



CRM-M-8907-2025 and other connected cases

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH

329

CRM-M-8907-2025

Bharat Deep Garg

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

329-2

CRM-M-9038-2025

Ranjit Singh

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

329-3

CRM-M-10696-2025

Tarsem Singh

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

329-4

CRM-M-10937-2025

Mohinderpal

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

329-5

CRM-M-10942-2025

Navneet Sharma

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

329-6

CRM-M-10968-2025

Manjit Kumar

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

Decided on: 14.05.2025

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

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Present: Mr. Ashok Kumar Singla, Advocate  
for the petitioner (in CRM-M-8907-2025).

Mr. Rishav Jain, Advocate  
for the petitioner(s) (in CRM-M-9038-2025, CRM-M-  
10942-2025, CRM-M-10937-2025, CRM-M-10937-2025,  
CRM-M-10968-2025 and CRM-M-10696-2025).

Mr. Manjinder Singh Bhullar, DAG, Punjab.

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**SANJAY VASHISTH, J.**

1. The aforementioned petitions are being disposed of by way of a common order, as they arise out of the same FIR.

2. The present petitions have been filed by **Bharat Deep Garg** (petitioner in CRM-M-8907-2025), **Ranjit Singh** (petitioner in CRM-M-9038-2025), **Tarsem Singh** (petitioner in CRM-M-10696-2025), **Mohinderpal** (petitioner in CRM-M-10937-2025), **Navneet Sharma** (petitioner in CRM-M-10942-2025), **Manjit Kumar**(petitioner in CRM-M-10968-2025) under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), seeking anticipatory bail in case FIR No.257 dated 27.12.2024, under Sections 318(4), 316(2), 336(3), 337, 338, 340(2), 61(2), 238 of BNS, 2023, registered at Police Station Lehra, District Sangrur.

3. When CRM-M-8907-2025 and CRM-M-9038-2025, filed by petitioners, namely, Bharat Deep Garg and Ranjit Singh came up for consideration before this Court on 17.02.2025, the 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*



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*anticipatory bail to the petitioners, who has been booked in a criminal case arising out of First Information Report, as detailed hereunder:-*

<b>Name &amp; age of Petitioner (s)</b>	<b>FIR No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Section(s)</b>	<b>Police Station</b>	<b>District</b>
(1) Bharat Deep Garg, aged about 41 years (2) Ranjit Singh, aged about 48 years	257	27.12.2024	318(4), 316(2), 336(3), 337, 338, 340(2), 61(2), 238 of BNS, 2023	Lehra	Sangrur

2. *Learned counsel for the petitioners, inter alia, contend that the dispute in regard to the resolutions passed by the Post Graduate Educational Society (Registered), Lehragaga, District Sangrur, which was registered on 28.06.2025, and two schools namely Dr. Dev Raj DAV Public School, at village Khai (affiliated with CBSE) and Dr. Dev Raj DAV Public School at village Lehra (affiliated with PSEB) are being run by the Society.*

3. *Counsel for the petitioners submit that the case of the prosecution entirely depends upon the documentary evidence which requires deep examination, and also based upon the reports of the handwriting experts, admissibility of which would be proved by the prosecution before the Court during the course of trial. There is a civil litigation also going on between the parties.*

*Thus, prays for grant of concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioners in the present cases.*

4. *Notice of motion.*

5. *On advance notice, Mr. Amandeep Singh, DAG, Punjab, puts in appearance on behalf of the respondent – State, and Mr. Vivek Dahiya, Advocate, puts in appearance on behalf of the complainant, and submits that the petitioners are denying the signatures over the resolution.*

6. *Adjourned to 08.04.2025.*

7. *In the meanwhile, the petitioners are directed to join the investigation as and when required to do so by the Investigating Agency. In the event of their arrest, the petitioners shall be released on ad-interim bail, subject to their furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer. The petitioners shall also be abide by all the conditions laid down under Section 482(2) of BNSS, 2023 (earlier Section 438(2) Cr.P.C.).*

8. *Besides, the petitioners would submit/surrender their passport before the Arresting Officer and an undertaking on oath that in case of leaving the Country, they would seek prior permission from the Investigating Agency/concerned Court.*



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*However, it will be open for the petitioners or the prosecution/complainant to get the disputed signatures compared with the original one.*

*A photocopy of this order be placed on the file of other connected case. ”*

4. Subsequently, CRM-M-10696-2025, filed by co-accused, namely Tarsem Singh, was listed for hearing on 25.02.2025. While granting the concession of ad-interim bail, this Court passed the following order:

*“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:-*

<b>Name &amp; age of Petitioner (s)</b>	<b>FIR No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Section(s)</b>	<b>Police Station</b>	<b>District</b>
<i>Tarsem Singh, aged about 53 years</i>	257	27.12.2024	<i>318(4), 316(2), 336(3), 337, 338, 340(2), 61(2), 238 of BNS, 2023</i>	<i>Lehra</i>	<i>Sangrur</i>

*2. Learned counsel for the petitioner, inter alia, contends that the petitioner was a member of the Society, but in the FIR got lodged by the complainant, no specific role has been assigned against him. Dispute is entirely of civil in nature amongst the family members of the deceased namely Dr. Dev Raj, with regard to the management of the school.*

*3. Counsel for the petitioner further submits that the co-accused of the petitioner namely Ranjit Singh has been granted interim anticipatory bail, by this Court, vide order dated 17.02.2025 passed in CRM-M-9038-2025. Said petition is now posted for its hearing for 08.04.2025.*

*Thus, prays for grant of concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in the present case.*

*4. Notice of motion.*

*5. On advance notice, Mr. Amandeep Singh, DAG, Punjab, puts in appearance on behalf of the respondent – State, and seeks some time to file status report in the matter.*

*6. Adjourned to 08.04.2025.*

*To be heard along with CRM-M-9038-2025.*

*7. 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*



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*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.).*

*8. Besides, the petitioner would submit/surrender his passport before the Arresting Officer and an undertaking on oath that in case of leaving the Country, he would seek prior permission from the Investigating Agency/concerned Court.*

*However, it will be open for the petitioner or the prosecution/complainant to get the disputed signatures compared with the original one.*

5. Similarly, CRM-M-10937-2025, CRM-M-10942-2025 and CRM-M-10968-2025, filed by other co-accused, namely, Mohinderpal Singh, Navneet Sharma and Manjit Kumar, were listed for hearing on 27.02.2025. This Court, while considering the matter, passed the following order granting the concession of ad-interim bail:

*“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 petitioners, who has been booked in a criminal case arising out of First Information Report, as detailed hereunder:-*

<b>Name &amp; age of Petitioner (s)</b>	<b>FIR No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Section(s)</b>	<b>Police Station</b>	<b>District</b>
(1) Mohinderpal, aged about 31 years, (2) Navneet Sharma, aged about 36 years and (3) Manjit Kumar aged 50 years	257	27.12.2024	318(4), 316(2), 336(3), 337, 338, 340(2), 61(2), 238 of BNS, 2023	Lehra	Sangrur

*2. Learned counsel for the petitioners, inter alia, contends that the petitioners were members of the Society, but in the FIR got lodged by the complainant, no specific role has been*

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*assigned against them. Dispute is entirely of civil in nature amongst the family members of the deceased namely Dr. Dev Raj, with regard to the management of the school.*

3. *Counsel for the petitioners further submits that the co-accused of the petitioners namely Ranjit Singh has been granted interim anticipatory bail, by this Court, vide order dated 17.02.2025 passed in CRM-M-9038-2025. Said petition is now posted for its hearing for 08.04.2025.*

*Thus, prays for grant of concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioners in the present case.*

4. *Notice of motion.*

5. *On advance notice, Mr. Amandeep Singh, DAG, Punjab, puts in appearance on behalf of the respondent – State, and seeks some time to file status report.*

6. *Adjourned to 08.04.2025.*

*To be heard along with CRM-M-9038-2025.*

7. *In the meanwhile, the petitioners are directed to join the investigation as and when required to do so by the Investigating Agency. In the event of their arrest, the petitioners shall be released on ad-interim bail, subject to their furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer. The petitioners shall also be abide by all the conditions laid down under Section 482(2) of BNSS, 2023 (earlier Section 438(2) Cr.P.C.).*

8. *Besides, the petitioners would submit/surrender their passport before the Arresting Officer and an undertaking on oath that in case of leaving the Country, they would seek prior permission from the Investigating Agency/concerned Court.*

*However, it will be open for the petitioners or the prosecution/complainant to get the disputed signatures compared with the original one.”*

6. Learned counsel for the respective petitioners submit that, in compliance with the orders dated 17.02.2025, 25.02.2025, and 27.02.2025 passed by this Court, the petitioners have duly joined the investigation and have extended full cooperation with the Investigating Officer. It is further submitted that the prosecution case is primarily based on documentary evidence, and as such, custodial interrogation of the petitioners is not warranted. In view of the petitioners' cooperation with the investigation and the nature of evidence involved, it is respectfully prayed that the interim protection granted earlier be confirmed, and the petitions for anticipatory bail be allowed.

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7. On the other hand, learned State counsel does not dispute the submissions made by the respective counsel for the petitioners and confirms that, as of now, custodial interrogation of the petitioners is not required. However, it is submitted that the petitioners be directed to rejoin the investigation as and when required by the Investigating Officer. It is further clarified that in the event of non-cooperation or failure to join the investigation when called upon, the petitioners shall not be entitled to claim the benefit of anticipatory bail.

8. After hearing learned counsel for the parties, and upon perusal of the allegations levelled in the FIR as well as the issues highlighted during the course of hearing, and taking into consideration the fact that the petitioners have joined the investigation and have extended full cooperation, and that custodial interrogation is not required as of now, this Court deems it appropriate to allow the present petitions. Accordingly, the prayer for anticipatory bail is accepted. The interim orders dated **17.02.2025, 25.02.2025 and 27.02.2025** passed in respective petitions are hereby made absolute. The petitions are, thus, allowed.

9. However, the petitioners shall continue to join the investigation as and when required by the Investigating Officer and shall abide by all the terms and conditions laid down under Section 482(2) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS, 2023).

It is further clarified that in the event the petitioners fail to join or rejoin the investigation despite service of due notice by the

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Investigating Officer, it shall be open to the prosecution to seek cancellation of the anticipatory bail.

Besides, it is directed that petitioners would hand over their passport to the Investigating Agency or to Court concerned, if they possess. Otherwise, would submit an affidavit, disclosing the fact that they do not possess any passport.

It is also directed that before leaving country any time during trial, petitioners would seek prior permission of the Court.

10. Accordingly, petitions stand disposed of.

11. A photocopy of this order be placed on the files of other connected cases.

**(SANJAY VASHISTH)**  
**JUDGE**

**May 14, 2025**  
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Whether Speaking/Reasoned: **YES/NO**  
Whether Reportable: **YES/NO**