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* IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI
% Date of Decision: 27.10.2026

CNR No.DLHC010512362026

+ W.P.(CRL) 3346/2026

RISHI RALLAN

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Siddharth Sunil, Adv.

versus

STATE OF NCT OF DELHI

.....Respondent

Through: Ms. Rupali Bandhopadhy, ASC for
the State.**CORAM:****HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN DATTA****SACHIN DATTA, J. (Oral.)****CRL.M.A. 33428/2026 (Exemption from filing certified copies of annx.)**

1. Allowed, subject to all just exceptions.
2. The application stands disposed of.

W.P.(CRL) 3346/2026 & CRL.M.A. 33427/2026 (Seeking Ad-Interim Extension of Furlough)

3. The petitioner is serving imprisonment for life and was convicted in FIR No. 170/2010, registered at P.S. Paharganj, Delhi, under Sections 302/120B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.
4. *Vide* order dated 05.10.2026, in W.P. (Crl.) No. 2561/2026, this Court set aside the order rejecting the petitioner's application for the first spell of furlough. The said rejection was based only on the punishment of warning. He was directed to be released on furlough for 21 days.
5. It is submitted that pursuant to the aforesaid order, the petitioner was released on 07.10.2026 and is due to surrender on 28.10.2026. It is admitted that his conviction year ends on 13.02.2027. The petitioner, by way of the

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present petition, seeks extension of furlough by four (4) weeks.

6. It is pleaded that upon being released, the petitioner visited his residential and ancestral house bearing No. 2731, Gali No. 7, near Police Chowki, Chuna Mandi, Paharganj, New Delhi-110055, and found the same in acutely dilapidated condition. It is submitted that he has no family in Delhi to supervise the repairs, which require 3 to 4 weeks of continuous work. The petitioner prays that the extended period be adjusted against the remaining furlough entitlement for the current conviction year. It is submitted that his representation dated 09.10.2026 to the concerned authorities for extension/ further spell of furlough is stated to be pending.

7. Learned counsel for the State vehemently opposes the present petition. It is submitted that the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018 do not provide for extension of a spell and that a prisoner can be considered only for the next spell of furlough in accordance with the Rules. In this regard, reliance has been placed on the order dated 14.07.2025 passed in ***Zafar Ul Islam v. State of NCT of Delhi, W.P. (Crl) 2518/2022***.

REASONING

8. It is well settled that furlough is a humanistic measure. The same has been affirmed by the Supreme Court in ***Asfaq v. State of Rajasthan, (2017) 15 SCC 55***, in the following terms:

“18. The provisions of parole and furlough, thus, provide for a humanistic approach towards those lodged in jails. Main purpose of such provisions is to afford to them an opportunity to solve their personal and family problems and to enable them to maintain their links with society. Even citizens of this country have a vested interest in preparing offenders for successful re-entry into society. Those who leave prison without strong networks of support, without employment prospects, without a fundamental knowledge of the communities to



which they will return, and without resources, stand a significantly higher chance of failure. **When offenders revert to criminal activity upon release, they frequently do so because they lack hope of merging into society as accepted citizens. Furloughs or parole can help prepare offenders for success.**

(emphasis supplied)

9. The aforesaid observation can be noted against the objectives of parole and furlough enunciated in Rules 1197 and 1200 of the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018, which are extracted hereunder:

“1197. Parole and Furlough to inmates are progressive measures of correctional services. **The release of a prisoner on parole not only saves him from the evils of incarceration but also enables him to maintain social relations with his family and community. It also helps him to maintain and develop a sense of self-confidence.** Continued contact with family and the community sustains in him a hope for life. The release of prisoner on furlough motivates him to maintain good conduct and remain disciplined in the prison.”

“1200. The objectives of releasing a prisoner on parole and furlough are:

- i. To enable the inmate to **maintain continuity with his family life and deal with familial and social matters,**
- ii. To enable him to maintain and develop his self-confidence,
- iii. **To enable him to develop constructive hope and active interest in life,**
- iv. To help him remain in **touch with the developments in the outside world,**
- v. To help him remain physiologically and psychologically healthy,
- vi. To enable him to **overcome/recover from the stress and evil effects of incarceration,** and
- vii. To motivate him to maintain good conduct and discipline in the prison...”

(emphasis supplied)

10. Qua the question of extension of furlough, reference may be made to the judgment, dated 21.07.2025, of the Coordinate Bench of this Court in



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Dinesh Kumar versus State of NCT of Delhi, W.P (Crl.) 684/2025, wherein it has been observed as under:

“8. The Court has considered the submissions advanced by the Petitioner. Owing to the absence of any statutory provision for extension of furlough, the Court is unable to accede to the Petitioner’s request. In this background, Ms. Vrinda Bhandari, counsel for the Petitioner, on instructions, submits that instead the Petitioner be released on second spell of furlough and accordingly, seeks relaxation of Rule 13 of Standing Order 01/2019.

9. The Respondents have highlighted the **mandatory one-month interval between two furloughs as stipulated under Point 13 of Standing Order No. 01/2019**, issued by the Prison Headquarters. **However, it is pertinent to note that Point 13 also permits relaxation of this requirement by the Competent Authority in cases involving emergent circumstances, including medical conditions affecting family members.**

12. **It must be noted that the provision of furlough is a benevolent one and is designed for the welfare of prisoners. The provision has the intent of rewarding prisoners for their good behaviour, when traces of reformation can be seen in them.** Considering that the Petitioner’s request for furlough is based on the bona fide grounds of his son’s deteriorating health, and in light of his own medical ailments, his request for second spell of furlough is allowed with effect from 25th July, 2025 on the same terms and conditions as order dated 5th June, 2025, passed by the Director General of Prisons, Prison Headquarters, Tihar.”

(emphasis supplied)

11. It is also noticed that the Standing Orders allow the relaxation of the cooling period in case of emergent circumstances. Furthermore, various Coordinate Benches of this Court have granted extension of furlough in multiple matters, such as: ***Jasbir Kaur v. State of NCT of Delhi, W.P. (Crl) 1793/2026*** (19.06.2026), ***Ramesh Dudhiya v. State (NCT of Delhi), W.P. (Crl) 2916/2026*** (18.09.2026), and ***Pradeep Kumar @ Sonu v. State NCT***



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of Delhi, W.P. (Crl) 2103/2026 (30.07.2026). Accordingly, there is no embargo on this Court from extending the period of furlough in appropriate circumstances.

12. Reference would also be apposite to the Punjab & Haryana High Court's decision, dated 31.10.2025, in ***Bahadur Singh v. State of UT Chandigarh, 2025:PHHC:149797***, wherein the Court, while dealing with a matter of similar nature, passed the following order:

"2. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner contends that the petitioner was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for commission of offence under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 in case FIR No.66 dated 11.05.1998 registered at Police Station Sector-11 Chandigarh ... He further contends that due to the onslaught of heavy rains, the construction raised at the field as well as the house has suffered damage which needs to be repaired. Although ardent effort has been made by the petitioner to undertake the said repairs during the 14 days' furlough that had been granted to him, however, the said work could not be completed as a result of the Diwali festivities and non-availability of labour. He further contends that it shall take another four weeks for him to complete the entire construction.

7. Accordingly, the furlough of 14 days' granted to the petitioner vide order dated 04.06.2025 (released w.e.f. 16.10.2025) is extended for a period of 04 (four) weeks. The petitioner shall surrender before the Jail Authorities on or by 30.11.2025."

(emphasis supplied)

13. Considering the facts and circumstances, the present petition is allowed. The furlough of the petitioner is extended by 04 weeks. The same shall be subject to the same conditions as previously imposed. The petitioner shall surrender to the jail authorities upon expiry of the said period. The extended period shall be adjusted against the petitioner's entitlement for the conviction year ending on 13.02.2027.



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14. The petition, along with the application, stands disposed of in the above terms.

SACHIN DATTA, J

OCTOBER 27, 2026/uk/vk