



S. No.219

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

CRM-M-51974 of 2025

Date of Decision:30.09.2025

Sonu

.....Petitioner

Vs.

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE YASHVIR SINGH RATHOR

Present:- Mr. Ranjodh Singh Sidhu, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Gorav Kathuria, DAG, Punjab.

Yashvir Singh Rathor, J. (Oral)

1. This is a petition filed under Section 482 of BNSS, 2023 for granting the pre-arrest bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.17 dated 07.04.2025 registered under Sections 318(4) of the BNS, 2023 and 66-C, 66-D of Information Technology Act, 2000 at Police Station Cyber Crime, District Sangrur.
2. Status report by way of an affidavit of Shri Gurpreet Singh PPS, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Homicide and Forensic, Sangrur has already been filed in the Registry. Registry is directed to tag the same at an appropriate place.
3. The present case was lodged on the basis of complaint given to the police by Paramjit Singh Bhatti with the allegations that he holds a diploma in Ayurvedic Pharmacy and is providing treatment to various patients and is running



his clinic by the name of “Guru Ram Das Desi Dawakhana”. He also owns his You Tube Account and has approximately 2 lakh 16 thousand subscribers and he provides necessary medicines/ advice to patients only after they visit him and if the patient lives far away, medicine is sent at his/her address by post/ courier. Recently, it has come to his notice that some mischievous persons are creating forged/ fake facebook accounts by tagging his facebook account ID to defame him and to cause financial loss to him. These persons download the videos from his You Tube Channel and thereafter, edit them and upload them on social media through facebook accounts with their own mobile numbers and general public is falling prey to these scammers and he sought action against them. During inquiry, complainant got recorded his statement and gave details of URL of his own as well as URL of unknown persons and on examination of the same, offences under Section 318(4) BNS and Sections 66(C), 66(D) IT Act, 2000 were found to have been committed. During investigation, it was found that people were transferring money directly in the account of those persons who were supplying fake medicines and involvement of Satnam Singh alias Happy, Sonu Thakur, Sumit Singh and Rohit etc., was found. The IP address of complainant was also obtained and the IP address was found to be of Connect Company which had installed Wi-Fi in the name of Ekwindar Kaur and the same was being used by Satnam Singh who was arrayed as an accused and was arrested on 23.06.2025. He disclosed that Sonu Thakur – petitioner, who is having SIM Nos.8567919113, 9463668235 and 7527001593 of different companies and Sumit Singh having SIM Nos.6284784022 and 9781644649 are also involved with him in the commission of crime who create fake facebook IDs of Baba Paramjit Singh Bhatti –



complainant and use his name for defrauding the people and they have taken the shop on rent in the name of Call Centre at Amritsar. Thereafter, one Manmeet Kaur @ Avvi was nominated as an accused and arrested on 03.07.2025 and, thereafter, one Baljit Singh @ Rohit was arrayed as an accused. Thereafter, challan was presented against Satnam Singh @ Happy and Manmeet Kaur @ Avvi on 15.08.2025. Accused – Sumit, Baljit Singh @ Rohit and Sonu (present petitioner) could not be arrested. Apprehending his arrest, petitioner earlier applied for anticipatory bail, which was dismissed.

4. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the material placed on file.

5. Learned counsel for the petitioner argued that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the case. His name has cropped up in the disclosure statement suffered by co-accused which is not admissible in evidence. He has not induced any patient of the complainant or obtained any pecuniary advantage and he has no connection with any mobile phone or facebook ID or URL of the complainant. Petitioner is ready to join the investigation and to abide by the conditions that may be imposed by the Court and benefit of anticipatory bail be extended in his favour.

6. On the other hand, learned State Counsel has opposed the bail in view of the gravity of offence. Custodial interrogation of the petitioner is essential to unearth the modus operandi adopted by the accused in committing the crime and the petitioner does not deserve the concession of anticipatory bail.

7. The allegations against the petitioner are serious in nature. He along with co-accused in collusion with each other has cheated the complainant as well



as general public by creating fake facebook IDs of the complainant and they are using his name fraudulently and obtaining money from innocent people and playing with the health of the patients by supplying fake medicines. As such, the custodial interrogation of the petitioner is essential for further investigation of the case and to elicit modus operandi adopted by the accused in committing the crime. Rather, grant of anticipatory bail will hamper the investigation. Moreover, the petitioner is not likely to answer the questions in the right earnest in case he is interrogated under the protective umbrealla of ad-interim bail that may be granted by this Court. Moreover, it has been held by Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2003(4) RCR (Criminal) 716 **Bharat Chaudhri and others Vs. State of Bihar and another**, that gravity of the offence is an important factor to be taken into consideration while granting anticipatory bail so also the need for custodial interrogation. Even otherwise, anticipatory bail cannot be granted in each and every case where custodial interrogation is not required as the gravity of the offence too is an important factor which has to be taken into consideration while granting or not granting anticipatory bail.

8. Resultantly, I am of the considered opinion that the petitioner does not deserve the concession of anticipatory bail and the petition in hand is ordered to be dismissed.

9. Pending misc. application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed of.

(Yashvir Singh Rathor)
Judge

September 30, 2025
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Whether Speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	Yes/No