

CRM-M-6203-2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-6203-2025
Reserved on: 04.03.2025
Pronounced on: 11.03.2025

Harmanpreet Singh ...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab ...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANOOP CHITKARA

Present: Mr. J.K. Singla, Advocate and
Ms. Shivani Singla, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Akshay Kumar, AAG, Punjab.

ANOOP CHITKARA, J.

FIR No.	Dated	Police Station	Sections
7	13.01.2025	City Budhlada, District Mansa	304(2) of BNS 2023

1. The petitioner apprehending arrest in the FIR captioned above has come up before this Court under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, [BNSS], seeking anticipatory bail.
2. In paragraph 12 of the bail petition, the accused declares that he has no criminal antecedents.
3. The facts and allegations are being taken from the reply filed by the State, which reads as follows:

“.....that present case/FIR No. 07, dated 13.01.2025, under section 304 (2) BNS, was initially registered against occurred Akashpreet Singh @ Laddi son of Balwinder Singh Bhola Baljinder Singh resident of Ward No. 10, Bhikhi, District Mansa and 01 unknown person, at Police Station City Budhlada, on the statement of Manpreet Kaur wife of Gurpreet Singh resident of Borawal, District Mansa.

(ii) In the statement complainant Manpreet Kaur had stated the "I am resident of above-mentioned address. My marriage was performed about five years ago with Gurpreet Singh Son of Sukhwinder Singh, resident of Borawal. From about 6 months, I am doing job at M.J. Jewellers,

CRM-M-6203-2025

Budhlada. Today, at about 6:30 P.M. in evening as per daily routine, I was standing at I.T.I. Budhlada for going to home then two youngsters came on motorcycle and out of them the person sitting on back seat of motorcycle snatched brown colour ladies purse carried in my shoulder and run away then upon shouting by me, the persons standing ahead have tried to stop them then they fallen down from motorcycle and out of them one person ran away from the spot and the name of second person was asked by gathered persons, then he told his name as Akashpreet Singh alias Laddi Son of Balwinder Singh alias Bhola, resident of Ward No.10 and motorcycle driver has ran away from the spot. Lunch box and currency note of Rs.500/- was inside in my bag. The above said Akashpreet Singh and unknown person snatched my purse. Legal action be taken against them. I was coming to you in Police Station. You came on the spot and you apprehended the above said Akashpreet Singh."

4. The petitioner's counsel prays for bail by imposing any stringent conditions and contends that pre-trial incarceration would cause an irreversible injustice to the petitioner and their family.

5. The State's counsel opposes bail and refers to the reply.

6. It would be appropriate to refer to the following portions of the reply, which read as follows:

"From the investigation proceedings, it has come into light that both the accused persons ie. Akashpreet Singh @ Laddi and Petitioner Harman Singh @ Harmanpreet Singh had snatched the purse of the complainant. Petitioner Harman Singh @ Harmanpreet Singh was driving the motorcycle and accused Akashpreet Singh @ Laddi was riding as pillion driver who had snatched the purse of the complainant. Moreover, the name of the Petitioner Harman Singh @ Harmanpreet Singh was disclosed by main accused Akashpreet Singh@Laddi, as such, Petitioner Harman Singh @ Harmanpreet Singh was rightly nominated as accused in the present FIR."

REASONING:

7. Initially, the petitioner was not named in the FIR and he was nominated as an accused in the disclosure statement made by Akashpreet Singh @ Laddi.

8. Pre-trial incarceration should not be a replica of post-conviction sentencing. The evidence might be prima facie sufficient to launch prosecution or to frame charges, but this Court is not considering the evidence at that stage but is analyzing it for the stage of

CRM-M-6203-2025

anticipatory bail. An analysis of the above does not justify custodial interrogation or pre-trial incarceration.

9. Given the above, the penal provisions invoked coupled with the prima facie analysis of the nature of allegations, petitioner being a first offender, evidence against the petitioner which is in the nature of disclosure statement and the other factors peculiar to this case, there would be no justifiability for custodial interrogation or the pre-trial incarceration at this stage.

10. Without commenting on the case's merits, in the facts and circumstances peculiar to this case, and for the reasons mentioned above, the petitioner makes a case for bail.

CONDITIONS:

11. Given above, provided the petitioner is not required in any other case, the petitioner shall be released on bail in the FIR captioned above subject to furnishing bonds to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer, and if the matter is before a Court, then the concerned Court and due to unavailability before any nearest Ilaqa Magistrate/duty Magistrate. Before accepting the surety, the concerned Officer/Court must be satisfied that if the accused fails to appear, such surety can produce the accused.

12. While furnishing a personal bond, the petitioner shall mention the following personal identification details:

1.	AADHAR number	
2.	Passport number (If available) and when the attesting officer/court considers it appropriate or considers the accused a flight risk.	
3.	Mobile number (If available)	
4.	E-Mail id (If available)	

13. This order is subject to the petitioner's complying with the following terms. The petitioner shall abide by all statutory bond conditions and appear before the concerned Court(s) on all dates. The petitioner shall not tamper with the evidence, influence, browbeat, pressurize, induce, threaten, or promise, directly or indirectly, any witnesses, Police officials, or any other person acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case or dissuade them from disclosing such facts to the Police or the Court.

14. The petitioner is directed to join the investigation within seven days of uploading this order on the official webpage of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana and as and when called by the Investigator. The petitioner shall be in deemed custody for Section 27 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872/ Section 23 of BSA, 2023. The petitioner shall join the investigation as and when called by the Investigating Officer or any Superior Officer and shall cooperate with the investigation at all further stages as required. In the event of failure to do so, the prosecution will be open to seeking cancellation of the bail. During the investigation, the petitioner shall not be subjected to third-degree, indecent language, inhuman treatment, etc.

CRM-M-6203-2025

15. In case the Investigator/Officer-In-Charge of the concerned Police Station arraigns another section of any penal offense in this FIR, and if the new section prescribes a maximum sentence that is not greater than the sections mentioned above, then this bail order shall be deemed to have also been passed for the newly added section(s). However, suppose the newly inserted sections prescribe a sentence exceeding the maximum sentence prescribed in the sections mentioned above; then, in that case, the Investigator/Officer-In-Charge shall give the petitioner notice of a minimum of seven days, providing an opportunity to avail the remedies available in law.

16. It is clarified that if the petitioner violates any bail condition, the State and/or the victim may file an application for bail cancellation before the trial court, which shall be competent to cancel the bail or add more conditions. Furthermore, if the petitioner moves for deletion or dilution of any bail conditions, the trial court is empowered to do so.

17. **This bail is conditional, and the foundational condition is that if the petitioner indulges in any non-bailable offense, the State may file an application for cancellation of this bail before the Sessions Court, which shall have the liberty to cancel this bail.**

18. Any observation made hereinabove is neither an expression of opinion on the case's merits nor shall the trial Court advert to these comments.

19. A certified copy of this order would not be needed for furnishing bonds, and any Advocate for the Petitioner can download this order along with case status from the official web page of this Court and attest it to be a true copy. If the attesting officer wants to verify its authenticity, such an officer can also verify its authenticity and may download and use the downloaded copy for attesting bonds.

20. **Petition allowed** in terms mentioned above. All pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

(ANOOP CHITKARA)
JUDGE

11.03.2025
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Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes
Whether reportable: No.