IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

(133) **CRM-M-62906-2025 (O&M)**
Date of Decision: 25.03.2026

ALICE GILL

.....Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB AND ANOTHER

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE KIRTI SINGH

Present: Mr. Chandan Singh Rana, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Yadwinder Singh, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Pushp Jain, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

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KIRTI SINGH, J. (ORAL)

1. Prayer in the present petition filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short '*BNSS*'), is for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner, in case FIR No.254 dated 14.10.2025 under Sections 406, 498-A of IPC registered at Police Station Kartarpur, District Jalandhar Rural.

2. Vide order dated 10.11.2025, the Coordinate Bench of this Court had passed the following order:-

> *"Petitioner-Alice Gill has filed this petition under Section 482 of BNSS (wrongly written as 528 BNSS in the head note of this petition) for grant of anticipatory bail in FIR No.254 dated 14.10.2025 under Sections 406, 498-A of IPC registered at Police Station Kartarpur, District Jalandhar Rural. Learned counsel for petitioner states that the petitioner is ready for compromise and is also ready and willing to return the dowry articles.*
>
> *Notice of motion.*
>
> *On advance notice, Mr.Jasjit Singh Rattu, DAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of respondent-State. He seeks time to file status report. The same be filed on the next date of hearing.*
>
> *Mr. Pushp Jain, Advocate appears on behalf of respondent no.2*

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and files Vakalatnama which is taken on record. Registry is directed to tag the same at the appropriate place of the file.

Learned counsel for respondent no.2/complainant states that complainant is ready to settle down in the matrimonial home since she is mother of 8 months old daughter.

In view of the above, both petitioner and complainant will appear before the Mediation and Conciliation Centre of this Court on 17.11.2025 at 10 a.m.

List this matter before this Court on 15.01.2026.

Till next date of hearing before this Court, no coercive steps be taken against the petitioner in order to explore the possibility of compromise."

3. However, vide order dated 18.02.2026 the petitioner was directed to join investigation.

4. Learned State counsel on instructions from ASI Manjit Singh submits that in compliance of order dated 18.02.2026, the petitioner has joined the investigation on 05.03.2026. However, recovery of the dowry articles are yet to be effected from him.

5. The Court while considering the petition for grant of anticipatory bail has to strike a balance between the liberty of an individual on one hand and on the other hand, the role and the allegations against the petitioner. This Court after hearing learned counsels for the parties, is of the considered view that liberty of the petitioner will be a dominent factor for the purpose of considering prayer for grant of anticipatory bail. Non-return of the dowry articles/Stridhan will only be a factor which is subservient to the aforesaid dominent factor. While striking a balance between the aforesaid two things and in view of the facts and circumstances of the present case, the liberty of the petitioner will prevail over the argument raised by learned State Counsel.

6. Having considered the aforesaid facts and circumstances, the petition is allowed. Orders dated 10.11.2025 and 18.02.2026 passed by this Court, are hereby made absolute.

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7. This order should not be treated as "blanket" order. It will not be read as granting the petitioner(s) indefinite protection from arrest. It shall be confined to the FIR mentioned *ibid* and will not operate in respect of any other incident that involves commission of an offence.

8. Liberty is reserved with the investigating agency/complainant to move to this Court for a direction under Section 483(3) of BNSS, 2023 (erstwhile Section 439(2) of Cr.P.C.), in the event of violation of any term, stipulated under Section 482(2) BNSS, or upon showing any other sufficient cause.

9. Pending miscellaneous application, if any, also stands disposed of.

(KIRTI SINGH)
JUDGE

March 25, 2026
Ithlesh

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether reportable : Yes/No

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