



CRM-M-54198-2025

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

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Decided on:20.03.2026

Mohinder Singh Lambardar**.....Petitioner**

Versus

State of Punjab**.....Respondent****CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH**

Present: Mr. A.S. Manaise, 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
Mohinder Singh Lambardar, aged 72 years	129	30.08.2025	337, 339, 340, 61(2) of BNS	Cantt, Ferozepur, District Ferozepur

2. As per the allegations in the FIR, a case bearing FIR No. 1 dated 01.01.2025, under Section 21 of the NDPS Act, was registered at Police Station STF, District STF Wing, Mohali, against two accused, namely: (i) Harnek Singh and (ii) Sunil Singh @ Gurpreet Singh, who were subsequently arrested.

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One of the accused, Sunil Singh @ Gurpreet Singh, claimed himself to be a juvenile and filed a bail application before the Juvenile Justice Board. It is alleged that his actual date of birth is 04.04.2003; however, he altered the same to 04.04.2008 in order to claim the benefit of juvenility. Petitioner, being the Lambardar of the village, along with a Panch of the village, namely Harbans Singh, verified the said date of birth.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner argues that, petitioner being the Lambardar of village, he was not in direct contact with the youth of the village and, therefore, under a bona fide belief, and more so as the date of birth had already been verified by the co-accused Harbans Singh (Panch of the village)—petitioner also signed the same without any ulterior motive or personal gain.

Learned counsel for the petitioner further that co-accused Harbans Singh, who was a Panch of the village, has already been granted the concession of anticipatory bail by this Court vide order dated 10.03.2026 passed in CRM-M-61772-2025. In support of this contention, counsel has produced a copy of the said order in Court today, which is taken on record. Therefore, petitioner is also entitled to the same relief.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that there was no criminal intent on the part of the petitioner, and he seeks the grant of anticipatory bail. Moreover, petitioner is ready and willing to join the investigation, if protected from arrest.

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4. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, particularly the limited role attributed to the petitioner, nature of the allegations, and the fact that the petitioner is stated to have verified the date of birth in his capacity as Lambardar under a bona fide belief, without any apparent criminal intent or personal gain, and further considering that co-accused, namely Harbans Singh, a Panch of the village, has already been granted the concession of anticipatory bail by this Court vide order dated 10.03.2026, case of the present petitioner stands on a similar footing.

5. Without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the present petition is allowed. Petitioner is directed to join the investigation within two weeks from today. In the event of his arrest, petitioner shall be released on bail, subject to his furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer. Petitioner shall also abide by all the conditions laid down under Section 482(2) of BNSS, 2023.

However, 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.

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.

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6. Accordingly, petition stands disposed of.

**(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE**

March 20,2026
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Whether Speaking/Reasoned: ~~YES~~/NO
Whether Reportable: ~~YES~~/NO