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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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Decided on: 11.05.2026

Gurmeet Singh

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present: Mr. Nishal Singh Chahal, Advocate
for the petitioner

Mr. Vinay Malhotra, DAG Punjab

Mr. Amaninder Singh Sekhon, Advocate
for the complainant

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 G.D No.34 dated 25.06.2024 (Annexure P-1), in case (FIR no.38 dated 24.6.2024 (Annexure P-2), registered under Sections 307, 447, 148, 149, 506 of IPC and Sections 25, 27, 54, 59 of Arms Act, at Police Station Sadiq, Faridkot, District Faridkot.

2. On 09.02.2026, following order was passed:

“(i) It is a case of version and cross version. Petitioner-Gurmeet Singh, aged about 34 years, has filed instant petition under Section 482 BNSS for grant of anticipatory bail in G.D No.34 dated 25.06.2024 (Annexure P-1), in case (FIR no.38 dated 24.6.2024 (Annexure P-2), registered under Sections 307, 447, 148, 149, 506 of IPC and Sections 25, 27, 54, 59 of Arms Act, at Police Station Sadiq, Faridkot, District Faridkot.



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(ii) Counsel for the petitioner submits that, at the first instance, FIR No.38 dated 24.06.2024 was registered under Sections 307, 148, 149 IPC and Sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act, 1959 at Police Station Sadiq, District Faridkot, at the instance of complainant-Sarabjit Singh.

In the said FIR, it was alleged that while the complainant was present on his 4 kanal land, Gurmit Singh was ploughing the fields with a Sonalika 60 tractor. On 23.06.2024 at about 7:30 p.m., Amritpal Singh arrived at the spot and objected to the complainant and his farmhand Gurmit Singh from ploughing the land. Upon being called by Amritpal Singh, other accused namely Talwinder Singh, Harjit Singh, Harwinder Singh, Gursharan Singh and Baljinder Singh reached the spot and started stopping the complainant and his farmhand from ploughing the fields.

It was further alleged that Amritpal Singh exhorted his father Talwinder Singh by saying, "for what purpose is the pistol kept, finish his work today," whereupon Talwinder Singh, who was standing at a distance of about 15–20 feet, fired his handgun, causing a bullet injury on the right shoulder of the complainant, who thereafter fell down. Talwinder Singh allegedly fired 4–5 more shots at the spot. Jaswinder Singh and his wife Ranjit Kaur rescued the complainant and took him to their house, from where he was admitted to the hospital.

(iii) During the course of investigation, a cross-version was registered at the instance of complainant-Sukhwinder Singh against the petitioner's party.

In the cross-version, it was alleged that on 23.06.2024 at about 7:30 p.m., when complainant-Sukhwinder Singh was preparing to plant paddy in the fields along with his brother Talwinder Singh and cousin Harjit Singh, accused Sarabjit Singh arrived on a Sonalika tractor with a cultivator attached thereto. The tractor was being driven by the petitioner-Gurmeet Singh, while Sarabjit Singh was sitting on the mudguard holding a pistol, and accused Ishwar Singh was sitting on the other mudguard. Other accused persons namely Sukhvir Singh, Rajvir Singh, Inder Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Jaswinder Singh and Ranjit Kaur, along with two other persons, also reached the spot and allegedly started forcibly ploughing the fields.

It was further alleged that upon exchange of hot words, accused Sarabjit Singh fired a shot at complainant Sukhwinder Singh, which passed through his right bicep. When Talwinder Singh and Harjit Singh attempted to lift the complainant, co-accused Sukhvir Singh allegedly fired a gunshot at them. Thereafter, upon gathering of people at the spot, the accused fled away, leaving the tractor behind and issuing

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threats.

(iv) Referring to the allegations in the cross-version, learned counsel for the petitioner contends that only role attributed to the petitioner-Gurmeet Singh is that of driving the tractor in the field. It is submitted that this fact, has already stands admitted in the original FIR version lodged by the petitioner's party, wherein it is stated that Gurmeet Singh was ploughing the fields with the Sonalika 60 tractor. There is no allegation whatsoever that petitioner caused any injury or he was armed

with any weapon. In the absence of any specific role, petitioner cannot be termed as a principal offender or even as a member of an unlawful assembly.

It is further argued that the core issue to be adjudicated during trial, is as to which party was in possession of the disputed land and who was the aggressor. However, petitioner undertakes to join the investigation and cooperate fully, provided he is protected from arrest. Thus, counsel prays for grant of concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in the present case.

(v) Notice of motion.

(vi) On advance notice, Mr. Neeraj Madaan, Sr. DAG, Punjab, puts in appearance on behalf of the respondent – State, and seeks some time to file status report in the matter.

(vi) Adjourned to 11.05.2026.

(viii) 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.).

(ix) 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..”

3. Status report by way of an affidavit on behalf of the respondent-State has been filed in the Court today. The same is taken on record. Registry is directed to tag the same at appropriate place.

4. Learned State counsel on instructions from ASI Nachhattar Singh



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submits that the petitioner has joined the investigation on 14.04.2026, and as of now, custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not required for the purpose of investigation.

5. Since, petitioner has already joined the investigation and custodial interrogation is no more required; ad-interim bail order dated 09.02.2026 passed by this Court is hereby made absolute. Accordingly, present petition is allowed.

6. 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.

7. 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.

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

11.05.2026

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**(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE**Whether Speaking/Reasoned:
Whether Reportable:**YES/NO
~~YES~~/NO**