



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

**CRM-M-16105-2026 (O&M)
DECIDED ON: 24.03.2026**

AJIT SINGH

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB

.....RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MANDEEP PANNU

Present: Mr. Ruhani Chadha, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sahil Chowdhary, AAG, Punjab.

MANDEEP PANNU, J (ORAL)

1. This is the first petition under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (corresponding to Section 438 Cr.P.C.) for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.33 dated 08.02.2026, registered under Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 and Section 238 of BNS, 2023 (earlier Section 201 IPC) at Police Station Lopoke, District Amritsar Rural.

2. The FIR in the present case has been registered on the allegations that on 08.02.2026, SI Gurbaksh Singh, along with a police party, was present at Adda Ram Tirath in connection with patrolling and the search for anti-social elements. During this time, SI Gurbaksh Singh received secret information to the effect that Harjit Singh @ Billa and Sukhmanpreet Singh were in contact with Pakistani smugglers and had, a few days prior, received hand grenades through a drone for the purpose of carrying out extremist



activities. It was further informed that on that day, both of them had gone to village Shaila Khurd, Hoshiarpur, and could be apprehended if a raid was conducted promptly. Acting upon the said information, immediate action was taken, and accused Sukhmanpreet Singh was apprehended. During the course of investigation, Sukhmanpreet Singh made a disclosure statement stating that a few days earlier, he along with Harjit Singh @ Billa, Lakhbir Singh @ Lakha, retired police official Ajit Singh-present petitioner, and Mantej Singh Pehalwan had received hand grenades sent by Pakistani smugglers through a drone. He further disclosed that out of the said consignment, two hand grenades had been concealed by him and Harjit Singh @ Billa in bushes near Satyam College, village Kotla Doom, Ram Tirath Road, Amritsar. Pursuant to the said disclosure, two hand grenades were recovered at the instance of accused Sukhmanpreet Singh from the aforesaid disclosed location.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has argued that the petitioner is a law-abiding and upright individual who has rendered more than three decades of unblemished service in the Punjab Police Department with utmost dedication, integrity, and professionalism, maintaining an impeccable record till his retirement in 2022. It has been further contended that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case due to personal vendetta, as his family had opposed the illegal and arbitrary conduct prevailing in Village Chak Mishri Khan, District Amritsar, leading to his wrongful implication at the instance of the Sarpanch with an oblique motive to harass and intimidate him. He further contends that a bare perusal of the allegations in the FIR (Annexure P-1) reveals that no *prima facie* case is made out against the petitioner, and the present proceedings are nothing but



a gross abuse of the process of law. Learned counsel further submits that the petitioner has no criminal antecedents and has never been involved in any criminal case.

4. Notice of motion.

5. On the asking of the Court, Mr. Sahil Chowdhary, AAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State and contested the present petition on the ground that serious allegations have been levelled against the petitioner. He seeks dismissal of the present petition on the ground that the petitioner is specifically named in the disclosure statement made by co-accused Sukhmanpreet Singh, wherein it has been categorically stated that the petitioner, along with other co-accused, had actively participated in receiving hand grenades sent through drones by Pakistani smugglers for carrying out extremist activities. It is further submitted that, pursuant to the said disclosure, recovery of two hand grenades has been effected, which lends credence to the prosecution case.

6. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the record with their able assistance. The allegations in the present case are of a grave and serious nature, involving recovery of hand grenades allegedly supplied through drones by Pakistani smugglers for carrying out extremist activities. The petitioner has been specifically named in the disclosure statement made by co-accused Sukhmanpreet Singh, and the recovery of two hand grenades pursuant thereto lends *prima facie* support to the prosecution case.

7. At this stage, the contention of the petitioner regarding false implication on account of personal vendetta cannot be gone into in detail, as



the same would require appreciation of evidence, which is not permissible at this stage.

8. Considering the seriousness of the allegations, the nature of the offence, and the role attributed to the petitioner, this Court does not find it to be a fit case for grant of the anticipatory bail.

9. Consequently, the present petition is dismissed.

10. However, it is clarified that nothing observed hereinabove shall be construed as an expression on the merits of the case.

11. All pending miscellaneous application(s), if any, stands disposed of.

24.03.2026

Poonam Negi

(MANDEEP PANNU)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No