



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

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**CRM-M-30417-2025
Decided on: 18.08.2025**

RICHA MEHTA @ LOVELY MEHTA**.....PETITIONER****Versus****STATE OF PUNJAB AND ORS****.....RESPONDENTS****CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH**

Present: Mr. Sarthak Jindal, Advocate
for the petitioner(s).

Mr. Bareen Pratap Singh, AAG, Punjab.

SANJAY VASHISTH, J.

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 First Information Report, as detailed hereunder:-

Name of Petitioner (s)	FIR No.	Date	Section(s)	Police Station	District
Richa Mehta @ Lovely Mehta, aged 49 years	34	31.07.2024	420, 406, 120-B IPC and Section 24 of the Immigration Act, 1983	P.S. NRI	Jalandhar

2. On 28.05.2025 following order was passed:-

“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 First Information Report, as detailed hereunder:-

Name & age of Petitioner (s)	FIR No.	Date	Section(s)	Police Station	District
Richa Mehta @ Lovely Mehta, aged 49 years	34	31.07.2024	420, 406, 120-B IPC and Section 24 of the Immigration Act, 1983	P.S. NRI	Jalandhar

2. *Learned counsel for the petitioner, inter alia, contends that allegation in the FIR against all the accused persons, including the petitioner, is that complainant – respondent No.2 has been duped with an amount of Rs.17.65 lakhs, and said amount has already been paid back to her, as is clear from paragraph No.7 of the order dated 04.04.2025 (Annexure P-2), passed by Ld. Addl. Sessions Judge, Jalandhar, whereby, one of the co-accused, namely; Sudesh Kumar Sharma, has been granted concession of interim anticipatory bail.*

Learned counsel further submits that petitioner is ready to join investigation, if protected from arrest. Thus, he prays for grant of concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in the present case.

3. *Notice of motion.*

4. *On advance notice, learned State counsel puts in appearance on behalf of the respondent – State, and seeks some time to respond to the submissions addressed by learned counsel opposite, after seeking instructions. And, in case of necessity, to file status report by verifying the submissions addressed by the petitioner’s counsel.*

5. *Adjourned to 18.08.2025.*

6. *In the 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 be abide by all the conditions laid down under Section 482(2) of BNSS, 2023 (earlier Section 438(2) Cr.P.C.).*

7. *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. Continuing his submissions, learned counsel for the petitioner contends that in compliance of the order dated 28.05.2025 passed by this Court, petitioner has joined the investigation, and has fully co-operated. Therefore, he prays for confirmation of the said interim anticipatory bail order.

4. Learned State counsel on instructions confirms the said averment made by counsel for the petitioner of joining the investigation on 27.06.2025 by the petitioner, and submits that as of now, custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not required for the purpose of investigation.

5. Heard learned counsel for the parties.

6. Since, petitioner has already joined the investigation and custodial interrogation is no more required; ad-interim bail order dated 28.05.2025 passed by this Court is hereby made absolute. Accordingly, present petition is allowed.

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.

7. Accordingly, petition stands disposed of.

18.08.2025
Sumit Singla

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

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