

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH

2025:PHHC:151746



(210)

CRM-M-54958-2025  
Decided on : 04.11.2025

Neelam Bala .....Petitioner(s)  
Versus  
State of Punjab .....Respondent(s)

CORAM : HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SUMEET GOEL

Present: Mr. Vivek K. Thakur, Advocate, for the petitioner (s).  
Mr. Jaypreet Singh, DAG, Punjab.  
Mr. Ankit Bhincher, Advocate for the complainant.

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**Sumeet Goel (Oral):**

1. Apprehending her arrest in FIR No.79 dated 16.04.2025 registered for offences punishable under Sections 420, 120-B IPC at Police Station Hakima, District Police Commissionerate Amritsar; the petitioner has preferred this petition under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 seeking pre-arrest bail.
2. On 29.09.2025, the following order was passed:

*“Apprehending her arrest in FIR No.79 dated 16.04.2025 registered for offences punishable under Sections 420, 120-B IPC at Police Station Hakima, District Police Commissionerate Amritsar; the petitioner has preferred this petition under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 seeking pre-arrest bail.*

*Counsel for the petitioner, inter alia, contends that the petitioner is a lady aged 60 years, the FIR primarily has civil overtones & the petitioner is willing to join investigation and*

*cooperate therein. In order to buttress his arguments, learned counsel for the petitioner has relied upon the dicta of the judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Arnesh Kumar Vs. State of Bihar and another, AIR 2014 SC 2756** and **Mohd. Asfak Alam Vs. The State of Jharkhand, 2023 AIR SC 3610**.*

*Notice of motion.*

*On the strength of advance notice; Mr. Amit Kumar Goyal, Addl. AG, Punjab has entered appearance on behalf of the respondent-State of Punjab.*

*Adjourned to 04.11.2025.*

*The petitioner is directed to appear before the Investigating Officer on 08.10.2025 at 11:00 A.M. in concerned Police Station and join investigation. In the event of arrest, the petitioner shall be released on interim bail subject to her furnishing personal/surety bond(s) to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer/Investigating Officer. As and when further called by Investigating Officer, the petitioner shall join the investigation. She shall abide by the condition(s) enumerated under Section 482(2) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.”*

3. Learned State counsel (on instructions) has submitted that the petitioner has joined investigation and is not required for custodial interrogation.
4. Learned counsel for the complainant has vehemently opposed the grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner by arguing that allegations raised against the petitioner are serious in nature and in case the petitioner is extended the concession of anticipatory bail, there is all the likelihood that he may interfere with the investigation as also intimidate the witnesses and also the FIR-complainant.
5. Keeping in view the factual milieu of the case in hand, especially the factum of the petitioner having joined investigation and cooperated therein, this Court is inclined to confirm the order dated

29.09.2025 granting interim anticipatory bail to the petitioner, subject to the conditions as enumerated under Section 482(2) of BNSS.

6. Ordered accordingly.
7. This order should not be treated as “blanket” order. It will not be read granting petitioner indefinite protection from arrest. It shall be confined to the FIR mentioned *ibid* and will not operate in respect of any other incident that involves commission of an offence.
8. Liberty is reserved in favour of State/complainant to move for cancellation/recall of this order in case the petitioner violates any condition stipulated under Section 482(2) of BNSS or upon showing any other sufficient cause.
9. Needless to say that anything observed herein above shall not be construed to be an opinion on the merits of the case.
10. Pending application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed off.

November 04, 2025  
Naveen

(SUMEET GOEL)  
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No  
Whether Reportable : Yes/No