

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-25177-2020 (O&M)

Date of decision: 01.09.2020

Bobby Singh

... Petitioner

Vs.

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN

Present: Mr. J.P. Devgan, Advocate
for the petitioner.

ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN, J. (ORAL)

Prayer in this petition is for grant of anticipatory bail in FIR No.68 dated 05.04.2020 under Section 420 IPC and Section 51 (b) of Disaster Management Act, 2005, registered at Police Station Sadar Patti, District Tarn Taran.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that as per allegations in the FIR, registered at the instance of Jaskaran Singh, he along with Sukhraj Singh, Harjinder Singh etc. are doing langer seva at a temple due to COVID-19 situation and the petitioner is a local press reporter of a news channel Sach Di Awaaz and he was doing the coverage of his work and assured that he will telecast the same. Later on, when came to know that news has not been telecasted and even the amount was paid, therefore, the petitioner has committed cheating of Rs.1,000/-. It is further submitted that no such incident has taken place and in fact, on account of political rivalry between the parties, the petitioner is involved in this case and he never accepted any money and he

was doing an independent reporting of all the news in the area.

Notice of motion.

On asking of the Court, Mr. Joginder Pal Ratra, DAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State and submits that on an earlier occasion, the petitioner was granted interim bail vide order dated 24.04.2020 passed by the Additional Sessions Judge, Tarn Taran but he did not cooperate and therefore, the bail was declined.

After hearing learned counsel for the parties, this petition is allowed and the petitioner is directed to appear before the Investigating Officer within a period of 10 days to join investigation and he shall be released on interim bail on furnishing bail/surety bonds subject to the following conditions:-

1. *He shall make himself available for interrogation by a police officer as and when required;*
2. *He shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer; and*
3. *He shall not leave India without previous permission of the Court.*

It is made clear that if the petitioner failed to join the investigation, it will be open for the prosecution to apply for cancellation of bail.

01.09.2020

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[ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN]
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether Reportable : Yes/No