



CRM-M-72035-2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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Decided on : 09.04.2026

Puran Singh
... Petitioner(s)
Versus
State of Punjab
... Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present : Mr. Kanwaljeet Singh, Advocate
for the petitioner(s).
Mr. Neeraj Madaan, Sr. DAG Punjab

SANJAY VASHISTH, J. (Oral)

1. The instant second petition has been filed under Section 483 of BNSS, 2023 (earlier Section 439 Cr.P.C.), for grant of regular bail to the petitioner, during the pendency of trial, who has been booked in a criminal case arising out of First Information Report, as detailed hereunder:-

Name of Petitioner(s)	FIR No.	Date	Section(s)	Police Station	District
Puran Singh, aged 40 years	117	03.10.2023	302 IPC (Sections 201 and 34 IPC added later on)	Koom Kalan	Police Commissionerate Ludhiana

2. Deceased in the present case is Shalesh Kumar and FIR was got registered by one Kanwaljeet Singh, on noticing of a half naked body of some unknown person.

3. After partial hearing of the respective counsels from both the sides on 11.03.2026, following was recorded:

i) xx xx xx

ii) *As per the case of the prosecution, on 02.10.2023 at about 8:30 p.m., complainant-Kanwaljeet Singh, while going to his farm on his motorcycle, noticed a half-naked body of an unknown male, approximately 35 years of age, in the paddy field of Amar Singh. The body bore injuries on the head, right ear, and below the chin. Subsequently, on 03.10.2023, an FIR was registered and investigation commenced. During the investigation, on 04.10.2023, Kashish Kumar, son of the deceased Shalesh Kumar, recorded that his father, a property dealer, had given money on interest to the petitioner and his co-accused, Mangal Singh. On 02.10.2023, co-accused Mangal Singh had reportedly called the deceased to collect the money, and the petitioner was last seen in the company of Mangal Singh, as noticed by the son of the deceased.*

iii) *FIR was registered on 03.10.2023, and petitioner is in custody since 04.10.2023. Out of a total of 17 prosecution witnesses, 10 have been examined till date.*

iv) *At this stage, learned State counsel submits that apart from the “last seen” evidence regarding the petitioner in the company of coaccused Mangal Singh, there is also an eyewitness account of Surinderpal Singh, which needs to be placed on record.*

v) *Learned State counsel is directed to file status report, including any material evidence recorded by the trial Court, on or before the next date of hearing fixed before this Court.*

vi) *List on 25.03.2026.”*

4. Today status report dated 08.04.2026 has been filed and the same is taken on record.

5 Responding to the question raised in order dated 11.03.2026, learned
State counsel majorly relies upon the four kinds of evidence against the petitioner:

- (i) Statement of complainant, who has only informed about lying of dead body.
- (ii) Another witness Kashish Kumar, who is none else but son of deceased, who got his recorded his statement during investigation that deceased Shalesh Kumar was lastly seen in the company of petitioner



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and his co-accused Mangal Singh

(iii) There is an eye witness account Surinder Pal Singh @ Lally, However, while appearing in the witness box on 02.03.2026, said star witness has turned hostile, wherein he stated that he is completely unaware of the facts of the case in hand. For reference deposition and examination-in-chief of said witness is reproduced here under:

“(I am well conversant with English language and can read, write and speak the same and do not have any objection to get recorded my statement in English language) ON SA.

Stated that I am resident of above said address. I am agriculturist by profession. I have agriculture land at Village Aadiwal and Balliwal. I do not know the facts of the case. I have not seen any occurrence. I am seeing the accused first time in the Court through VC.

At this stage Ld. APP for the State requested that witness is deliberately suppressing the truth and he resiling from his previous statement to the police and therefore he may declared hostile and permission be granted to prosecution to cross examine his. Request heard and allowed.”

(iv) Reliance is placed upon disclosure statement of the accused recorded during the course of investigation, in pursuance to which one blood stained stone used in causing murder was got recovered from the petitioner.

6. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and also gone through the status report.

7. Once eye witness account in the form of PW-11 Surinder Pal Singh has failed in supporting the case of the prosecution, it is for the trial Court to adjudicate whether the sufficient and worthful evidence is there or not for convicting the petitioner in a case of murder. However, neither any opinion is



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required nor same is warranted in the proceedings of the present bail petition. Otherwise also, out of total 17 prosecution witnesses, only 11 prosecution witnesses have been examined till date, thus, this Court deems it appropriate to consider the plea of bail.

8. Consequently, prayer made in the 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.

9. Needless to observe that the petitioner shall not extend any threat and shall not influence any prosecution witness in any manner directly or indirectly.

10. The observation made here-in-above shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the facts of the case and the Trial Court is expected to decide the case on the basis of complete evidence available on record.

11. It is further made clear that if, in future, petitioner is directly found indulged in similar kind of activities, this order shall be deemed to be cancelled.

12. Petition stands disposed of.

Pending misc. application(s), if any, also stand disposed of.

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

April 09, 2026

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Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No
Whether Reportable: Yes/No