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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT  
CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-56738-2025 (O&amp;M)

Date of Decision:19.03.2026

Gurlal Singh

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY**Present: Mr. Amarbir S. Shergill, Advocate, for the petitioner.  
Mr. Manipal Singh Atwal, DAG, Punjab.

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**AMAN CHAUDHARY, J. (Oral)**

1. The present petition has been filed under Section 482 of the BNSS, 2023 for grant of concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in FIR No.084 dated 20.08.2025 under Section 2 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 registered at Police Station Kacha Pacca, District Tarn Taran.

2. On 03.12.2025, this Court had passed the following order:-

“1. Prayer in this petition under Section 482 of BNSS, 2023 is for grant of anticipatory bail in case FIR No.084, dated 20.08.2025, under Section 2 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, registered at Police Station Kacha Pacca, District Tarn Taran, Punjab.

2. I have been heard learned counsel for the parties and material on file has been perused.

3. Brief facts of the prosecution case are that on 20.08.2025, SI Ravi Shankar, Police Station Kacha Pacca, Tarn Taran was present at Tpoint, Manhala Jai Singh alongwith other police officials, when he became aware of a news published in Punjab Kesari dated 20.08.2025, regarding a video of a labourer setting the tricolour flag on fire, which went viral.



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4. Learned counsel for the petitioner contended that there is no material on record to establish that the Instagram ID from which the video was uploaded belongs to the petitioner and no digital forensic analysis, IP address verification or mobile device linkage was produced by the Investigating Agency. Learned counsel contended that petitioner is ready to join the investigation and to abide by the conditions that may be imposed by the Court and benefit of anticipatory bail be extended in favour of the petitioner.

5. On the other hand, learned State counsel has opposed the bail and argued that petitioner does not deserve the concession of bail in view of the gravity of the offence.

6. Adjourned to **02.02.2026**. Meanwhile, the petitioner is directed to join the investigation and in the event of his arrest, he shall be admitted to ad-interim bail on furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the Arresting/Investigating Officer, subject to the following conditions as envisaged under Section 482(2) of the BNSS [erstwhile Section 438(2) Cr.P.C.]:-

- i) that the petitioner shall make himself available for interrogation by a police officer as and when required;
- ii) that the petitioner shall not, directly or indirectly, make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him/her from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer;
- iii) that the petitioner shall not leave India without the prior permission of the Court;
- iv) such other condition as may be imposed under subsection (3) of Section 480, as if the bail were granted under that section.”



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3. Learned counsel submits that in pursuance of the aforementioned order, the petitioner has joined investigation. He further submits that in case the investigating agency requires the petitioner to appear, she shall make himself available without demur.

4. Short reply report by way of an affidavit of Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sub Division Bhikhiwind, District Tarn Taran, dated 18.03.2026, has been filed by the State, which is taken on record.

5. Learned State counsel, on instructions, submits that the petitioner has joined the investigation. He also submits that at this stage, the petitioner is not required for further custodial interrogation.

6. In view of the above and without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, anticipatory bail petition filed by the petitioner is allowed and the order dated 03.12.2025 granting interim bail to him, is hereby made absolute, subject to compliance of conditions as specified under Section 438(2) Cr.P.C. (now 482(2) of BNSS, 2023)

7. However, it is made clear that if the petitioner fails to join and cooperate with the investigating agency as and when required, the State would be at liberty to move an application for cancellation of the present anticipatory bail granted to him.

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)  
JUDGE

**March 19, 2026**

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Whether speaking  
Whether reportable

: Yes/No  
: Yes/No