



CRM-M-65462-2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

212

CRM-M-65462-2025
Decided on: 09.02.2026

Poonam Bala

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present: Mr. Puneet Singh, Advocate for
Mr. Mitul Singh Rana, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Vinay Malhotra, 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 FIR No.0219 dated 28.10.2025, under Sections 316(2) and 318(4) of BNS, at PS Dasuya, District Hoshiarpur.

2. On 20.11.2025, following order was passed:

“(i) 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
Poonam Bala	0219	28.10.2025	316(2) and 318(4) of BNS	Dasuya	Hoshiarpur

(ii) Learned counsel for the petitioner argues that petitioner is the sitting Sarpanch of the village, duly elected by the majority of its residents. Due to political rivalry, the present FIR has been registered at the instance of the

**CRM-M-65462-2025**

complainant, Sucha Ram. Complainant has attempted to portray himself as a spokesperson for other villagers by alleging that the petitioner has cheated many people of large sums of money, although there is no substance in these allegations.

(iii) Learned counsel further submits that the amount mentioned in the FIR was never credited to the bank account of the petitioner, and therefore, the allegations are nothing more than bald and baseless assertions. In fact, complainant and his associates are dissatisfied with the petitioner because, despite their opposition, she succeeded in winning the election held in October 2024. Moreover, petitioner is ready and willing to join the investigation.

(iv) Notice of motion.

On advance notice, Mr. Neeraj Madaan, Sr. DAG, Punjab puts in appearance on behalf of the respondent – State. He seeks some time to file reply.

(v) Adjourned to 09.02.2026.

(vi) In the meanwhile, petitioner is directed to join the investigation as and when required to do so by the Investigating Agency. In the event of her arrest, petitioner shall be released on interim bail, subject to her furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer. The petitioner shall also be abide by all the conditions laid down under Section 482(2) of BNSS, 2023 (earlier Section 438(2) Cr.P.C.).

(vii) Besides, it is directed that petitioner would hand over her passport to the Investigating Agency or to Court concerned, if she possesses. Otherwise, would submit an affidavit, disclosing the fact that she does not possess any passport.

It is also directed that before leaving country any time during trial, petitioner would seek prior permission of the Court.”

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that in pursuance to the directions issued by this Court vide order dated 20.11.2025, the petitioner has joined investigation.

4. Learned State counsel on instructions from ASI Mohinder Singh, confirms the said averment made by counsel for the petitioner of joining the investigation by the petitioner on 25.11.2025, 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.

**CRM-M-65462-2025**

6. Since, petitioner has already joined the investigation and custodial interrogation is no more required; ad-interim bail order dated 20.11.2025 passed by this Court is hereby made absolute. Accordingly, present petition is allowed.

7. The 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.

8. However, present order would be subject to the submission of her passport to the Investigating Agency or to Court concerned, if she possesses, within a period of one week from today. Otherwise, she would submit an affidavit, disclosing the fact that she does not possess any passport.

9. It is clarified that in case, aforesaid condition is not complied with, this order would be considered as *non est* automatically.

09.02.2026

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**(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE**

Whether Speaking/Reasoned:
Whether Reportable:

YES/NO
YES/NO