



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

115

CRM-M-67732-2025

Date of Decision: 19.02.2026

ANIKET THAKUR

...Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present: Mr. Tarun K. Sharma, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Ruchika Sabherwal, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J. (ORAL)

1. The present petition has been filed under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short-‘BNSS’) by the petitioner for grant of regular bail in case arising out of FIR No.119 dated 23.08.2025, registered under Sections 105, 324(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short-‘BNS’), at Police Station Bullowal, District Hoshiarpur.

2. The aforementioned FIR was registered on the allegation that on the night of 22.08.2025, on receipt of an information about an accident taken place in the vicinity of village Madiala and a gas tanker had been badly burnt, a police party had reached at the spot and had found the gas tanker in question burning. Inquiry was made, which reveals that the gas tanker while turning towards the link road to village Ram Nagar Dheha, had collided with a Mahindra Bolero Pickup coming from Jalandhar side and due to the collision, the gas tanker had started burning. It was further revealed



that several persons were burnt in the incident and loss of lives had occurred. The fire was eventually extinguished. The tanker bearing registration No. PB-AF-9933 was found burnt. The body of the Mahindra Bolero Pickup was also found in a burnt condition and its driver was missing. Investigation proceedings were initiated. As many as seven persons lost their lives in the accident and 19 persons sustained injuries in the accident. During the course of investigation, it was revealed that the petitioner was the driver of the Mahindra Bolero Pickup bearing registration No. HP-83A-5404. He was nominated as an accused and was arrested on 21.10.2025. The investigation stands completed and the challan has been presented.

3. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case. The ingredients for commission of offence punishable under Section 105 of BNS are not at all attracted in this case. It is submitted that there was neither any rashness or negligence on the part of the petitioner nor was any intention attributable to him to commit the alleged offence. No incriminating material has been collected to connect the petitioner with the commission of the offence. The investigation stands completed. The trial is likely to take considerable time to conclude. The petitioner has been in custody for the last four months. His further incarceration would serve no useful purpose. The petitioner has clean antecedents. Therefore, he prays for grant of regular bail.

4. Status report has been filed. Learned State counsel has opposed the petition and submitted that the allegations against the petitioner are serious in nature. Keeping in view the gravity of the allegations and the fact that several persons have lost their lives and many others sustained injuries



in the accident, it is argued that the petitioner does not deserve the concession of bail.

5. This Court has considered the rival submissions.

6. The petitioner was admittedly the driver of Mahindra Bolero Pickup bearing registration No. HP-83A-5404, which had collided with the gas tanker due to which the tanker had caught fire, resulting in the death of several persons. As per the allegations in the FIR and as reflected in the status report, it was the driver of the tanker who allegedly took a turn towards the link road, thereby causing the accident and consequent loss of lives. The question whether the ingredients of the offence punishable under Section 105 of the BNS are attracted against the petitioner or not is a matter which can only be determined upon a thorough appreciation of evidence to be led during trial.

7. Taking into consideration the period of incarceration of the petitioner, his clean antecedents and the fact that the investigation stands completed and the challan has been presented, and without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, this Court is of the considered view that the petitioner deserves the concession of regular bail.

8. Accordingly, the petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing personal as well as surety bonds to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court. He shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat, or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case. He shall appear before the learned trial Court on each and every date of hearing unless exempted by the Court. He shall surrender his passport, if any, furnish details of his mobile number(s) and Aadhaar card, and shall not change his mobile number(s) or address during the pendency of the trial.



9. It is clarified that the observations made above shall not be construed as an expression of opinion of this Court on the merits of the case and shall not influence the outcome of the trial in any manner.
10. Since the main petition has been allowed, pending application, if any, is rendered infructuous.

(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE

February 19, 2026
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Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No