

2026.PHHC.026833



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-69280-2025

Date of decision: 19th February, 2026

Karanpreet Singh @ Karanveer Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present: Mr. Vipin Mahajan, Sr. Advocate with
Ms. Tejinder Kaur, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Roshandeep Singh, 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. 157 dated 07.10.2023 registered under Sections 379-B, 341, 379-B(2), 427, 506, 148 and 149 of IPC at Police Station City Batala Police District Batala, District Gurdaspur.

2. The aforementioned FIR was registered on the basis of statement got recorded by the complainant Ahmed Hussain, resident of Kathua, State of Jammu and Kashmir, alleging therein that he was serving as a driver with one Eurobic company situated in Industrial Area of Kathua. On 07.10.2023, he

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had unloaded the material brought from his company in vehicle bearing No. PB06-BE-2270 to different dealers in different cities of Punjab. After unloading the material, he had gone to Batala from Ajnala to collect empty crates and while on the way to Batala, 7-8 youths came riding on motor bikes from the back side. They forcibly stopped his vehicle, made him alight from the same and started breaking the window panes of the vehicle with sharp edged weapons they were carrying with. They made him alight from his vehicle, snatched his cell phone, pulled out the key of his vehicle and threatened to kill him. Out of fear, the complainant left his vehicle and fled away. His vehicle was badly damaged and then those persons left the spot.

3. After registration of FIR, investigation proceedings were initiated. During investigation, the accused Mandeep Singh and the present petitioner, who were arrested in another case bearing FIR No. 158 of 2023, suffered disclosure statements admitting their involvement in the crime of this case. They were joined into investigation of this case and were formally arrested on 07.11.2024. They suffered disclosure statements in this case as well. Investigation now stands completed.

4. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case. He is in custody since 07.11.2024. The trial will take considerable time to conclude. His further incarceration would not serve any useful purpose. Co-accused Rajbir @ Raja, Bhupinder Singh @ Balli @ Vishal and Mandeep Singh have been extended benefit of bail. On parity, he too deserves to be extended the same benefit. The complainant

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already stands examined and had not identified the petitioner as one of the persons, who had committed the subject offences. With these broad submissions, it is urged that the petition deserves to be allowed.

5. *Per contra*, learned State counsel has opposed the prayer made by learned counsel for the petitioner, by submitting that the allegations against the petitioner are serious in nature. He was a part of the gang that had snatched mobile phone and keys of the vehicle of the complainant from him, had criminally intimidated him and had caused damage of his truck. There are chances of his absconding or committing similar offences, if extended benefit of bail. Therefore, it is stressed that the petition does not deserve to be allowed.

6. This Court has heard learned counsel for the parties at considerable length.

7. The petitioner is alleged to have formed membership of an unlawful assembly with the co-accused and in prosecution of common object thereof, is alleged to have snatched mobile phone and keys of vehicle of the complainant on 07.10.2023 and is further alleged to have criminally intimidated him. He has been in custody since 07.11.2024. Trial will take considerable time to conclude. Learned counsel for the petitioner has placed on record copy of sworn deposition of the complainant Arshad Hussain which shows that he has not identified the petitioner as one of the snatchers/assailants. Similarly situated co-accused have been extended benefit of bail. Taking into consideration the above discussed facts and the circumstances peculiar to this case, this Court is of the considered opinion that a case for release of the

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petitioner on bail is made out. Accordingly, the petition is allowed, and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail subject to his furnishing personal/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the learned Chief Judicial Magistrate/ Duty Magistrate concerned.

8. It is, however, clarified that the observations made hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case and shall not influence the outcome of the trial.

9. Since the main petition has already been disposed of, pending application, if any, is rendered infructuous.

[MANISHA BATRA]
JUDGE

19th February, 2026
Parveen Sharma

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