

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

TA No.837 of 2021 (O&M)
Date of decision: 29.09.2022

Sunita Bai and others

....Petitioners

Versus

Mahendra Pal

....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN

Present: Mr. S.S. Sahu, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Suneel Sharma, Advocate
for the respondent.

ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN J. (Oral)

Prayer in this petition is for transfer of the Civil Suit No.CS/211/2020 titled as "Mahendra Pal vs Sunita Bai and others", pending in the Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Division) Panchkula to the competent Court of jurisdiction at Fatehabad.

Vide order dated 13.09.2021, the following order was passed:-

“This petition has been filed by the wife and others seeking the transfer of the proceedings bearing case No.CS/211/2020, titled as “Mahendra Pal vs. Sunita Bai and others”, pending in the Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Division), Panchkula, to the Court of competent jurisdiction at Fatehabad, District Fatehabad or any other nearby place.

The petitioner claims that she got married to the respondent on 19.02.2012 and they have been blessed with a male child. She claims that presently, she is residing with her parents at Fatehabad and the distance between Panchkula and Fatehabad is more than 260 Kms. Petitioner No.1 further claims that she cannot properly defend the petition at Panchkula.

The learned counsel representing the petitioners contends that petitioner no.1, filed a petition under Section 12/18/19/20/21 of the Protection of Women from

Domestic Violation Act, 2005, which has been decided vide judgment dated 14.03.2018. An appeal against that judgment is pending. He further contends that an FIR No.9, registered under Section 323/34/406/498-A/506 IPC, at Women Police Station, Fatehabad, is pending against the respondent (husband), at Fatehabad. The learned counsel contends that it will be very difficult for petitioner No.1 to travel on each date of hearing.

Notice of motion for 11.10.2021.”

Counsel for the petitioner has argued that on account of a matrimonial discord, the respondent/husband has filed the aforementioned civil suit, before the Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Division) Panchkula.

Counsel for the petitioner has also argued that on account of a petition filed by the respondent/husband, the petitioner is facing great difficulty in prosecuting the said case as there is a distance of about 230 Kms from Fatehabad to Panchkula.

Counsel for the petitioner has further contended that the petitioner is having a minor child, who is living in her care and custody and she is facing difficulty to defend the case as she has to travel from Fatehabad to Panchkula.

Counsel for the petitioner has relied upon the judgments **“Sumita Singh vs Kumar Sanjay”, 2002 SC 396** and **“Rajani Kishor Pardeshi vs Kishor Babulal Pardeshi”, 2005(12) SCC 237**, wherein the Hon’ble Supreme Court has observed that *while deciding the transfer application, the Courts are required to give more weightage and consideration to the convenience of the female litigants and transfer of legal proceedings from one Court to another should ordinarily be allowed, taking into consideration their convenience and the Courts should desist from putting female litigants under undue*

hardships.”

Counsel for the petitioner has also relied upon the judgment “*N.C.V. Aishwarya vs A.S. Saravana Karthik Sha,*” 2022 Live Law (SC) 627, wherein the Hon’ble Supreme Court has observed as under:-

9. The cardinal principle for exercise of power under section 24 of the Code of Civil Procedure is that the ends of justice should demand the transfer of the suit, appeal or other proceeding. In matrimonial matters, wherever Courts are called upon to consider the plea of transfer, the Courts have to take into consideration the economic soundness of both the parties, the social strata of the spouses and their behavioural pattern, their standard of life prior to the marriage and subsequent thereto and the circumstances of both the parties in eking out their livelihood and under whose protective umbrella they are seeking their sustenance to life. Given the prevailing socioeconomic paradigm in the Indian society, generally, it is the wife's convenience which must be looked at while considering transfer.

10. Further, when two or more proceedings are pending in different Courts between the same parties which raise common question of fact and law, and when the decisions in the cases are interdependent, it is desirable that they should be tried together by the same Judge so as to avoid multiplicity in trial of the same issues and conflict of decisions.”

It is well settled that while considering the transfer of a matrimonial dispute/case at the instance of the wife, the Court is to consider the family condition of the wife, the custody of the minor child, economic condition of the wife, her physical health and earning capacity of the husband and most important the convenience of the wife i.e. she cannot travel alone without assistance of a male member of her family, connectivity of the place to and fro from her place of residence as well as bearing of the litigation charges and travelling expenses.

Counsel for the respondent has, however, not disputed the factual position but opposed the submissions made by counsel for the petitioner.

After hearing the counsel for the parties, considering the fact that the petitioner/wife will have to bear the litigation expenses and transportation expenses and in view of the judgments i.e. *Sumita Singh's case (supra)*, *Rajani Kishor Pardeshi's case (supra)* and *N.C.V. Aishwarya's case (supra)* passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, this Court deem it appropriate to allow the present petition, subject to the following conditions:-

1. *The Civil Suit No.CS/211/2020 titled as "Mahendra Pal vs Sunita Bai and others", pending before the Family Court, Panchkula will be transferred to the competent Court of jurisdiction at Fatehabad.*
2. *The District Judge, Fatehabad, will assign the said petition to the competent Court of jurisdiction.*
3. *The Family Court, Panchkula is directed to transfer all the record pertaining to the aforesaid case to District Judge, Fatehabad.*
4. *The parties are directed to appear before the trial Court, Fatehabad, within a period of 01 month from today.*
5. *The Family Court, Fatehabad will make all endeavour to refer the case before the Mediation and Conciliation Centre for exploring the possibility of some amicable settlement between the parties.*
6. *The Court concerned, where the litigation pending between the parties, will accommodate them with one date in one calendar month.*

Disposed of.

(ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN)
JUDGE

29.09.2022

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Whether speaking/reasoned:
Whether reportable:

Yes/No
Yes/No