

**CRM-M-69006-2025****1****IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH****145****CRM-M-69006-2025****Decided on :16.03.2026**

Sarabjit Singh alias Shabba

. . . Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of Punjab

. . . Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present: Mr. Abhay Bhardwaj, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Iqbalpreet Singh, AAG, Punjab.

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SANJAY VASHISTH, J. (Oral)

1. Present petition has been filed under Section 483 of BNSS, seeking regular bail in case FIR No.32 dated 02.04.2025, under Sections 420 and 120-B IPC, registered at Police Station Sekhwan, District Batala.
2. As per the case of the prosecution, the FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint moved by the complainant, Sarabjit Singh, to the SSP, Batala, alleging that Ranjit Singh, Charan Singh, Davinder Kaur, Sarabjit Singh (petitioner herein) and Jatinder Singh, in connivance with each other, cheated him of Rs. 22,22,500/- on the pretext of sending his son abroad. It is alleged that payments were made in instalments, including Rs. 50,000/- along with the passport of his son on 07.01.2023, further amounts transferred to Jatinder Singh's account, and Rs. 15 lacs handed over on 02.03.2023. Despite the payments, the accused did not

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fulfill their promises and allegedly caused financial loss to the complainant

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that co-accused-Jatinder Singh has been granted bail by the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Gurdaspur, vide order dated 02.07.2025 (P-3). Similarly, co-accused-Ranjit Singh was also granted bail by the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Gurdaspur, vide order dated 29.01.2026, photocopy of which has been produced. Counsel submits that the allegations against the petitioner are similar in nature to those leveled against Ranjit Singh. Learned counsel for the petitioner further submits that petitioner is in judicial custody for a period of last six months and twenty-five days and is facing allegations under Sections 420 and 120-B IPC, which are triable by the learned Magistrate. In view of these circumstances, counsel prays for the grant of regular bail to the petitioner.

4. Learned State counsel submits that petitioner is involved in a serious case of cheating and criminal conspiracy and is in judicial custody for a period of only six months and twenty-five days. Learned State counsel further submits that petitioner has been named in the FIR along with other co-accused, and his custodial presence may still be required for completion of investigation, verification of documents, and recovery, if any. Granting bail at this stage would impede the investigation and may prejudice the case.

Learned State counsel further contends that the grant of bail to co-accused does not automatically entitle the petitioner to the same relief and, therefore, prays for dismissal of the present petition.

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5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the paper-book along with the documents appended thereto.

6. Considering the fact that the petitioner is in judicial custody for a period of last six months and twenty-five days, the offences are triable by the learned Magistrate, and the allegations against him are similar to those leveled against co-accused who has already been granted bail, this Court finds no substantial justification to continue his detention.

Thus, without commenting on the merits of the case, present petition is allowed . Petitioner is ordered to be released on bail, subject to his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court/ Chief Judicial Magistrate/Illaqa Magistrate/ Duty Magistrate concerned, if not required in any other case.

7. Any of the discussion done and recorded hereabove, shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the facts of the case. Therefore, trial Court is expected to decide the case by taking an independent view, on the basis of evidence available on record, as expeditiously as possible in accordance with law.

8. Petition stands disposed of.

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

16.03.2026***Rashmi***

Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No

Whether Reportable: Yes/No