

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

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**CRM-M- 12153 of 2021
Date of Decision:18.05.2022**

Sachin Manchanda

---Petitioner

versus

State of Punjab

---Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ

Present: Mr. A.D.S.Sukhija, Advocate
for the petitioner

Ms. Amarjit Kaur Khurana, DAG, Punjab

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (ORAL)

Prayer in this petition filed under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.10 dated 09.01.2021 under Sections 21/22 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, registered at Police Station City Kharar, District SAS Nagar, Mohali.

Learned counsel for the petitioner *inter alia* contends that pursuant to the order dated 08.03.2022 passed by this Court, the petitioner has joined investigation and is no longer required for investigation of the case.

Learned State counsel, on instructions from ASI Narinder Singh, corroborates the said averment and submits that the custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not required for the purpose of investigation. She, however, submits that the petitioner has not chosen to inform about the source of the contraband. The said aspect was duly noticed

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in the earlier order dated 08.03.2022. It seems that the Investigating Agency wants to not conduct an investigation into the offence and is rather focusing on ancillary issues.

Heard learned counsel for the parties.

Since the petitioner has joined the investigation and his custodial interrogation is not required, the present petition is allowed and the interim order dated 08.03.2022 is made absolute.

However, if required, the petitioner shall continue to join investigation as and when required to do so and shall abide by the terms and conditions, as laid down under Section 438(2) CrPC.

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

18.05.2022

PARAMJIT

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes

Whether reportable : Yes/No