

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

113CRM-M-70991-2025
Decided on:18.03.2026

Navdeep Saklani

Versus

.....Petitioner

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present: Mr. Sandeep, Advocate for
Mr. Ranjeet K. Jaswal, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Neeraj Madaan, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

SANJAY VASHISTH, J.

1. Prayer in this petition, filed under Section 482 of the BNSS, 2023, 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
Navdeep Saklani	108	29.09.2018	420,120-B IPC and Section 13 of the Punjab Prevention of Human Smuggling Act, 2012	Julkan, District Patiala

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that as per the case of the prosecution, an amount of Rs. 5,50,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Thousand) was paid by the complainant to co-accused Sukhdev Singh, and not to the petitioner.

3. Counsel for the petitioner submits that petitioner, being already settled abroad, had no knowledge of the registration of the FIR or

the pendency of the proceedings. Consequently, he could not join the proceedings and was declared a Proclaimed Person/Proclaimed Offender vide order dated 18.07.2020 passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Patiala.

Upon filing of CRM-M-57229-2024, vide order dated 03.05.2025, petitioner was directed to join the proceedings before the learned Trial Court through video conferencing, subject to the deposit of €1700 with the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Clerks Association.

Counsel submits that, in compliance with the direction, the petitioner joined the proceedings before the Trial Court but was unable to continue appearing via video conferencing.

4. Counsel further submits that circumstances have now changed, as petitioner has returned to India and is willing to join the proceedings in person. He, therefore, prays for an opportunity to appear before the Court while seeking protection from arrest. Thus prays for grant of anticipatory bail.

5. Learned State counsel does not dispute the factual position that, according to the complaint, an amount of Rs. 5,50,000/- was given to co-accused Sukhdev Singh, as stated in the FIR.

6. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and gone through the record.

7. In view of the fact that the disputed amount of Rs. 5,50,000/- was paid to co-accused Sukhdev Singh and noticing petitioner's willingness to join the proceedings, it is directed that

petitioner shall first join the investigation before the Investigating Officer concerned before 06.04.2026. In the event of his arrest, petitioner shall be released on interim bail, subject to his furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer. 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.).

In case he is not required for further investigation, he shall surrender before the learned trial Court concerned on or before the stipulated period i.e. 06.04.2026, which shall admit the petitioner on bail, subject to his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court/Chief Judicial Magistrate/Illaqa Magistrate/Duty Magistrate concerned, if not required in any other case.

However, the petitioner shall abide by all the terms and conditions laid down under Section 482(2) of BNSS, 2023. Besides, it is directed that petitioner shall hand over his passport to the Court concerned, if he possesses one; otherwise, he shall submit an affidavit disclosing that he does not possess any passport. It is also directed that before leaving the country at any time during the trial, the petitioner shall seek prior permission of the Court.

8. Present petition is disposed of in the above terms.

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

March 18,2026
rashmi

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