

2026:PHHC:028883



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CRM-M-70793-2025 (O&M)

Anikant Bhatt**... Petitioner**

Versus

State of Haryana**... Respondent**

| Sr. No. | Particulars | Details |
|---------|--|----------------|
| 1 | The date when the judgment is reserved | 19.02.2026 |
| 2 | The date when the judgment is pronounced | 24.02.2026 |
| 3 | The date when the judgment is uploaded on the website | 24.02.2026 |
| 4 | Whether only operative part of the judgment is pronounced or full judgment is pronounced | Full |
| 5 | The delay, if any, of the pronouncement of full judgment, and reasons thereof | Not applicable |

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present: Mr. S. S. Momi, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Varun Gupta, DAG, Haryana.

MANISHA BATRA, J.

1. Prayer in this petition, filed under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case bearing FIR No. 61 dated 08.09.2025, registered under Sections 318(4), 319(2) and 61(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Section 42(3) of the Telecommunication Act, 2023 at Police Station Cyber Crime, District Kurukshetra.

2. The aforementioned FIR was registered on the basis of a written

complaint submitted by complainant Balkishan Attri alleging that he was made a victim of digital/cyber fraud and a sum of Rs.78,85,000/- was extracted from him on the premise of issuing a credit card of limit of Rs.1 Lakh from State Bank of India and then by extending threats to him to the effect that money laundering of huge amount of money was done from his Aadhar Card. Realizing that he had been cheated at the hands of cyber fraudsters, he prayed for taking action in the matter.

3. After registration of the FIR, investigation proceedings were initiated. During investigation, call details record and telecom subscriber records of suspected phones were collected and it was revealed that fraudulent communications were linked to a particular mobile phone number i.e. 91798-18415, which was registered in the name of Vinod Bhatt. The said Vinod Bhatt was joined into investigation and it was revealed that the abovementioned phone number was being used by the present petitioner, who is son of Vinod Bhatt. It was also revealed that the petitioner had been using multiple mobile devices and SIM cards for facilitating cyber fraud operations. He was joined into investigation and was arrested on 14.09.2025. He suffered disclosure statement to the effect that he had travelled to Cambodia and Thailand and had come into contact with the members of an organized international cyber fraud syndicate operating in the name of GPK Internationals. He was recruited by the syndicate through social media platforms and was instructed to procure SIM cards in India and supply them to the members of the syndicate for facilitating cyber frauds operations using VOIP based calling system.

4. The petitioner in his disclosure statement further disclosed that

he had procured 500 to 550 SIM cards through co-accused Akash Chaurasiya and other associates and had provided OTP verification and activation support to members of the cyber fraud syndicate. The abovementioned number was also got activated and supplied by him. He further disclosed about receiving payments of different amounts of money in lieu of supplying SIM cards and facilitating cyber frauds operations. He also got recovered one VOIP including 05 GSM VOIP gateway machines capable of operating multiple SIM cards simultaneously. Several mobile SIM cards, 04 mobile phones, one laptop, one CP Plus surveillance camera, one Jio router and one Airtel router as well as his passport were also got recovered. His passport was found having immigration stamps confirming his visits to Cambodia and Thailand on multiple occasions. It was also found that he had received an amount of Rs. 2,50,000/- in his account from co-conspirators. Some other persons were also nominated as accused in this case. Investigation now stands completed.

5. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case. There is nothing on record to connect him with the subject offences. Vague and general allegations have been levelled against him. The recoveries effected from him are not connected with the subject offence. He is in custody since 14.09.2025. Mandatory procedure as prescribed in law was not complied with while effecting his arrest. His antecedents are clean. He is in custody since long. His further incarceration would not serve any useful purpose. It is, therefore, argued that the petition deserves to be allowed.

6. Status report has been filed. Learned State counsel has argued

that the allegations against the petitioner are serious in nature. He along with the co-accused had duped the complainant of a huge amount of money by way of cyber fraud. He had played an active role in commission of subject crime. His participation in the alleged crime stands established during the course of investigation. He was an important link in the entire conspiracy hatched for the purpose of subjecting the victim to cyber fraud. There are chances of the petitioner's absconding or committing similar offences, if extended benefit of bail. It is, thus, urged that the petition is liable to be dismissed.

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

8. The petitioner is alleged to have played an active and pivotal role in an organised cyber fraud racket by facilitating fraudulent operations through procurement and supply of a large number of SIM cards, providing OTP verification and activation support and enabling VOIP-based calling systems for commission of cyber crimes. He is further alleged to have acted as a link between an international cyber fraud syndicate and its Indian operations including having travelled abroad to Cambodia and Thailand and coordinating with members of the syndicate. The material collected during investigation prima facie indicates the active involvement of the petitioner in the conspiracy. Call detail records, subscriber information, recoveries effected from the petitioner, including VOIP gateway machines, multiple SIM cards, mobile phones, electronic devices and bank account details, as well as the recovery of his passport bearing immigration stamps, cumulatively point towards his conscious participation in facilitating cyber

fraud operations. The disclosure statements and the financial trail further lend support to the prosecution case at this stage. The allegations pertain to a serious and well-orchestrated cyber fraud involving a huge monetary loss to the complainant. The role attributed to the petitioner is not peripheral but appears to be integral to the execution of the offence. He is also shown to have received different amounts of money in his account by way of fraudulent transactions. Cyber frauds have seen an alarming rise in recent times exploiting technological advancements to target unsuspecting and innocent persons. Such offences not only cause severe financial loss but also inflict psychological distress and erode public confidence in digital systems. The organized and cross-border nature of these crimes makes detection and prevention increasingly difficult. Offences of this nature, therefore, require a strict and deterrent approach to curb their growing menace. The trial has commenced and there is nothing on record to suggest that there would be any undue delay in conclusion of the same. Keeping in view the above discussed facts and circumstances, this Court is of the considered opinion that no case is made out for release of the petitioner on bail, at this stage. Hence, the petition is dismissed.

9. It is clarified that the observations made above shall not be construed as an expression of opinion of this Court on the merits of the case and shall not influence the outcome of the trial in any manner.

(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE

24.02.2026

Wassem Ansari

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|---------------------------|--------|
| Whether speaking/reasoned | Yes/No |
| Whether reportable | Yes/No |