



CRM-M-70613-2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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Decided on: 24.02.2026

Rajat

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present: Ms. Harshdeep Kaur, Advocate for
Mr. Pawan Attri, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Kanwar Sanjiv Kumar, AAG Haryana

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.680 dated 28.11.2025, under Sections 32 and 33 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Section 303 of BNS at PS Indri, District Karnal.

2. Status report by way of an affidavit of Sh. Satish Kumar, HPS, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Indri, District Karnal on behalf of the respondent-State has been filed in the Court today. The same is taken on record.

3. On 15.12.2025, 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:



<i>Name of Petitioner(s)</i>	<i>FIR No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Section(s)</i>	<i>Police Station</i>	<i>District</i>
<i>Rajat, aged 27 years</i>	<i>680</i>	<i>28.11.2025</i>	<i>32 and 33 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and under Section 303 of BNS, 2023</i>	<i>Indri</i>	<i>Karnal</i>

- (ii) As per allegations in the FIR lodged by the complainant, namely Rajpal Singh, Forest Officer, on 27.11.2025, at about 12:00 midnight, during routine patrolling duty, certain persons were noticed allegedly stealing at Jamna Dam (Dabkauli Dam) and Dhanaura Escape. Upon dialing emergency police helpline 112, police assistance was sought. Thereafter, one accused person was apprehended at the spot, and the following articles were seized, i.e. a motorcycle bearing registration No. HR75B2695, one Mahindra pickup vehicle bearing No. HR67B1118, one Tata 1512 vehicle bearing No. HR58 85406, one electric saw machine, two mobile phones, and a few meters of electric wire.
- (iii) Notice of motion.
- (iv) On advance notice, Mr. Kanwar Sanjiv Kumar, AAG, Haryana, puts in appearance on behalf of the respondent – State.
- (v) On the very outset, with the able assistance of learned State counsel as well as learned counsel for the petitioner, it stands clarified that co-accused Mohan was apprehended at the spot. However, learned State counsel submits that the second accused, namely Rajat (petitioner herein), succeeded in fleeing from the spot.
- (vi) In response, learned counsel for the petitioner contends that such an allegation does not find mention in the contents of the FIR. At best, the allegation against the petitioner is limited to the fact that co-accused Mohan was apprehended at the spot along with a vehicle which is owned by present petitioner.
- (vii) It is further submitted that petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case and has no past criminal antecedents, as he has never been found involved in any such criminal activity earlier. However, whether the petitioner was actually involved in the commission of the alleged theft, is a matter yet to be proved by the prosecution during trial. Moreover, all the recoveries, as detailed in the FIR, have already been effected from the spot. Hence, custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not warranted. Thus, counsel for the petitioner prays for grant of concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in the present case.



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(viii) *On the other hand, learned State counsel prays for grant of some time to file status report in the matter.*

(ix) *Adjourned to 24.02.2026.*

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

(xi) *Besides, it is directed that petitioner would hand over his passport to the Investigating Agency or to Court concerned, if he possesses. Otherwise, would submit an affidavit, disclosing the fact that he 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 ”

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that in pursuance to the directions issued by this Court vide order dated 15.12.2025, the petitioner has joined investigation.

5. Learned State counsel on instructions from Head Constable Rajesh Kumar, confirms the said averment made by counsel for the petitioner of joining the investigation by the petitioner on 20.12.2025 and submits that as of now, custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not required for the purpose of investigation.

6. Heard learned counsel for the parties.

7. Since, petitioner has already joined the investigation and custodial interrogation is no more required; ad-interim bail order dated 15.12.2025 passed by this Court is hereby made absolute. Accordingly, present petition is allowed.

8. 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.



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

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

24.02.2026
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(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

Whether Speaking/Reasoned:	YES/ NO
Whether Reportable:	YES /NO