



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH
CRM-M-20374-2026 (O&M)

Shinda

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

Sr. No.	Particulars	Details
1	The date when the judgment is reserved	06.05.2026
2	The date when the judgment is pronounced	08.05.2026
3	The date when the judgment is uploaded on the website	08.05.2026
4	Whether only operative part of the judgment is pronounced or full judgment is pronounced	Full
5	The delay, if any, of the pronouncement of full judgment, and reasons thereof	Not applicable

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present: Mr. Rishu Mahajan, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Roshandeep Singh, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J :-

CRM-20038-2026

This application has been filed by the applicant-petitioner for placing on record the challan report as Annexure P-6.

For the reasons mentioned in the application, the same is allowed, subject to all just exceptions. Annexure P-6 is ordered to be taken on record.

Main case

The present petition has been filed under Section 482 of the

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Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') by the petitioner seeking grant of anticipatory bail in case bearing FIR No. 46 dated 23.02.2026 registered under Section 105 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNS') and Sections 15 and 21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (for short, '*NDPS Act*') at Police Station Shahkot, Jalandhar.

2. The aforementioned FIR was registered on the basis of statement recorded by the complainant Manjeet Kaur on 23.02.2026, alleging therein that her husband Jagraj Singh was a drug addict. He used to loiter along with the present petitioner and one Kulwant Singh @ Babbu, who were involved in sale of poppy husk and heroin etc. On 22.02.2026, her husband had gone along with the petitioner and the above-named Kulwant Singh but did not return. Her mother-in-law had started searching for him. The dead body of her husband was found lying in the field abutting the Satluj river dam. By alleging that the present petitioner and co-accused Kulwant Singh must have given some poisonous substance to her husband leading to his death, she prayed for taking action in the matter.

3. After registration of FIR, investigation proceedings have been initiated and are underway. Postmortem examination of the dead body of the victim was conducted. Apprehending his arrest, the petitioner moved an application for grant of anticipatory bail, which was dismissed by the court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Jalandhar vide order dated 23.03.2026.

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4. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case. As on the date of occurrence, he was not present in the vicinity, wherein the incident had taken place. Rather he had gone to Jodhpur, Rajasthan with his vehicle. The vehicle driven by him had been even challaned with traffic challan. As such, his presence along with the victim as on 22.02.2026 was not at all possible. There is no eyewitness to the occurrence. The victim was a drug addict. The chemical examiner's report is awaited and will take time. The cause of death of the victim has not been ascertained so far. He has clean antecedents. No useful purpose would be served if the petitioner is taken into custody. He is ready to join the investigation. His custodial interrogation is not required. It is, thus, argued that the petition deserves to be allowed.

5. Status report has been filed by respondent-State. Learned State counsel has vehemently argued that the allegations against the petitioner are serious in nature. His custodial interrogation is required for conducting thorough and proper investigation in the matter. No exceptional or extraordinary circumstance has been made out in favour of the petitioner for grant of anticipatory bail. It is therefore stressed that the petition does not deserve to be allowed.

6. This Court has heard the rival submissions made by learned counsel for the parties at considerable length.

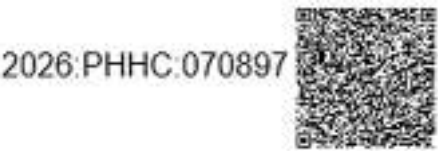
7. The dead body of the victim was found lying in the fields as on

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the evening of 22.02.2026. The exact cause of death is yet to be ascertained as the chemical examination report has not been received. The claim of the petitioner is that he along with the vehicle bearing registration number PB-02-DW-4707 had gone to Jodhpur on 22.02.2026 and his vehicle had been challaned by the traffic police also and he had deposited a sum of Rs. 2200/- as fine. The location of his vehicle is also of the same place. However, only on account of presence of vehicle owned by him at Rajasthan does not prove his plea of alibi and the veracity of such plea has to be tested during trial on the basis of evidence produced. The petitioner is accused of a serious offence. For the purpose of conducting thorough and proper investigation in the matter and for eliciting information, as to the manner in which the victim had died, custodial interrogation of the petitioner is must. Even otherwise, the petitioner has failed to make out any exceptional or extraordinary circumstance for grant of pre-arrest bail to him. It is well settled that anticipatory bail to an accused can be granted in exceptional circumstances only as a person couched in comparative safety of pre-arrest bail would certainly not disclose all the facts within his knowledge. In case custodial interrogation of the petitioner is denied to the Investigating Agency, that shall leave many glaring loopholes and gaps, thereby adversely affecting the investigation. In view of the above discussed facts and circumstances, this Court is not inclined to grant concession of pre-arrest bail to the petitioner. Accordingly, the petition is dismissed.

8. It is made clear that the observations made hereinabove are only



for the purpose of deciding the present petition and the same shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

9. Since the main petition has already been disposed of, pending application, if any, is rendered infructuous.

[MANISHA BATRA]
JUDGE

8th May, 2026
Parveen Sharma

1. Whether speaking/ reasoned

:

Yes / No
2. Whether reportable

:

Yes / No