

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

2025.PHHC:152885



108

CRM-M-61963-2025

Date of decision: 06.11.2025

Himanshu

....Petitioner

V/s

State of Haryana

....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUMEET GOEL

Present: Mr. Sunil Kumar Dhanda, Advocate for the petitioner.
Mr. Tarun Aggarwal, Addl.AG, Haryana.

SUMEET GOEL, J. (Oral)

1. Present petition has been filed under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (hereinafter to be referred as 'the BNSS') for grant of pre-arrest/anticipatory bail to the petitioner in case bearing FIR No.352 dated 15.09.2025, registered for the offences punishable under Sections 119(3), 190, 103(1) of the BNS, 2023 at Police Station Tehsil Camp, District Panipat.

2. The gravamen of the FIR in question reflects that on 15.09.2025, the complainant, namely Smt. Premo Devi, wife of Hawa Singh, moved an application before the police stating that on 14.09.2025 at about 9:00 PM, her son Ankit had gone to a nearby shop to purchase some items, while she was standing in the street in front of her house. In the meantime, about 9-10 boys arrived on motorcycles and deliberately hit her son with one of the motorcycles. Thereafter, the said boys assaulted her son with a

gandasi blow and subsequently fled from the spot along with their weapons. Her son was immediately taken to the hospital, where the doctor declared him dead. On these set of allegations, instant FIR under Sections 119(3), 190, 103(1) of the BNS, 2023 was registered against the petitioner and his co-accused.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the accused is an innocent person and has been falsely implicated in the present case. Learned counsel for the petitioner further submits that the petitioner has no role whatsoever in the unfortunate incident leading to the death of Ankit. It is contended that the allegations are primarily directed against the co-accused Akash @ Kali and not against the present petitioner. As per the FIR, it is alleged that 9-10 boys came on motorcycles and attacked the deceased Ankit with a *gandasi*, however, the said version is incorrect. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner has iterated that in fact, only the co-accused Akash @ Kali is seen giving an iron rod blow to the deceased. Learned counsel further submits that the entire incident stands recorded in the CCTV footage, which clearly depicts that co-accused Akash @ Kali arrived on a motorcycle, and upon noticing Ankit, jumped off the motorcycle and attacked him. Learned counsel for the petitioner has further submitted that the petitioner, who was riding on another motorcycle behind Akash @ Kali, lost balance as his motorcycle slipped, and consequently fell down. A CD containing the CCTV footage of the incident is annexed herewith as Annexure P-3. It is further argued that rather the CCTV footage shows that the petitioner was, in fact, attempting to save the deceased Ankit and that no injury or harm is attributed to him in any manner. He has further argued that moreover the co-accused Akash @ Kali had a prior motive and

enmity with the deceased, as is evident from FIR No. 52 dated 10.02.2025 (Annexure P-2), in which Akash @ Kali himself is the complainant. He has, accordingly, submitted that the said enmity clearly establishes that the occurrence was the outcome of the personal grudge harbored by Akash @ Kali against the deceased, and the petitioner had no role or motive to commit the alleged offence. Learned counsel asserts that in the instant case, the FIR fails to include material facts, which further raised questions about its credibility and fairness. Moreover, the custodial interrogation should not be used as a punitive measure and is justified only when absolutely necessary for the recovery of material evidence. Furthermore, the petitioner is ready to join the investigation and hence no useful purpose would be served by sending him behind the bars. It is lastly submitted by the learned counsel that the present petition be allowed and the petitioner be granted the concession of the anticipatory bail.

4. *Per contra*, the learned State Counsel opposed the grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner by arguing that the offence is of a serious nature. He (on instructions received from SI Dharamvir) has submitted that the provision of SC/ST Act stand deleted. The investigation with respect to the petitioner is still ongoing. Learned State counsel has iterated that the custodial interrogation of the petitioner is imperative for the purpose of effective and fair investigation and to unearth the case of the prosecution. According to learned State counsel, in case the petitioner is granted the concession of pre-arrest, at this stage, it may impede the ongoing investigation.

5. I have heard the learned counsel for the rival parties and have gone through the available record of the case.

6. It would be apposite to refer herein to a judgment of the Hon’ble Supreme Court titled as ***Kishor Vishwasrao Patil vs. Deepak Yashwant Patil and another*** passed in ***SLP(Crl) No.1125-2022***, relevant whereof reads as under:

“74. Ordinarily, arrest is a part of the process of the investigation intended to secure several purposes. There may be circumstances in which the accused may provide information leading to discovery of material facts and relevant information. Grant of anticipatory bail may hamper the investigation. Pre-arrest bail is to strike a balance between the individual's right to personal freedom and the right of the investigating agency to interrogate the accused as to the material so far collected and to collect more information which may lead to recovery of relevant information.

xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

*75. Observing that the arrest is a part of the investigation intended to secure several purposes, in ***Adri Dharan Das v. State of W.B. [Adri Dharan Das v. State of W.B., (2005) 4 SCC 303 : 2005 SCC (Cri) 933]*** , it was held as under : (SCC p. 313, para 19)*

“19. Ordinarily, arrest is a part of the process of investigation intended to secure several purposes. The accused may have to be questioned in detail regarding various facets of motive, preparation, commission and aftermath of the crime and the connection of other persons, if any, in the crime. There may be circumstances in which the accused may provide information leading to discovery of material facts. It may be necessary to curtail his freedom in order to enable the investigation to proceed without hindrance and to protect witnesses and persons connected with the victim of the crime, to prevent his disappearance, to maintain law and order in the locality. For these or other reasons, arrest may become an inevitable part of the process of investigation. The legality of the proposed arrest cannot be gone into in an application under Section 438 of the Code. The role of the investigator is well defined and the jurisdictional scope of interference by the court in the process of investigation is limited. The court ordinarily will not interfere with the investigation of a crime or with the arrest of the accused in a cognizable offence. An interim order restraining arrest, if passed while dealing with an application under Section 438 of the Code will amount to interference in the investigation, which cannot, at any rate, be done under Section 438 of the Code.”

76. In ***Siddharam Satlingappa Mhetre v. State of Maharashtra*** [***Siddharam Satlingappa Mhetre v. State of Maharashtra, (2011) 1 SCC 694 : (2011) 1 SCC (Cri) 514***], the Supreme Court laid down the factors and parameters to be considered while dealing with anticipatory bail. It was held that the nature and the gravity of the accusation and the exact role of the accused must be properly comprehended before arrest is made and that the court must evaluate the available material against the accused very carefully. It was also held that the court should also consider whether the accusations have been made only with the object of injuring or humiliating the applicant by arresting him or her.

77. After referring to ***Siddharam Satlingappa Mhetre*** [***Siddharam Satlingappa Mhetre v. State of Maharashtra, (2011) 1 SCC 694 : (2011) 1 SCC (Cri) 514***] and other judgments and observing that anticipatory bail can be granted only in exceptional circumstances, in ***Jai Prakash Singh v. State of Bihar*** [***Jai Prakash Singh v. State of Bihar, (2012) 4 SCC 379 : (2012) 2 SCC (Cri) 468***], the Supreme Court held as under : (SCC p. 386, para 19)

“19. Parameters for grant of anticipatory bail in a serious offence are required to be satisfied and further while granting such relief, the court must record the reasons therefor. Anticipatory bail can be granted only in exceptional circumstances where the court is prima facie of the view that the applicant has falsely been enroled in the crime and would not misuse his liberty. (See ***D.K. Ganesh Babu v. P.T. Manokaran*** [***D.K. Ganesh Babu v. P.T. Manokaran, (2007) 4 SCC 434 : (2007) 2 SCC (Cri) 345***], ***State of Maharashtra v. Mohd. Sajid Husain Mohd. S. Husain*** [***State of Maharashtra v. Mohd. Sajid Husain Mohd. S. Husain, (2008) 1 SCC 213 : (2008) 1 SCC (Cri) 176***] and ***Union of India v. Padam Narain Aggarwal*** [***Union of India v. Padam Narain Aggarwal, (2008) 13 SCC 305 : (2009) 1 SCC (Cri) 1***].)”

Economic offences

78. Power under Section 438 CrPC being an extraordinary remedy, has to be exercised sparingly; more so, in cases of economic offences. Economic offences stand as a different class as they affect the economic fabric of the society. In ***Directorate of Enforcement v. Ashok Kumar Jain*** [***Directorate of Enforcement v. Ashok Kumar Jain, (1998) 2 SCC 105 : 1998 SCC (Cri) 510***], it was held that in economic offences, the accused is not entitled to anticipatory bail.”

15. In ***Sushila Agrawal and others v. State (NCT of Delhi) and Another*** reported in (2020) 5 SCC 1, Constitution Bench of this Court held that while considering an application for grant of pre-arrest bail the Court has to consider the nature of the offence, the role of the person, the

likelihood of his influencing the course of investigation, or tampering with evidence or likelihood of fleeing justice. The Court held:-

“92.4. Courts ought to be generally guided by considerations such as the nature and gravity of the offences, the role attributed to the applicant, and the facts of the case, while considering whether to grant anticipatory bail, or refuse it. Whether to grant or not is a matter of discretion; equally whether and if so, what kind of special conditions are to be imposed (or not imposed) are dependent on facts of the case, and subject to the discretion of the court.”

7. As per the allegations set forth in the FIR, serious charges have undeniably been made against the present petitioner. The FIR in question has been registered on the statement of mother of the deceased who alleged that on the day of occurrence when her son Ankit had gone to a nearby shop to purchase certain items, about 9-10 boys arrived on motorcycles and hit her son with one of the motorcycles, and thereafter gave a *gandasi* blow to him, resulting in his death. As per submissions made by learned State counsel, the investigation is still at a preliminary stage, and custodial interrogation of the present petitioner is necessary to unravel the truth. The learned counsel for the petitioner has failed to demonstrate that the case registered against him is false.

No cause *nay* plausible cause has been shown, at this stage, from which it can be deciphered that the petitioner has been falsely implicated into the present FIR.

8. It is befitting to mention here that while considering a plea for grant of anticipatory bail, the Court has to equilibrate between safeguarding individual rights and protecting societal interest(s). The Court ought to reckon with the magnitude and nature of the offence; the role attributed to the accused; the need for fair and free investigation as also the deeper and

wide impact of such alleged iniquities on the society. It is imperative that every person in the Society can expect an atmosphere free from foreboding & fear of any transgression. At this stage, there is no material on record to hold that *prima facie* case is not made out against the petitioner. The material which has come on record and preliminary investigation, appear to be established a reasonable basis for the accusations. Thus, it is not appropriate to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner, as it would necessarily cause impediment in effective investigation. In ***State v. Anil Sharma*** [***State v. Anil Sharma, (1997) 7 SCC 187 : 1997 SCC (Cri) 1039***], the Supreme Court held as under : (SCC p. 189, para 6)

“6. We find force in the submission of CBI that custodial interrogation is qualitatively more elicitation-oriented than questioning a suspect who is well-enconced with a favourable order under Section 438 of the Code. In a case like this, effective interrogation of a suspected person is of tremendous advantage in disinterring many useful informations and also materials which would have been concealed. Success in such interrogation would elude if the suspected person knows that he is well protected and insulated by a pre-arrest bail order during the time he is interrogated. Very often interrogation in such a condition would reduce to a mere ritual. The argument that the custodial interrogation is fraught with the danger of the person being subjected to third-degree methods need not be countenanced, for, such an argument can be advanced by all accused in all criminal cases. The Court has to presume that responsible police officers would conduct themselves in a responsible manner and that those entrusted with the task of disinterring offences would not conduct themselves as offenders.”

9. In view of the gravity of the allegations and nature of offence, since the necessity of custodial interrogation would arise for a fair and thorough investigation, this Court is of the considered opinion that the petitioner does not deserve the concession of anticipatory bail in the factual matrix of the case in hand. Moreover, custodial interrogation of the

petitioner is necessary for an effective investigation & to unravel the truth.

The petition is, thus, devoid of merits and is hereby dismissed.

10. Nothing said hereinabove shall be deemed to be an expression of opinion upon merits of the case/investigation.

11. Pending application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed off.

(SUMEET GOEL)
JUDGE

November 06, 2025
Naveen

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