



2026:AHC:6879

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

CRIMINAL MISC. BAIL APPLICATION No. - 13580 of 2025

Ranjeet Patel @ Vilukhu

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

State of U.P. and Another

.....Opposite
Party(s)

Counsel for Applicant(s) : Kiran Yadav, Reema Pandey, Sarvesh
Kumar Pandey, Saurabh Raj Srivastava
Counsel for Opposite Party(s) : G.A.

Court No. - 66

HON'BLE KRISHAN PAHAL, J.

1. List has been revised.
2. Heard Sri Saurabh Raj Srivastava, learned counsel for the applicant, Sri R.P. Patel, learned State Law Officer for the State and perused the material placed on record.
3. Applicant seeks bail in Case Crime No.269 of 2023, under Sections 302, 201, 34, 120B I.P.C., Police Station- Mirzamurad, District- Varanasi, 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 FIR is delayed and it is based on vague and bald allegations. There is no eye-witness account of the incident. The allegations are *per se* false.
5. Learned counsel for the applicant has further stated that the informant was very much present at the time of cremation of the deceased person. She died a natural death. The trial is not moving ahead and it is at a standstill. As such, there is no likelihood of conclusion of trial in near future.
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 23.11.2023, as such, the period of incarceration is more than two years. 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 State Law Officer 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 15.12.2025, 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 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 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- **Ranjeet Patel @ Vilukhu**, 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 12, 2026

Vikas Verma