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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-25573-2026

Date of decision: 6th May, 2026

Dharampreet Singh @ Gaggi

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present: Mr. Mudit Johar, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Ruchika Sabherwal, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J (ORAL):-

The present petition has been filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') by the petitioner seeking grant of anticipatory bail in case bearing FIR No. 72 dated 17.07.2025 registered under Sections 115(2), 126(2), 221, 132, 351(1), 351(3), 133, 311, 191(3) and 190 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNS') at Police Station Hathur, District Ludhiana Rural.

2. The aforementioned FIR has been registered on the basis of the statement recorded by the complainant Tejinder Singh, alleging therein that he was working as a Conductor in Punjab Roadways at Jagraon. On the evening of 16.07.2025, he was performing duty in bus bearing Registration No. PB-10-HT-2619 which was going from Jagraon to Nihal Singh Wala via Rama, Chakar, Bilaspur. At Jagraon, one girl namely Pooja Kaur, who was

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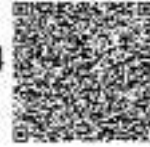


already known to the complainant, had boarded the bus. A youth sat with her. When the complainant asked the said youth to show his ticket, instead of doing so, he started arguing with the complainant. The complainant told him to alight from the bus, if he did not want to take the ticket. When the bus reached near village Mallah, the said youth made some phone calls and then the petitioner accompanied by one Billa and Motu, brother of the Pooja Kaur, and some other persons unknown to the complainant reached there. They forcibly stopped the bus. All of them including the petitioner started giving beatings to the complainant. His turban was taken off. They pulled his hair and snatched cash amount of Rs. 7500/- kept in his bag. His clothing was also torn. The occupants of the vehicle, who tried for his rescue, were also pushed and abused. Thereafter, the assailants fled away.

3. After registration of FIR, investigation proceedings have been initiated and are underway. Apprehending his arrest, the petitioner moved an application for grant of anticipatory bail. He was initially directed to join the investigation, vide order dated 07.02.2026 passed by the court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Ludhiana. However, he failed to join the investigation and therefore, the above said application was dismissed on 10.02.2026.

4. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case. He could not join the investigation in pursuance of order passed by the Sessions Court since he was involved in another case bearing FIR No. 86 dated 16.10.2024 and came to know about the same only

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when he tried to join the investigation. He was apprehending his arrest in that case at that time. Subsequently, he has been granted concession of anticipatory bail in the said case. Now he is ready to join the investigation in the present case. His custodial interrogation is not required. No recovery is to be effected from him. It is, thus argued that the petition deserves to be allowed.

5. Notice of motion.

6. Learned State counsel has advance notice of the petition and is ready to argue the matter. It is submitted by her that keeping in view the gravity of the allegations as levelled against the petitioner, the fact that he did not avail the opportunity of joining investigation when it was granted by the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, the petitioner does not deserve to be extended benefit of bail.

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

8. The petitioner is alleged to have formed membership of an unlawful assembly along with the co-accused and in pursuance of common object thereof, is further alleged to have caused obstruction in performance of lawful duty of the complainant, who is a conductor in Punjab Roadways. The petitioner along with co-accused is also alleged to have assaulted the complainant. thereby causing simple injuries to him, criminally intimidated him and also snatched money from him by overawing him. The allegations against the petitioner are specific and serious in nature. Though the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge had extended benefit of pre-arrest bail to

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him but the same had not been availed by the petitioner. Keeping in view the aforesaid facts, this Court is of the considered opinion that for the purpose of conducting thorough and proper investigation in the matter, custodial interrogation of the petitioner is must. 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. Even otherwise, the petitioner has failed to make out any exceptional or extraordinary circumstance making out a case for grant of pre-arrest bail to him. 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.

9. 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.

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

[MANISHA BATRA]
JUDGE

6th May, 2026
Parveen Sharma

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| 1. Whether speaking/ reasoned | : | Yes / No |
| 2. Whether reportable | : | Yes / No |