHC:017593



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

226

CRM-M-64137-2025

Date of decision: 5th February, 2026

Harmanpreet Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present: Mr. J.S. Moudgil, Advocate for the petitioner.

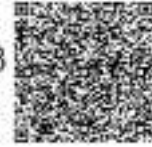
Ms. Sakshi Bakshi, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab.

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. 60 dated 11.06.2023 registered under Sections 302, 201, 148 and 149 of IPC at Police Station Payal, District Ludhiana.

2. Brief facts relevant for the purpose of disposal of this petition are that the aforementioned FIR was registered on the basis of statement recorded by the complainant–Fateh Singh @ Fatta alleging that he was got admitted into a Drug De-Addiction Centre, in village Payal, since he was a drug addict. The victim Amandeep Singh was also admitted by his family in the same centre which was operated by the co-accused Parneet Singh. The activities of this centre were supervised by the petitioner and co-accused Pardeep Singh, Vikram Singh and Gurwinder Singh, who were also admitted in this centre.

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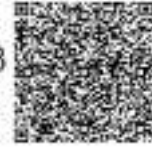


He alleged that on 21.04.2023, the victim Amandeep Singh was given the task of washing clothes and as he was little slow in doing the work, co-accused Parneet Singh along with Pardeep Singh and other accused, had started beating him. On the same night, when all of them were sitting in the hall, the petitioner along with Parneet Singh and Vikramjit Singh, who were carrying *dandas* along with accused Gurwinder Singh, had assaulted the victim by extending severe beatings to him resulting into his death. Thereafter, they had taken the body of the victim out of the hall and had locked the complainant and others inside. The complainant further alleged that though the accused Parneet Singh had claimed subsequently that he had sent the victim back to his home, but on 09.06.2023, he came to know that the victim had been murdered as he had not been sent home. As such, he prayed for taking action.

3. After registration of the FIR, investigation proceedings were initiated. The petitioner along with co-accused Parneet Singh and Vikramjit Singh were arrested on the same day and suffered disclosure statements as per which the co-accused Pardeep Singh had caught hold of the arms of the victim, whereas accused Gurwinder Singh had caught hold of his legs and the petitioner along with other co-accused had extended beatings to the victim by using sticks, due to which he had died. The petitioner had surrendered on 19.06.2023 and suffered disclosure statement admitting his involvement in the crime. The investigation now stands completed and the petitioner along with the co-accused is facing trial for commission of the aforementioned offences.

4. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case. Now the complainant also stands examined and

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he has not implicated the petitioner in the subject crime at all. The witnesses of the last seen extra-judicial confession allegedly suffered by the co-accused have also resiled from their respective statements allegedly recorded during the course of investigation. There is no incriminating evidence to connect him with the subject crime. The disclosure statement allegedly suffered by the co-accused cannot be considered to be admissible in evidence. No new or distinct fact has been discovered in pursuance of disclosure statement allegedly suffered by him and hence the same also cannot be considered to be admissible in evidence. He is in custody since 19.06.2023. His continued detention would not serve any useful purpose. Co-accused, Pardeep Singh, Parneet Singh, Gurvinder Singh @ Ginda and Vikramjit Singh @ Vikram Singh @ Vicky @ Bikram Singh have been granted benefit of bail. On parity, he too deserves to be given the same benefit. It is, therefore, urged that the petition deserves to be allowed.

5. Status report has been filed. It is argued by learned State counsel that keeping in view the gravity of the allegations as levelled against the petitioner, he does not deserve to be extended benefit of regular bail.

6. This Court has heard the rival submissions made by learned counsel for the parties at a considerable length.

7. The petitioner by forming of an unlawful assembly with the co-accused is alleged to have assaulted the victim, who had died. As per the allegations, he had extended beatings to him on 21.04.2023. The complainant, who was the only eye witness to the alleged occurrence has appeared before the learned trial Court as PW4. Copy of his sworn deposition has been placed

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on record as Annexure P-3 and a perusal of the same reveals that he did not support the prosecution version at all and did not identify the petitioner or the other accused as assailants of the victim. Even PW1 Sarabjit, who was a witness to the circumstance of having lastly seen the petitioner and co-accused Parneet Singh along with the dead body of the victim and PW2 Harpreet Singh, before whom petitioner and co-accused Parneet Singh had allegedly suffered extra-judicial confession, have not supported the prosecution version and turned hostile. Keeping in view the nature of the evidence which has come on record and does not implicate the petitioner in commission of the subject offence, coupled with the fact that there is no other eye witness to the occurrence, on parity, the period spent by the petitioner in custody and the attendant facts and circumstances, this Court is of the considered opinion that the petitioner deserves to be released on bail at this stage. Accordingly, the petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be admitted to bail subject to his furnishing personal as well as surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/CJM/Duty Magistrate concerned.

8. It is, however, made clear that nothing observed hereinabove, shall be construed to mean an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

[MANISHA BATRA]
JUDGE

5th February, 2026
Parveen Sharma

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