

BA 683/2026, Navjot Singh Sahota Vs State
FIR No. 14/2025, PS EOPS

Present: Sh. Amandeep Singh, Counsel for the applicant-accused Navjot Singh Sahota.
APP for the State/Respondent.

1. Arguments heard on the bail application of accused-applicant Navjot Singh Sahota.
2. Re-iterating the contents of bail application, learned counsel for the applicant-accused has contended that accused has been falsely implicated in the present case and he has nothing to do with the alleged crime. The applicant has been falsely implicated at the behest of the CEO of the complainant company The Harvesting India Private Ltd. due to professional malice following the termination of his job on 23.09.2025. The applicant-accused himself was initially the authorized signatory, who had lodged the complaint against other co-accused Ashish Kumar and Mandeep Singh and he has now been transposed into an accused. The applicant-accused is in custody since 21.05.2026. It is stated that since, the entire case rests heavily on documentary and digital evidence, which is already in the custody of the police, no useful purpose would be served by keeping him in custody. The applicant is a permanent resident of Mohali with deep roots in society, posing no risk of absconding or tampering with evidence. Nothing is to be recovered from the applicant. Filing of challan and conclusion of trial is going to take time. As such, no useful purpose will be served by keeping the accused in judicial custody. Hence, the applicant-accused be granted concession of regular bail and he will abide by the terms and conditions imposed by the Court.

(Sachin Yadav),
Chief Judicial Magistrate,
Chandigarh/08.07.2026

BA 683/2026, Navjot Singh Sahota Vs State
FIR No. 14/2025, PS EOPS

3. On the other hand, in reply filed by the prosecution, bail application has been opposed on the ground that total financial fraud involved amounts to Rs. 11,73,01,041/- and if, the accused-applicant is released on bail, he might hamper the trial, influence witnesses, or abscond, especially since certain co-accused are still evading arrest.

4. The present criminal case was initially registered on the complaint of applicant-accused Navjot Singh Sahota, wherein, it was reported that accused Ashish Kumar was appointed by the complainant as its National Head Agriculture Trade with effect from 1st August, 2022 and from time to time, he was assigned major roles to perform and accused Mandeep Singh, who was posted as Assistant General Manager, Commercial was looking after the accounts department of the complainant-company. In terms of the conditions of appointment, the accused Ashish Kumar was bound to perform assigned duties within the frame work of company policies and procedures and in due compliance with the applicable laws, but during the period of September-October, 2024 on analyzing the Agri-Tech, providing comprehensive services to farmers. On inquiries and deliberations into the records of complainant, it was found that the accused Ashish Kumar with the active connivance of accountant of the complainant-company i.e. accused Mandeep Singh, who has been working with the accused Ashish from last so many years, is indulged in manipulation and fabrication of invoices, GRNs etc. with the dishonest intention to cheat and dupe the complainant-company. It was further transpired that the aforesaid accused

(Sachin Yadav),
Chief Judicial Magistrate,
Chandigarh/08.07.2026

BA 683/2026, Navjot Singh Sahota Vs State
FIR No. 14/2025, PS EOPS

are also engaged in financial frauds by misappropriating the funds of complainant and for falsifying of financial records by conspiring with the vendors and customers of complainant-company. Considering the aforesaid fraudulent acts, the services of accused Ashish Kumar were terminated by the complainant-company and he was asked to return the company assets including the Tata Nexon Car bearing registration no. CH01-CS-6685, but despite the repeated requests, the said car is not being returned by accused. On this complaint, co-accused Ashish Kumar was arrested by the Investigating Officer.

5. Thereafter, during investigation, another complaint was given by one Sh. Ruchit Garg, Director of M/s The Harvesting India Private Limited, having its registered office at SCO No. 481-482, First Floor, Sector 35-C, Chandigarh. It is stated that the complainant company is an Agri-Tech entity engaged in the nationwide trading of agricultural products, providing comprehensive end-to-end services to farmers ranging from seed supply to market linkage, including grading, packaging, logistics support, crop advisory, and financial products. It is stated that the company had appointed one Ashish Kumar as its National Head of Agriculture Trade w.e.f. 01.08.2022. He was entrusted with the overall headship of wholesale trading of agricultural commodities across India, including on-boarding vendors/customers, determining sales/purchase prices, and managing financial trade transactions. Another co-accused Mandeep Singh, was employed as the Assistant General Manager (Commercial) at the

(Sachin Yadav),
Chief Judicial Magistrate,
Chandigarh/08.07.2026

BA 683/2026, Navjot Singh Sahota Vs State
FIR No. 14/2025, PS EOPS

Chandigarh head office and he was looking after the entire accounts department of the agri-trade segment. Investigation into the company records during September-October 2024 revealed that Ashish Kumar, in active connivance with Mandeep Singh, indulged in systemic manipulation, forgery, and fabrication of commercial invoices and Goods Receipt Notes. They raised bogus bills to divert and misappropriate corporate funds under the guise of fictitious agricultural supply transactions, thereby causing immense wrongful loss to the complainant company and no actual material transactions took place. It is stated that the applicant-accused Navjot Singh Sahota was originally an authorized signatory and during investigation, it was discovered that he while working as the Assistant General Manager (Procurement), knowingly and unilaterally entered into a secret, unauthorized settlement agreement with the prime accused Ashish Kumar. This agreement was executed without any board resolution, prior permission, or legal authority from the company's management. The primary intent behind this settlement was to suppress true facts, shield the co-conspirators, and bury the evidence of financial crimes. It is stated that total loss quantified by the investigating agency as a direct result of this multi-layered conspiracy is Rs. 11,73,01,041/-.

6. From the above facts, the main allegation against the present accused, as per the complaint and reply submitted by the prosecution, is that he earlier being complainant in the present case entered into a compromise with the main accused Ashish Kumar without any authority and he has

(Sachin Yadav),
Chief Judicial Magistrate,
Chandigarh/08.07.2026

BA 683/2026, Navjot Singh Sahota Vs State
FIR No. 14/2025, PS EOPS

committed cheating with the complainant company with an intention to conceal the true facts relating to the commission of offence and it is also alleged against him that he entered into unauthorized transaction causing wrongful loss to the company and he in connivance with other customers/vendors including Shyam Lal Khechi issued and utilized forged invoices in the name of different customers, thereby committing fabrication and manipulation of records and he played an active role in the fraudulent transactions.

7. On 07.07.2026, the Investigation Officer was present in the Court and he was specifically asked to place on record any document or invoice which was allegedly approved by the present applicant-accused and which was found to be forged. Today, the Investigation Officer is present in the Court and has stated at bar that no such invoice is in his possession. The investigation officer has also submitted that other allegation against the accused is that he entered into compromise with the main accused Ashish Kumar without any approval from the company. The Investigation Officer was asked whether the present accused Navjot Singh was in any way benefited by way of alleged settlement/compromise or whether accused Navjot Singh has received any money himself in the alleged settlement, but the Investigation Officer has admitted that present accused did not receive any money or other valuable consideration.

8. Also, learned counsel for the accused-applicant has placed on record a compromise deed dated 14.08.2025 which was also entered into by

(Sachin Yadav),
Chief Judicial Magistrate,
Chandigarh/08.07.2026

BA 683/2026, Navjot Singh Sahota Vs State
FIR No. 14/2025, PS EOPS

accused Navjot Singh on behalf of M/S Harvesting India Pvt. Ltd with some other firm and the present complainant Ruchit Garg is a witness upon the same. This compromise also does not show that any specific authorization letter was given to the accused-applicant for entering into compromise.

9. Even otherwise, mere entering into compromise, which has not benefited the applicant-accused in any way, is not sufficient to deny the present bail application. When there is no document in possession of the Investigating Officer to show involvement of applicant-accused in the commission of present offence and when there is no forged invoice allegedly issued by the applicant-accused, there is no reason with the Court to keep the accused-applicant in custody. The allegations levelled against the accused-applicant are yet to be proved. Nothing is to be recovered from the accused. Presentation of challan and conclusion of trial is going to take time. Hence, no useful purpose will be served by keeping the applicant/accused behind the bars. As such, without commenting on the merits of the case, accused-applicant is admitted to bail subject to furnishing bail bond in the sum of Rs.50,000/- with one surety of like amount. Application stands disposed off accordingly. Requisite bonds not furnished. Intimation in this regard be sent to concerned Jail Superintendent. Papers be tagged with remand papers etc.

Pronounced: 08.07.2026
Narender, Stenographer-II

(Sachin Yadav),
Chief Judicial Magistrate,
Chandigarh (UID:HR0324).

(Sachin Yadav),
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Chandigarh/08.07.2026