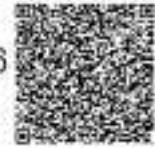


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**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATES OF PUNJAB AND
HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH**

CRM-M-57395-2025 (O&M)

Date of decision: 19.12.2025

Varun Singh @ Varundeep Singh**...Petitioner****Versus****State of Punjab****...Respondent****CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA**

Present:- Mr. Karandeep Singh Dargan, Advocate
For the petitioner.

Ms. Sakshi Bakshi, AAG, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J. (Oral)

1. Through the instant petition, filed under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (*for short 'BNSS'*), the petitioner seeks grant of anticipatory bail in case arising out of FIR No. 0080 dated 17.07.2024, registered under Sections 194(2), 115(2), 118(1), 351(2), 126(2), 140(3) and 190 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (*for short 'BNS'*) at Police Station Arniwala, District Fazilka.

2. Brief facts of the case relevant for the purpose of disposal of the this petition are that the aforementioned FIR has been registered on the statement of complainant Ramandeep Singh alleging therein that on 16.07.2024, at about 10.00 AM, he along with Arshdeep Singh and Sukhwinder Singh was sitting in their classroom and studying when the child in conflict with law namely 'AS', a student of Class 10+2, started pelting *bajri* stones at them. Upon their resistance, the juvenile entered their classroom, slapped Sukhwinder Singh and when he restrained, extended threats of dire consequences. Thereafter, at about 11.40 AM, when the complainant and his

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companions came out of the school, the juvenile, accompanied by 6–7 persons, was present there and all of them caused injuries to them. However, the matter was patched up at that time. Subsequently, when the complainant, Arshdeep Singh and Sukhwinder Singh were returning home on the motorcycle of Arshdeep Singh and had reached near the school, the petitioner along with other co-accused, who were armed with weapons, were standing there. They removed the ignition key of the motorcycle and assaulted the complainant and his companions with their respective weapons. During the assault, the complainant and Sukhwinder Singh managed to run away but Arshdeep Singh, having sustained a severe injury on his foot, fell to the ground. In an attempt to save themselves, they entered a *kothi* constructed near the railway crossing. However, the assailants forcibly entered the said kothi along with their weapons, where the petitioner along with other co-accused caused injuries to them with swords and *sotis*. Thereafter, the assailants took the complainant and Sukhwinder Singh to the school, where Lakhwinder Singh and others compelled them to apologize. At that time, the Principal of the school was present, and even there, the petitioner and co-accused caused injuries to them.

3. As per the further allegations, when victim Arshdeep Singh was taken to the clinic of a private doctor for medical treatment, the assailants reached the clinic and forcibly took Arshdeep Singh on their motorcycle with the intention to cause further injuries. The matter came to the notice of the relatives of Arshdeep Singh, who intervened and got him released from the clutches of the assailants. Thereafter, Arshdeep Singh was admitted to the Civil Hospital. The complainant prayed for taking action in the matter. After

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registration of the case, investigation proceedings have been initiated and are underway. Apprehending his arrest, the petitioner had filed an application for grant of anticipatory bail before the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Fazilka but the same had been dismissed, vide order dated 10.09.2024.

4. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case. The alleged dispute was between the complainant and accused Anmol Singh, who has already been granted concession bail by the Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board, Fazilka, vide order dated 25.09.2024. The petitioner was a juvenile at the time of occurrence. The complainant has compromised the matter with accused Anmol Singh. Even otherwise, no specific injury is attributed to the petitioner. The alleged injuries sustained by the complainant/victims have been opined to be simple in nature. The petitioner is on bail in other case registered against him. The petitioner is ready to join the investigation. His custodial interrogation is not required. No recovery is to be effected from him. No useful purpose would be served by detaining him into custody. It is, therefore, urged that the petition deserves to be allowed.

5. Status report has been filed by the respondent-State. Learned State counsel has argued that keeping in view the gravity of the allegations levelled against the petitioner, he is not entitled to get benefit of bail. His custodial interrogation is required for proper investigation in the matter. Hence, it is urged that the petition is liable to be dismissed.

6. This Court has heard the rival submissions.

7. The petitioner, who was a juvenile in conflict with law at the time of occurrence, is alleged to have formed membership of an unlawful assembly

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with the co-accused and in prosecution of common objection thereof, is alleged to have caused injuries to the complainant as well as his companions on the fateful day. Though the presence of the petitioner at the place of occurrence is alleged by the complainant while armed with a weapon but a perusal of the contents of the FIR would also show that no specific injury has been attributed to him. The injuries so sustained by the complainant/victims have been found to be simple in nature. The petitioner is shown to be on bail in another case registered against him. Co-accused Anmol Singh has been granted concession of bail, as mentioned above. In view thereof, this Court is of the considered opinion that the custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not required. It is also well settled that the pre-trial incarceration should not be a replica of post-conviction sentencing. Accordingly, the present petition is allowed. The petitioner is granted concession of anticipatory bail, subject to his joining investigation by appearing before the Investigating Officer within a period of ten days from today. In the event of his arrest, the Investigating/Arresting Officer shall release the petitioner on bail subject to his/her satisfaction. The petitioner shall also abide by the terms and conditions envisaged under Section 482(2) of BNSS.

8. It is made clear that any observation made herein above is only for the purpose of deciding the present petition and the same shall have no bearing on the merits of the case.

19.12.2025

Waseem Ansari

(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No