

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

CRM-M- 18554-2021 (O&M)

Date of Decision: May 18, 2021
(Heard through VC)

Harmeet Singh alias Harshpreet Singh

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE JAISHREE THAKUR

Present:- Ms. Puja Chopra, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Bhupinder Beniwal, AAG, Punjab.

JAISHREE THAKUR, J. (Oral)

The instant petition has been filed under Section 438 Cr.P.C. for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in FIR No.09 dated 21.08.2020 under Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B IPC and Sections 7, 7(a) and 8 of the Prevention of Corruption Act registered at Police Station Vigilance Bureau, Phase I, Mohali.

Learned counsel for the petitioner *inter alia* would contend that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the said matter. She relies upon an order passed in CRM-M No.33327 of 2020 and other connected matters whereby similarly situated persons have been allowed regular bail. It is

contended that the petitioner herein is also similarly situated. It is further argued that as on date, the State has not obtained sanction to prosecute the petitioner under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Learned counsel appearing for the respondent-State opposes grant of bail to the petitioner by contending that no ground is made out for grant of concession of bail to the petitioner, however, he does not dispute the fact that sanction to prosecute the petitioner under the Prevention of Corruption Act has not been obtained.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties. Keeping in view the fact that the similarly situated persons have been granted regular bail by this High Court vide order dated 31.03.2021 passed in CRM-M No.33327 of 2020 and the fact that owing to COVID-19 pandemic, the trial is likely to take some time to conclude, no useful purpose would be served in keeping the petitioner behind bars. The instant petition is allowed and the petitioner is directed to be released on regular bail on execution of adequate personal/surety bond to the satisfaction of concerned trial Court/Duty Magistrate. However, any observation made herein shall not be construed to be an expression on merits of the case.

May 18, 2021

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(JAISHREE THAKUR)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No