

105 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M No.60046 of 2022 (O&M)
Date of decision : 22.12.2022

Gurmeet

..... Petitioner

versus

State of Haryana

..... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE PANKAJ JAIN

Present :- Mr. Keshav Pratap Singh, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sumit Jain, Addl.AG, Haryana.

PANKAJ JAIN, J. (ORAL)

The petitioner has prayed for grant of pre-arrest bail in FIR No.1164 dated 04.12.2022 registered under Sections 22C, 27A & 29 of the NDPS Act, 1985 at Police Station Barwala, District Hisar.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has been nominated on the basis of disclosure statement suffered by one Mukesh from whose possession the alleged contraband has been recovered. He further submits that the petitioner has been recently married. Reliance is being placed upon the law laid down in ***Tofan Singh Vs. State of Tamil Nadu, (2021) 4 SCC 1*** to contend that such disclosure cannot be relied upon to implicate the petitioner in the present case.

Per contra, learned State counsel submits that in view of ratio of law laid down in ***State of Haryana Vs. Samarth Kumar (2022) 3 RCR Cri.991***, the petitioner cannot be granted concession of dictum as

laid down in ***Tofan Singh's case (supra)***.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties and have gone through the records of the case.

The question thus arises is as to whether concession of dictum of law laid down in the case of ***Tofan Singh's case (supra)*** can be considered at the time of consideration of pre-arrest bail claimed by the petitioner. The Apex Court in the case of ***Samarth Kumar's case (supra)*** held as under :-

*“4. The High Court decided to grant pre-arrest bail to the respondents on the only ground that no recovery was effected from the respondents and that they had been implicated only on the basis of the disclosure statement of the main accused Dinesh Kumar. Therefore, reliance was placed by the High Court in the majority judgment of this Court in ***Tofan Singh v. State of Tamil Nadu reported in (2021) 4 SCC 1.****

“xxx xxx xxx

*8. In cases of this nature, the respondents may be able to take advantage of the decision in ***Tofan Singh vs. State of Tamil Nadu (supra)***, perhaps at the time of arguing the regular bail application or at the time of final hearing after conclusion of the trial.*

9. To grant anticipatory bail in a case of this nature is not really warranted. Therefore, we are of the view that the High Court fell into an error in granting anticipatory bail to the respondents.”

Thereafter another matter involving nomination of an accused on the disclosure of co-accused came before the Apex Court in the case of ***Prabhulal Vs. Central Bureau of Narcotics*** in Special Leave to Appeal (Criminal) No.6744/2022. Apex Court vide order dated 11.10.2022 granted interim protection to the petitioner therein. However, admittedly the same finally resulted in dismissal of the pre-arrest bail vide order dated 14.12.2022.

In view of the aforesaid facts and the ratio of law laid down by the Apex Court in the case of *Samarth Kumar's case (supra)*, it can be safely concluded that the benefit of ratio of law laid down in the case of *Tofan Singh's case (supra)* cannot be granted to an accused while considering pre-arrest bail.

Keeping in view the seriousness of the allegations levelled against the petitioner and the fact that the drug is a menace to the society, the petitioner does not deserve any concession *vis-a-vis* plea of recently married.

Consequently, the same is ordered to be dismissed.

Needless to say nothing recorded hereinabove should be construed as expression on merits of the case.

(PANKAJ JAIN)
JUDGE

22.12.2022
Pooja sharma-I

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes
Whether Reportable :	No