



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

CRM-M-11948-2026 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 30.03.2026

JARNAIL SINGH

...Petitioner

V/S

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL

Present: Mr. Munish Puri, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sukhbeer Singh, DAG Punjab.

SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL J. (Oral)

1. Petitioner seeks anticipatory bail in FIR No.0016 dated 17.02.2026, registered under Sections 115(2), 118(1), 333, 74, 76, 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Sections 323, 324, 452, 354, 354(2), 34 IPC) at Police Station PS Sadar Pathankot, District Pathankot. This is the first petition for anticipatory bail.

2. On 06.03.2026, following order was passed:

“The present petition has been preferred seeking the grant of anticipatory bail in case FIR No.0016 dated 17.02.2026, registered under Sections 115(2), 118(1), 333, 74, 76, 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Sections 323, 324, 452, 354, 354(2), 34 IPC) at Police Station PS Sadar Pathankot, District Pathankot.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the present FIR is concocted version and in fact, the petitioner suffered serious injuries inflicted by the complainant and her brother Lakhwinder Singh and to substantiate the said averment, learned counsel relies upon

his MLR (Annexure P-4) conducted on 13.02.2026 at 10.59 AM. It is argued that before the petitioner could report the said incident to police, the complainant and her brother had also got their MLR conducted on the same date at 5.30 PM and lodged the present FIR at 9.15 PM. It is submitted that the entire allegations levelled in the FIR are wrong and incorrect and in fact the prosecutrix was a domestic worker in the house of the elder brother of the petitioner, and a year ago he had made a complaint against the complainant that she had a habit of stealing articles from the home due to which the complainant and her brother were keeping the grudge. Learned counsel submits that only it was on that account that an altercation took place and the petitioner was beaten badly. However, later to cover up their misdeeds, the present FIR has been lodged.

Notice of motion.

On advance notice, Mr. Amandeep Singh Samra, AAG, Punjab appears on behalf of respondent No.1-State.

Mr. Gaurav Pathania, Advocate, has put in appearance on behalf of the complainant and undertakes to file his Vakalatnama in the Registry.

Per contra, learned State counsel assisted by learned counsel for the complainant has submitted that specific allegations of the outraging the modesty of a woman have been levelled against the petitioner. It is submitted that

the prosecutrix was assaulted by the petitioner, however, her cousin brother rescued her. Subsequently, the petitioner along with his nephew, trespassed the house of prosecutrix and both were armed with datar and base ball bats and inflicted injuries. It is further submitted that out of fear of the petitioner, who is an influential person in the village, they approached the authorities in the evening and narrated the entire incident.

Heard learned counsel for the parties at length.

The perusal of the MLR shows that following injuries were inflicted on the person of prosecutrix:-

“1. Bruise present over antero medial aspect of right forearm (mid. third) measuring approximately 7cm in length and 4cm in breadth, bluish-purple in colour. No active bleeding, pain present.

2. Pain over left side of upper chest. No visible injury seen.

3. Multiple linear reddish abrasions of varying lengths measuring approximately 7 cm in length. Abrasions are 4 in number. 3 abrasions placed over right side of mid-back & 1 present over upper back. No active bleeding.”

Further the MLR of the Lakhwinder Singh (cousin of prosecutrix) demonstrates the following injuries inflicted on the person:-

“1. Incised wound with regular margins approximately

3.5cm x 1cm x 0.5cm in dimensions placed over dorsal aspect

of distal third of right forearm, about 4 cm proximal to the

right wrist joint.

2. Pain with associated swelling & tenderness present over dorsal surface of left fourth digit.

3. Multiple linear abrasions present. Abrasions are two

in number. Present obliquely over right side of mid-back

approximately 18cm in length. Second abrasion placed

obliquely over left side of lower back approximately 10cm in

length.”

The above injuries do not substantiate the claim regarding the use of any datar or any other weapon, moreover, the petitioner has clean antecedents. Therefore, without commenting on the merits of the case, the petitioner is directed to join the investigation on 13.03.2026 at 10:00 A.M. before the Investigating Officer and to cooperate with the Investigating Agency thereafter.

In the event of arrest, the petitioner shall be released on interim bail, subject to furnishing personal/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Arresting/Investigating Officer. The petitioner shall abide by the conditions envisaged under Section 482, BNSS, 2023.

Adjourned to 30.03.2026.

However, it is made clear that this order shall not be construed as parity qua any other co-accused.”

3. Vide order dated 06.03.2026 passed by this Court, the petitioner was granted interim bail and was directed to join investigation.
4. Learned State counsel on instructions from ASI Paramjeet submits that petitioner has joined investigation and is no longer required for custodial interrogation.
5. In the circumstances of the case but without commenting on merits, the petition is allowed and order dated 06.03.2026, granting interim bail to the petitioner, is made absolute, subject to the conditions laid down in Section 482(2) of Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.
6. Pending CRM(s), if any, are also disposed of accordingly.

(SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL)
JUDGE

30.03.2026
Ajay Goswami

<i>Whether speaking/reasoned</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>
<i>Whether reportable</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>