



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH.

202 CRM-M-16608-2026 (O&M).
Date of Decision: 19.05.2026.

Bachittar SinghPetitioner.
VERSUS
State of PunjabRespondent.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present: Mr. Inder Pal Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.
Mr. Manjinder Singh Bhullar, DAG, Punjab.

SANJAY VASHISTH, J. (Oral)

1. Prayer in this petition, filed under Section 482 of the BNSS, 2023 (earlier Section 438 Cr.P.C.), is for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner, who has been booked in a criminal case arising out of First Information Report, as detailed hereunder:-

Name of petitioner(s)	FIR No.	Date	Section(s)	Police Station	District
Bachittar Singh	54	11.10.2024	32, 33, 63, 66 of Indian Forest Act, Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, Sections 121,132, 324(3), 326(e) of BNS	Verowal	Tarn Taran

2. On 25.03.2026, following order was recorded:-

- “1. xxx
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that on similar allegations a complaint had been filed by the Forest Range Officer, which is still pending adjudication before the concerned Court. Initiation of criminal proceedings by virtue of present FIR is thus a sheer abuse of process of law.

Continuing further, learned counsel has drawn the attention of the

Court to order dated 27.11.2025 passed by the then learned Additional Sessions Judge, Tarn Taran, vide which taking note of the entire facts, the concession of interim anticipatory bail was granted to the petitioner. Due to certain unavoidable reasons, however, petitioner could not join the investigation. Resultantly, the concession of interim bail was not confirmed and the application seeking anticipatory bail was dismissed by the learned Additional Sessions Judge, vide order dated 11.12.2025.

Learned counsel for the petitioner further submits that the custodial interrogation of petitioner, whose past antecedents are clean, is not needed, for nothing is to be recovered from him, but being a law abiding citizen, he is ready and willing to join the investigations as and when called for by the Investigating officer.

Notice of motion.

Mr. Kamalpreet Bawa, DAG, Punjab, accepts notice on behalf of respondent-State and seeks time to file detailed status report.

Adjourned to 14.05.2026.

In the meanwhile, the petitioner is hereby directed to join investigation within seven days from today and co-operate in the same. In the event of the arrest of the petitioner, he shall be released on interim bail on his furnishing personal/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer/Investigating Officer. He shall also abide by conditions as envisaged under Section 482(2) BNSS.”

3. Continuing the submissions, learned counsel for the petitioner contends that in compliance of the order dated 25.03.2026, passed by this Court, petitioner has joined the investigation, and has fully co-operated. Therefore, learned counsel prays for confirmation of the said interim anticipatory bail order.

4. Learned State counsel on instructions, confirms the said averment made by counsel for the petitioner of joining the investigation by the petitioner, and submits that as of now, custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not required for the purpose of investigation.

5. Heard learned counsel for the parties.

6. Since, petitioner has already joined the investigation and custodial interrogation is no more required; ad-interim bail order dated 25.03.2026, passed by this Court is hereby made absolute. Accordingly, present petition is allowed.

However, petitioner shall continue to join the investigation as and when required to do so and abide by all the terms and conditions laid down under Section 482(2) of BNSS, 2023.

7. Besides, it is directed that petitioner would hand over his passport to the Investigating Agency or to Court concerned, if he possesses. Otherwise, would submit an affidavit, disclosing the fact that he does not possess any passport.

8. Accordingly, petition stands disposed of.

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

19.05.2026
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Whether speaking/ reasoned : Yes/ No
Whether Reportable : Yes/ No