



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

207

CRM-M-56866-2025

Date of Decision: 13.11.2025

SANTOSH GOYAL

...Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF HARYANA

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present: Mr. Navjot Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Himani Arora, DAG, Haryana.

MANISHA BATRA, J. (ORAL)

1. The present petition has been filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') by the petitioner seeking grant of anticipatory bail in case bearing FIR No.0487 dated 29.11.2023, registered under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471 of Indian Penal Code, at Police Station Faridabad Central, District Faridabad.
2. Status report dated 11.11.2025 filed on behalf of the respondent-State is taken on record. Copy thereof, has been supplied to opposite counsel.
3. Vide order dated 09.10.2025 passed by this Court, the petitioner was granted interim bail and was directed to join investigation.
4. Learned State counsel, on instructions from the Investigating



Officer, has submitted that the petitioners have joined investigation on **16.10.2025 and 29.10.2025**, respectively. Learned State counsel further submits that he has not cooperated with the Investigating Officer as the original copies of documents alleged to be forged were not produced.

5. So far as the contention as raised by learned State counsel qua allegation of non-cooperation is concerned, this Court does not find any compelling ground to justify custodial interrogation of the petitioner due to that reason since the well settled proposition of law is that once an accused joined the investigation, then only because of the reason that nothing incriminating could be discovered or no recovery was got effected from them, would not mean that there is non-cooperation on the part of the accused. Reliance in this context can be placed upon the observation as made in **Santosh versus State of Maharashtra (2017) 9 SCC 714** and **Jugraj Singh versus State of Punjab, SLP No.9190 of 2025 decided on 20.08.2025 by Hon'ble Apex Court**. The purpose of joining investigation is to make oneself available to the investigating agency and to respond to lawful queries and not to compulsorily divulge self-incriminating information. In the instant case, the conduct of the petitioners in appearing before the Investigating Officer and responding to the investigation, satisfies the legal standard of cooperation. Keeping in view the nature of the allegations, pre-trial incarceration of the petitioners are also not required. It is also well settled that pre-trial incarceration should not be a replica of post conviction. As such, a case is made out for allowing the present petition.

6. Accordingly, the present petition is allowed and the order dated 09.10.2025, granting interim bail to the petitioners, is made absolute, subject to the conditions laid down in Section 482(2) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha



Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 (analogous to Section 438(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE

November 13, 2025

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Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No