

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH.**

CRM-M-15718 of 2020 (O&M)
Date of decision: September 23, 2020

Satnam Singh ...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab ...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ASHOK KUMAR VERMA

Present: Mr. Amardeep Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.
Mr. R.S. Thind, DAG, Punjab.
Mr. Amit Arora, Advocate for the complainant.

Ashok Kumar Verma, J.

The matter has been taken up through video-conferencing on account of outbreak of pandemic COVID-19.

The petitioner has approached this Court for regular bail under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in case FIR No.66 dated 25.02.2020, under Sections 379-B, 342, 459, 506, 34 IPC (Section 379-B, 34 IPC deleted later on vide Diary No.24 dated 13.03.2020 and Sections 395, 460, 325, 411, 201 were added later on), registered at Police Station City Tarn Taran, District Tarn Taran.

Brief facts of the prosecution case are that as per statement made by Bakshish Singh on the fateful day at about 10.45 PM, a person knocked the gate of the *Dera* and told the complainant that they had already talked with Baba Mahinder Singh about the seriousness of their patient and want to admit him in the hospital and they also want to meet Baba Jiwan Singh Ji. When he opened the gate, he saw that the three persons entered into the Dera forcibly and stopped their vehicle near the room of Baba Ji, whereas one person kept

sitting in the car. The complainant had also seen that one of them was holding the arm of Baba Ji and pulled him in the room and he was given severe beatings by the aforesaid three persons. The complainant was also caused injuries.. The accused had stolen the offered money (*Chadhawa*). After stealing his mobile phone, accused fled away from the spot alongwith money. On the said averments instant FIR was registered.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that petitioner is innocent, who has been falsely implicated in this case; initially FIR was registered under Section 379-B of IPC and later on Section 395 IPC was added; only an amount of Rs.300/- and a mobile phone have been shown to be recovered from the possession of the petitioner. The petitioner was not visible in the CCTV footage and no identification parade was got conducted by the investigating officer. The identity of the petitioner has not been established by the prosecution as no test identification parade was got conducted by the investigating officer. He has lastly contended that the petitioner is already confined in judicial custody since 01.03.2020 and the trial has not commenced as yet, hence the petitioner may be released on bail.

Per contra, learned State counsel assisted by Mr. Amit Arora counsel for the complainant has vehemently argued that the petitioner accompanied by the other accused committed the dacoity and took the money of Dera and ran away from the spot after causing grievous injuries to the complainant. He has further contended that an amount of Rs.5,65,000/- was recovered from the bag being carried by the petitioner on his left shoulder. He lastly argued that the accused got converted the huge amount of looted money from Indian currency to US Dollar and as such, petitioner does not deserve the

concession of bail and prayed for dismissal of the petition moved by the petitioner.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties and gone through the relevant record.

The main argument raised by learned counsel for the petitioner is that the presence of petitioner has not been recorded in the CCTV footage on the place of occurrence and the identity of the petitioner has not been duly established, suffice it to say that according to prosecution, petitioner Satnam Singh remained kept sitting in the car of Balwinder Singh at the time of commission of the offence of dacoity. Later on, petitioner suffered his disclosure statement on 01.03.2020 and currency notes amounting to Rs.5,65,000/- were got recovered from him, same were taken into possession vide seizure memo. In the present case, total amount of dacoity i.e. Rs.1,66,59,000/- have been recovered. There are direct allegations to the effect that the petitioner in connivance with other co-accused hatched a criminal conspiracy, committed the offence of dacoity and also caused grievous injury to the complainant.

Having regards to the totality of the facts and circumstances of the case aforementioned, specific role attributed to the petitioner and gravity of offence, I do not deem it fit to grant the concession of bail to the petitioner. Consequently, the present petition is hereby dismissed.

September 23, 2020
'Rajpal'

(ASHOK KUMAR VERMA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking / reasoned
Whether Reportable:

Yes / No
Yes / No