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

CRM-M-16222-2026 (O&M)

Date of decision: 20.05.2026

SUKHWINDER PAL @ SUKHA**...PETITIONER****VERSUS****STATE OF PUNJAB AND ANOTHER****...RESPONDENTS****CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL**

Present: Mr. Rahul Garg, Advocate for
Mr. Bharat Puri, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Bareen Pratap Singh, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Pranav Handa, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL J.

1. Petitioner seeks anticipatory bail in FIR No. 0108 dated 04.06.2025 under Sections 137(2), 87 and 61(2) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 4 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, Police Station Kartarpur, District Jalandhar Rural. Section 64(2), 351(2) BNS were added in the FIR during investigation. This is the first petition for anticipatory bail.

2. While issuing notice of motion on 22.04.2026, following order was passed:-

“Petitioner seeks anticipatory bail in FIR No. 0108 dated 04.06.2025 under Sections 137(2), 87 and 61(2) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 4 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, Police Station Kartarpur, District Jalandhar Rural. Section 64(2), 351(2) BNS were added in the

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FIR was lodged on complaint of father of the prosecutrix who stated that his third child 'D' aged 17½ who was a student of 10+2, left the house on 19.05.2025 taking her clothes. They were searching for her but could not find any clue. That day, they learnt that 'D' was taken by Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi son of Sodhi Lal who was a frequent visitor to their house. Taking advantage of his acquaintance and with support of his mother Renu and his maternal cousin Sukha, he allured and enticed away his daughter on the pretext of marriage.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that at the time of alleged commission of offence, prosecutrix was 17½ years of age. She had since attained majority and solemnized marriage with the main accused i.e. Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi. In this context, he refers to the marriage certificate on record as Annexure P2. He further submits that petitioner was maternal uncle of the main accused and had nothing to do with the offence. He had been falsely implicated only to exert pressure. He further submits that petitioner was ready and willing to join investigation.

Mr. Pranav Handa, Advocate appears on behalf of respondent No.2 and file his vakalatnama which is taken on record.

Status report by way of affidavit of Narinder Singh, PPS, DSP, Sub Division Kartarpur, Jalandhar (Rural) has been filed

by State of Punjab, which is taken on record. Learned State counsel concedes the factum of marriage between prosecutrix and co-accused Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi.

In the facts and circumstances of the case, petitioner is directed to appear before the Investigating/Arresting Officer and join investigation within one week or as and when required. In the event of his arrest, the Investigating/Arresting Officer shall release the petitioner on interim anticipatory bail on furnishing personal/surety bonds to his/her satisfaction. The petitioner shall also abide by the conditions as envisaged under Section 482(2) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

State is directed to file status report on 20.05.2026.”

3. Status report by way of affidavit of PPS, DSP, Sub Division Kartarpur, Jalandhar has been filed by State of Punjab, which is taken on record. On instructions from ASI Lakhwinder Singh, learned State counsel submits that petitioner had joined investigation on 27.04.2026. Facts relating to marriage of the prosecutrix and co-accused Gurpreet Singh have also been verified by the State and found correct.

4. Learned counsel for respondent No.2 opposes the prayer for anticipatory bail.

5. Pursuant to order of this Court dated 22.04.2026, petitioner has joined investigation on 27.04.2026. Considering all relevant facts and circumstances, the petition is allowed and order dated 22.04.2026, granting interim anticipatory 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 miscellaneous applications, if any, stand disposed of.

20.05.2026

Sumit Singla

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable

(SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL)
JUDGE

: Yes/No
: Yes/No