

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

- (I)

CRM-M-58381-2022 (O&M)

Manish

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

...Respondent
- (II)

CRM-M-27905-2022 (O&M)

Vikas Kamboj

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

...Respondent
- (III)

CRM-M-43923-2022 (O&M)

Lakhwinder Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

...Respondent
- (IV)

CRM-M-26646-2022 (O&M)

Naveen Kumar

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

...Respondent

Date of Decision: 09.01.2023

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE GURVINDER SINGH GILL

Present: Mr. C.R.Dahiya, Advocate, for the petitioner
in CRM-M-58381-2022.

Mr. Ashit Malik, Advocate, for the petitioner
in CRM-M-27905-2022.

Mr. Ashdeep Singh, Advocate, for the petitioner
in CRM-M-43923-2022.

Mr. Bipan Ghai, Senior Advocate, with
 M/s Ramnish Puri, Nikhil Ghai & Deepanshu Mehta, Advocates,
 for the petitioner in CRM-M-26646-2022.

Mr. Rahul Mohan, DAG, Haryana and
 Mr. Gurmeet Singh, AAG, Haryana,
 assisted by SI Manoj.

GURVINDER SINGH GILL, J. (Oral)

1. This order shall dispose off the aforesaid four petitions filed on behalf of Manish, Vikas Kamboj, Lakhwinder Singh and Naveen Kumar seeking grant of regular bail in respect of a case registered against them vide FIR No.63 dated 24.01.2022 at Police Station 32-33, Karnal, under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471 IPC and Section 12 of the Passports Act (Sections 166, 218, 201, 120-B IPC and Sections 7, 7A, 8, 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act added later on).
2. The allegations, in nutshell, are that the petitioners had been facilitating issuance of passports to various persons on the basis of forged documents.
3. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner/s have submitted that they have falsely been implicated in the present case and that in any case, the passports had been issued after following due procedure including verification by the police.
4. On the other hand, learned State counsel while opposing the petitions have submitted that in the present case some of the police officials were also hand & gloves with other accused and that false verification reports have been made in favour of the applicants (applicant for issuance of a passport) even though the said applicants were not residing at the given addresses. Learned State counsel have also submitted that the petitioners

stand involved in several other identical cases and in these circumstances, do not deserve the concession of bail. Learned State counsel have, however, informed that the petitioners have been behind bars since the last about 9 months and that charges are yet to be framed and as many as 30 PWs have been cited.

5. This Court has considered rival submissions.
6. Without commenting anything as regards the merits of the case, but having regard to the custody of the petitioners, which is about 9 months and also the fact that conclusion of trial is likely to take some time inasmuch as the trial has not even commenced till date and as many as 30 PWs have been cited, further detention of the petitioners will not serve any useful purpose. All the petitions, as such, are accepted and the petitioners are ordered to be released on regular bail on their furnishing bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of learned trial Court/Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate concerned.
7. A photocopy of this order be placed on all the connected files.

(GURVINDER SINGH GILL)
JUDGE

09.01.2023

Vimal

Whether speaking/reasoned: **Yes/No**
 Whether reportable: **Yes/No**