



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

204

CRM-M-1101-2025

MENKA BHATIA

....PETITIONER

V/s

STATE OF PUNJAB

....RESPONDENT

Date of decision: 09.02.2026

Date of uploading: 09.02.2026

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUMEET GOEL

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

Mr. Hemant Aggarwal, DAG, Punjab.

Mr. Deepak Goyal, Advocate for the complainant.

SUMEET GOEL, J.

1. Present petition has been filed under Section 482 of BNSS, 2023 for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in case bearing FIR No.201 dated 17.11.2024 registered for offences punishable under Sections 108, 3(5), 318(4) of BNS at Police Station City 1 Sangrur, District Sangrur.

2. On 15.01.2025, the following order was passed:-

“Prayer is for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in criminal case having FIR No.201 dated 17.11.2024 registered under Sections 108 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 at Police Station City 1, Sangrur, District Sangrur (Annexure P-1).

Learned counsel for the petitioner inter alia submits that even if the allegations recorded in the FIR are taken to be correct on their face value no offence under Section 108 BNS 2023 is made out against the present petitioner. In the present case, petitioner and her husband never extended any threats to deceased Dinesh as has been alleged in the FIR. In case any such cheque issued by the husband of the petitioner in favour of the deceased was dishonoured, the deceased was having legal right to proceed against the drawer of the said cheque as per the provisions of Section 138 of NI Act. There is nothing on record to prima facie show that there was any intention on the part of the present petitioner to drive the deceased to end his life by committing suicide. It is further submitted that till date there is no final medical opinion with regard to the cause of death of the deceased available on the police record. It is further submitted that the petitioner is ready and willing to join the police for proper investigation of the present case.



Notice of motion.

Mr. J. S. Dhaliwal, AAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the State of Punjab and submits that there was some dispute between the deceased and husband of the petitioner with regard to plying of one truck which was purchased by the deceased after availing loan from some bank. That thereafter some agreement was there between the parties and husband of the petitioner gave cheque of Rs.12,00,000/- in favour of the deceased which was dishonoured on 05.09.2024 and thereafter all the accused including the present petitioner persistently started harassing the deceased as a result of which he was compelled to commit suicide by consuming some poisonous substance and he died on 17.11.2024. Learned counsel for the State further submits that the petitioner is required by the police for proper investigation of the present case.

Apparently, it appears that there was some money dispute between the deceased and the husband of the petitioner.

Now be listed on 18.03.2025.

In view of above, the petitioner is hereby directed to join the investigation with the police and in case of arrest, he is to be released on interim bail by the investigating officer/arresting officer to his own satisfaction till the next date fixed in this case. The petitioner is also to abide by the conditions envisaged under Section 482 (2) of Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023."

3. Learned State counsel (on instructions) has submitted that the petitioner has joined investigation but his further custodial interrogation is required for effecting the recovery of money in question as also truck in question.

4. Learned counsel for the complainant has vehemently opposed the grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner by arguing that the allegations raised against the petitioner are direct/serious in nature and hence he ought not to be extended the concession of anticipatory bail. He has further iterated that 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 investigation/witnesses.

5. Having heard learned counsel for the rival parties and upon perusal of the record; especially keeping in view the factum of the petitioner having joined investigation & cooperated therein and his custodial interrogation being sought only for recovery of money in question as also

truck in question; this Court is inclined to confirm the order dated 15.01.2025.

6. Accordingly, the petition is allowed and the order dated 15.01.2025, granting anticipatory bail to the petitioner is hereby made absolute, subject to the conditions as enumerated under Section 482(2) of BNSS..

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, 2023 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 of.

(SUMEET GOEL)
JUDGE

09.02.2026
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Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether reportable:	Yes/No