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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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Decided on: 18.02.2026

Gurchetan Singh alias Chetan and another
.....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab
.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present: None for the petitioner.

Mr. Vinay Malhotra, DAG, Punjab.

SANJAY VASHISTH, J.

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 petitioners, who have been booked in a criminal case arising out of First Information Report, as detailed hereunder:-

Name & age of Petitioner (s)	FIR No.	Date	Section(s)	Police Station	District
i) Gurchetan Singh alias Chetan, aged 14 years ii) Mandeep Singh alias Kuldeep Singh alias Deepu, aged 14 years	0007	17.01.2025	380 IPC	Nakodar Sadar	Jalandhar Rural

2. On 02.12.2025, following order was passed:-



“ 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 petitioners, who have been booked in a criminal case arising out of First Information Report, as detailed hereunder:-

Name & age of Petitioner (s)	FIR No.	Date	Section(s)	Police Station	District
i) Gurchetan Singh alias Chetan, aged 14 years ii) Mandeep Singh alias Kuldeep Singh alias Deepu, aged 14 years	0007	17.01.2025	380 IPC 1860	Nakodar Sadar	Jalandhar Rural

2. As per allegations in the FIR, on 10.05.2024, complainant – Ram Parkash, had to go to Chandigarh, Jaipur and Rajasthan, along with his family to some relatives house, and for that reason on 10.05.2024, he handed-over the keys of main gate of his house to Paramjeet Kaur (mother of petitioner No.1), who is neighbour of the complainant. On returning back on 24.05.2024, it was noticed that cupboard lock was opened and on checking of the same, gold articles, i.e., about 21 tolas of gold, silver (about 1/2 kg), two sets of diamond tops for ears and cash of Rs.35,000/- were missing from the cupboard. In FIR, the total value of this material was assessed as Rs.13,00,000/- by the complainant.

3. Learned counsel argues that a false case has been planted upon the petitioners, because after noticing the missing of the gold and other ornaments along with cash amount on 24.05.2024, FIR has been got registered after a period of about 07 months, i.e., on 17.01.2025.

Further argues that although from the CCTV footage, it was found that both the petitioners were using the scooter of the complainant and were coming and going outside the house,



however, it would not be enough to assume that the alleged ornaments and cash amount have also been stolen by them, because, had the allegations been true, immediately, FIR could have been got registered on 24.10.2024 or immediately thereafter. It cannot be assumed that the theft of ornaments and cash amount, if any, had taken place only prior to 24.10.2024.

4. *Learned counsel also argues that petitioners are teenagers of the age of only 14 years and putting them to custodial interrogation may deteriorate their complete future career. In regard to the maintainability of the anticipatory bail petition of a case of juvenile, learned counsel relies upon the judgment of this Court rendered in **Jatin v. State of Punjab, 2024 NCPHHC 76452 : Law Finder Doc Id #2589263**. Further submits that petitioners are ready to join investigation, if protected from arrest. Thus, he prays for grant of concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioners in the present case.*

5. *Notice of motion.*

6. *On advance notice, learned State counsel puts in appearance on behalf of the respondent – State, and seeks some time to respond to the submissions addressed by learned counsel opposite, after seeking instructions. And, in case of necessity, to file status report by verifying the submissions addressed by the petitioners' counsel.*

7. *Adjourned to 18.02.2026.*

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

9. *Besides, it is directed that petitioners would hand over their respective passports to the Investigating Agency or to Court concerned, if they possess. Otherwise, would submit requisite affidavits, disclosing the fact that they do not possess any*

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

3. Though there is no one present in Court today, to represent the petitioners, learned State counsel, on instructions, submits that in compliance with the order dated 02.12.2025 passed by this Court, petitioners have joined the investigation, though no recovery could be effected. It is further submitted that, as of now, custodial interrogation of petitioners is not required for the purposes of the investigation.

4. I have heard learned State counsel and perused the paper-book.

5. Since, petitioners have already joined the investigation and custodial interrogation is no more required; ad-interim bail order dated 02.12.2025, passed by this Court is hereby made absolute. Accordingly, present petition is allowed.

However, petitioners 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.

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

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



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6. Accordingly, petition stands disposed of.

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

18.02.2026

Rashmi

Whether Speaking/Reasoned: **YES/NO**

Whether Reportable: **YES/NO**