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CRM-M-13795-2026

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

**CRM-M-13795-2026
Date of decision: 09.04.2026**

MOHD. SALIM

....Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF HARYANA

....Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL

Present:- Mr. Talim Hussain, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Mohit Chaudhary, AAG Haryana.

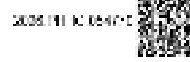
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RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL, J. (ORAL)

1. Prayer in the present petition filed under Section 482 of the BNSS, 2023 is for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.74 dated 24.04.2025, registered under Sections 3(5), 318(4) BNS, 2023 (Sections 336(3), 338, 340(1), 340(2), 61(2) and 238 BNS added later on) at Police Station Sadar Rattia, District Fatehabad.

2. Brief facts of the present case are that the petitioner in collusion with co-accused fraudulently altered/manipulated the family ID of the complainant namely Parmeshwari Devi to the extent of creating a new and fraudulent family ID of the co-accused Uttam Singh (husband of the complainant). Hence the present FIR.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case. He further contends that the petitioner is innocent and no specific role is attributed to him. He submits that the petitioner is running a Common Service Centre (CSC) and has been doing



his work as per law. He submits that on day-to-day basis large number of persons visits his centre and on the basis of documents produced by co-accused Uttam Singh and Sukhi, the petitioner updated the information through his CSC id. He submits that the work of the petitioner is only to make online requests on the basis of available record. He submits that the only role attributed to the petitioner is that he deleted the names of the complainant and her children from the family ID card and replaced the names with one Sukhi and her children. He submits that the alleged date of occurrence is between 01.01.2025 to 27.03.2025 whereas the FIR in question was registered on 24.04.2025 i.e. after an unexplained delay of 30 days thereby casting doubt on the prosecution story. He submits that the petitioner has clean antecedents as he is not involved in any other case. Learned counsel further submits that the petitioner is ready and willing to join the investigation as and when called upon to do so by the investigating agency.

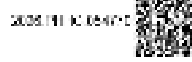
4. After registration of the FIR, investigation has been initiated and is under way qua the petitioner. Apprehending his arrest, the petitioner had moved an application for grant of anticipatory bail which has been dismissed by the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Fatehabad vide order dated 06.03.2026.

5. On the other hand, learned State counsel has already filed the status report in the matter, and he, while referring to the same, has opposed the prayer for grant of anticipatory bail, by submitting that the allegations levelled against the petitioner are serious in nature. He submits that the petitioner has played a crucial role in commission of the crime. He further submits that the petitioner is not a mere peripheral participant but the



the CSC Centre used mobile number of one Ajay Kumar working as an Operator at the CSC Centre to prepare bogus Family ID Card. He further submits that email id of the petitioner associated with the CSC Centre was used to prepare the Family ID Card. He further submits that further investigation has revealed that there is a well organized network of CSC operators across different locations who are indulged in unauthorized alterations of government records for pecuniary gains. He submits that petitioner misused his authorized access to the government portal to carry out unauthorized modifications in the database. The material on record demonstrates a pre-planned conspiracy and active involvement of the petitioner supported by cogent documentary and oral evidence. Thus, learned State counsel prays that custodial interrogation of petitioner is required to take the investigation to its logical end. Learned State counsel thus, prays for dismissal of the petition.

6. Having heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the record, this Court finds that the allegations against the petitioner are grave and pertain to a well-orchestrated act altering the identity documents. As per the status report filed by the State, the petitioner is not a mere facilitator but appears to be an active and integral participant in the commission of the offence. The investigation prima facie reveals that the petitioner misused his authorized access to the government portal to carry out unauthorized and fraudulent modifications in the Family ID database. It has further emerged during investigation that the petitioner used the mobile number of another operator, namely Ajay Kumar, and his own email credentials associated with the CSC Centre to prepare forged Family



ID records. It further indicates that the act appears to be a well-organized network of CSC operators engaged in unauthorized alterations of government records for pecuniary benefits. Considering the nature and seriousness of the offence, the requirement of custodial interrogation to unearth the larger conspiracy, and the possibility of the petitioner influencing the investigation cannot be ruled out.

7. 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 would be apposite to refer herein judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in '**State Vs. Anil Sharma**', (1997) 7 SCC 187, wherein it has been held as under:

"6. We find, force in the submission of CBI that custodial interrogation is qualitatively more elicitation-oriented than questioning a suspect who is well-ensconced 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 information 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."

8. Accordingly, this Court finds no merit in the present petition in the factual matrix of the case in hand. Moreover, custodial interrogation of the petitioner is necessary for effective investigation and if it is denied, it will leave many loose ends, which is not desired. Thus, the present petition being devoid of merits is hereby dismissed.

9. It is made clear that nothing said hereinabove shall be deemed to be an expression of opinion upon merits of the case/investigation.

09.04.2026
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(RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL)
JUDGE

i)	Whether speaking/reasoned?	Yes/No
ii)	Whether reportable?	Yes/No