

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO(s). _____ OF 2026

(arising out of SLP (Crl.) No(s).501 of 2026)

SHABNAM NISCHAL

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB & ANR.

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

1. Leave granted.
2. The appellant challenges the judgment and order dated 22.12.2025 in CRM-M No.59950 of 2025, titled "*Mohit Nishchal and Anr. Vs. State of Punjab*", passed by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh.
3. On 12.01.2026, this Court passed the following order:-

"1. Petitioner(s) challenges the judgment and order dated 22.12.2025, titled "*Mohit Nischal & Anr. vs. State of Punjab*" passed by High Court of Punjab and Haryana in CRMM No. 59950/2025.

2. Issue notice. Ms. Abha Sharma, learned Advocate-on-Record accepts notice on behalf of respondent no.1. Hence, the formal service of notice on the said respondent is waived.

3. Dasti service, in addition, is permitted. Let steps for service be taken within two weeks.

4. In the notice itself let it be mentioned that the 2

respondent(s) is required to file the counter affidavit and reply to the interlocutory application(s), within a period of two weeks. Rejoinder affidavit thereto, if any, be filed within a period of one week thereafter.

5. In the event of arrest in connection with FIR No. 186/2025 dated 23.09.2025 registered at Police Station Division 6, District Police Commissionerate Jalandhar, the petitioner(s) shall be released on bail on the appropriate terms and conditions as may be fixed by the Investigating Officer/Arresting Officer.

6. Needless to add, till the investigation is not complete in all respects, the petitioner(s) shall fully cooperate, and if the challan/charge sheet is filed, she would maintain good conduct and not attempt to influence any of the witnesses in any manner till the completion of the trial.

7. List the matter on 23.02.2026."

4. We have heard learned counsel for the parties and also perused the materials available on record.

5. It is not in dispute that the conditions stand fully complied with; the appellant has cooperated during the investigation; she has not threatened or intimidated any of the witnesses; or has tried to influence the investigation in any manner.

6. We have noticed the nature of crime and the manner in which it was allegedly committed.

7. We allow the present appeal by confirming the order dated 12.01.2026, passed by this Court, with a direction to the appellant to continue to cooperate during the investigation/trial and not to take any unnecessary adjournment. Also, the appellant shall report before the Investigating Officer every alternate Monday, between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., till such time the investigation is complete in all respects.

8. If the Investigating Officer/Arresting Officer/Trial Court feels that the investigation/trial is delayed on account of the appellant's conduct, it shall be open to the Investigating Officer/Arresting Officer/Trial Court to take appropriate steps in accordance with the law, including cancellation of bail.

9. The impugned judgment and order dated 22.12.2025 is set aside.

10. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

.....J.
(SANJAY KAROL)

.....J.
(AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH)

NEW DELHI
23.02.2026

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.)
No(s).501/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated
22.12.2025 in CRMM No.59950/2025 passed by the High Court
of Punjab & Haryana at Chandigarh]

SHABNAM NISCHAL

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB & ANR.

RESPONDENT(S)

IA No.8042/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED
JUDGMENT

Date : 23-02-2026 This matter was called on for hearing
today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KAROL
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH

For Petitioner(s) : Ms. Madhu Moolchandani, AOR

For Respondent(s) :

Ms. Abha Sharma, AOR
Mr. Anupam Maurya, Adv.
Mr. Praneet Das, Adv.
Mr. Sameer Taank, Adv.

Ms. Pallvi Hooda, Adv.
Mr. Tejbir Singh Hundal, Adv.
Mr. Yuvraj Nandal, Adv.
Mr. Shiv Bhatnagar, Adv.
Dr. Surender Singh Hooda, AOR

Ms. Pallvi Hooda, Adv.
Mr. Tejbir Singh Hundal, Adv.
Mr. Yuvraj Nandal, Adv.
Mr. Shiv Bhatnagar, Adv.
Dr. Surender Singh Hooda, AOR

Upon hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. Leave granted.
2. I.A. No.57192 of 2026 (application seeking impleadment) is allowed. Registry to modify the cause title accordingly.
3. The appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order, which is placed on the file.
4. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(D. NAVEEN)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(ANU BHALLA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)