



2026:AHC:12216

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

CRIMINAL MISC. BAIL APPLICATION No. - 2250 of 2025

Manoj Kumar Bhartiya

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

State of U.P.

.....Opposite
Party(s)

Counsel for Applicant(s)	:	Anil Kumar Shukla
Counsel for Opposite Party(s)	:	G.A.

Court No. - 66

HON'BLE KRISHAN PAHAL, J.

1. List has been revised. Supplementary affidavit filed by learned counsel for the applicant is taken on record.
2. Heard Sri Anil Kumar Shukla, learned counsel for the applicant, Sri Ram Mohit Yadav, learned A.G.A. for the State and perused the material placed on record.
3. Applicant seeks bail in S.T. No.1313 of 2024, arising out of Case Crime No.75 of 2024, under Sections 498-A, 302 I.P.C., Police Station- Dhoomanganj, District- Prayagraj, during the pendency of trial.
4. Learned counsel for the applicant has argued that the applicant is absolutely innocent and has been falsely implicated in the present case. He has nothing to do with the said offence. The applicant has been implicated in the case on the basis of suspicion only. The said fact stands fortified from GD No.64 dated 6.2.2024 at 15:59 hours, whereby it is mentioned by a neighbour that deceased had accidentally fallen from the roof.
5. Learned counsel for the applicant has further stated that there is no inclining of the case being of homicidal death in the said GD, but subsequently the FIR has been instituted after a delay of more than three days by the brother-in-law (*Sadhu*) of the deceased person. As such, the applicant is entitled for bail.
6. It is further argued by learned counsel for the applicant that there is no

criminal antecedent of the applicant. The applicant is languishing in jail since 10.2.2024, as such, the period of incarceration is marginally less than two years. There is no likelihood of conclusion of trial in near future as not a single witness has been examined to date. He is ready to cooperate with trial. In case, the applicant is released on bail, he will not misuse the liberty of bail.

7. Learned A.G.A. has vehemently opposed the bail application.

8. This Court had called for the status of trial from the concerned trial court. As per the said status report dated 2.12.2025, not a single witness has been examined to date.

9. The well-known principle of "*Presumption of Innocence Unless Proven Guilty*" gives rise to the concept of bail as a rule and imprisonment as an exception.

10. A person's right to life and liberty, guaranteed by Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, cannot be taken away simply because the person is accused of committing an offence until the guilt is established beyond a reasonable doubt. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution states that no one's life or personal liberty may be taken away unless the procedure established by law is followed, and the procedure must be just and reasonable. The said principle has been reiterated by the Supreme Court in ***Satender Kumar Antil Vs. Central Bureau of Investigation and another, (2022) 10 SCC 51***.

11. Reiterating the aforesaid view, the Supreme Court in the case of ***Manish Sisodia Vs. Directorate of Enforcement, 2024 INSC 595***, has again emphasized that the very well-settled principle of law that bail is not to be withheld as a punishment is not to be forgotten. It is high time that the Courts should recognize the principle that "*bail is a rule and jail is an exception*".

12. Learned A.G.A./State Law Officer could not bring forth any exceptional circumstances which would warrant denial of bail to the applicant.

13. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, submissions made by learned counsel for the parties, the evidence on record, taking into consideration the delay in institution of FIR and the said GD entry coupled

by the fact that there is no likelihood of conclusion of trial in near future as not a single witness has been examined to date, and without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, *prima faice*, the Court is of the view that the applicant has made out a case for bail. The bail application is ***allowed***.

14. Let the applicant- **Manoj Kumar Bhartiya**, who is involved in aforementioned case crime be released on bail on his furnishing a personal bond and two sureties each in the like amount to the satisfaction of the court concerned subject to following conditions. Further, before issuing the release order, the sureties be verified.

- (i) The applicant shall not tamper with evidence during trial.
- (ii) The applicant shall not pressurize/intimidate the prosecution witnesses.
- (iii) The applicant shall appear before the trial court on the date fixed.

15. In case of breach of any of the above conditions, it shall be a ground for cancellation of bail.

16. It is made clear that observations made in granting bail to the applicant shall not in any way affect the learned trial Judge in forming his independent opinion based on the testimony of the witnesses.

(Krishan Pahal,J.)

January 19, 2026
Vikas Verma