

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

216

CRM-M-57836-2023

Date of Decision : **December 06 2023**

BHAGMAL

.....Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KULDEEP TIWARI

Present : Mr. Jagmohan Ghumman, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Bhupender Singh, DAG, Haryana.

KULDEEP TIWARI. J.(Oral)

1. Through the instant petition, the petitioner craves for indulgence of this Court for his being enlarged on regular bail, in case FIR No.143 dated 01.04.2023, under Sections 365, 379-B, 323 and 34 of IPC, (with Sections 325 and 367 IPC added later on) registered at P.S. Sadar Tauru, District Nuh.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE PETITIONER

2. The case set up by the prosecution against the present petitioner is that, the complaint was received from one Ravinder son of Maman, wherein he alleged that on 29/3/2023, at around 9.30 PM, that the complainant was coming back to his house after taken out barely from the field of Mantri Jai Bhagwan son of Satbir resident of Dadu, and on the way he met Bhagmal son of Kalia and Sammi son of Kabar, residents

of Dadu who met him in front of their hotel and stopped him and from there, both Bhagmal and Sammi took him in Bhagmal's car to the house in Dhani of Pravesh son of Harnarayan resident of Mohammedpur, where Bhagmal, Sammi and Pravesh all three beat him up inside the chowk in the house of Parvesh and thereafter, Bhagmal and Sammi put him in a car and brought him to a place where Bhagmal called another car, in which two persons were there whom he do not know. After that Bhagmal and Sammi took him to a field somewhere and again beat him up and snatched Rs.7200/- from the pocket of his pajama and the gold ring which he was wearing in his hand and put him in a room there and came back. On 30/3/2023, a woman alongwith a man came there and he called his brother, his wife and his uncle from his mobile phone and informed him, after which, his brother Rajesh and uncle Hansraj came to the spot.

SUBMISSIONS OF LEARNED COUNSEL FOR THE PETITIONER

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that though the petitioner was named in the FIR but no specific role is attributed to him. He further submits that he is running a hotel and having a good business, therefore, there is no reason to beat the complainant for the purpose of snatching. Infact the trivial scuffle on an issue has been given the colour of snatching.

He further submits that the fracture which the complainant has suffered on his leg and which is mentioned in the FIR, no specific attribution qua the the same is made against the petitioner.

SUBMISSIONS OF THE LEARNED STATE COUNSEL

4. On the other hand, learned State counsel opposes the grant of

regular bail to the petitioner, and has placed on record the custody certificate. On perusal of the custody certificate reveals that the petitioner has suffered incarceration of about 5 months as on date, and he is facing trial in three more cases.

Faced with the above difficulty, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that in all three cases which are cited in the custody certificate he is on bail and rest of the matter which have been mentioned by the petitioner in para no.8 of the petition, he has earned acquittal or is on bail and most of them are registered under the provision of Excise Act, 1914.

Learned State counsel informs this Court on instructions imparted to him by SI Pawan, that in the instant case total three accused were named in the FIR and all of them have been arrested and no one has yet been granted bail.

He further apprise this Court that the final report qua the petitioner and other co-accused has been submitted before the learned Illaqa Magistrate on 05.10.2023, and the next date of hearing is 30.01.2023, for consideration on the final report.

He further informs that the prosecution has cited a total of 14 witnesses.

ANALYSIS

5. *“Bail is the Rule and Jail is an Exception”*. This basic principle of criminal jurisprudence was laid down by the Hon’ble Supreme Court, way back in 1978, in its landmark judgment titled ***“State of Rajasthan V. Balchand alias Baliay”, 1977 AIR 2447, 1978 SCR (1)***

535. This principle finds its roots in one of the most distinguished fundamental rights, as enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Though the underlying objective behind detention of a person is to ensure easy availability of an accused for trial, without any inconvenience, however, in case the presence of an accused can be secured otherwise, then detention is not compulsory.

6. The right to a speedy trial is one of the rights of a detained person. However, while deciding application for regular bail, the Courts shall also take into consideration the fundamental precept of criminal jurisprudence, which is “the presumption of innocence”, besides the gravity of offence(s) involved.

7. In “**Nikesh Tarachand Shah V. Union of India**”, (2018) 11 SCC 1, the Hon’ble Supreme Court has recorded the following:-

“14. In Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia v. State of Punjab, (1980) 2 SCC 565 at 586-588, the purpose of granting bail is set out with great felicity as follows:-

“27. It is not necessary to refer to decisions which deal with the right to ordinary bail because that right does not furnish an exact parallel to the right to anticipatory bail. It is, however, interesting that as long back as in 1924 it was held by the High Court of Calcutta in Nagendra v. King-Emperor the object of bail is to secure the attendance of the accused at the trial, that the proper test to be applied in the solution of the question whether bail should be granted or refused is whether it is probable that the party will appear to take his trial and that it is indisputable that bail is not to be withheld as a punishment. In two other cases which, significantly, are the ‘Meerut

Conspiracy cases' observations are to be found regarding the right to bail which deserve a special mention. In K.N. Joglekar v. Emperor [AIR 1931 All 504 : 33 Cri LJ 94] it was observed, while dealing with Section 498 which corresponds to the present Section 439 of the Code, that it conferred upon the Sessions Judge or the High Court wide powers to grant bail which were not handicapped by the restrictions in the preceding Section 497 which corresponds to the present Section 437. It was observed by the court that there was no hard and fast rule and no inflexible principle governing the exercise of the discretion conferred by Section 498 and that the only principle which was established was that the discretion should be exercised judiciously. In Emperor v. Hutchinson [AIR 1931 All 356, 358 : 32 Cri LJ 1271] it was said that it was very unwise to make an attempt to lay down any particular rules which will bind the High Court, having regard to the fact that the legislature itself left the discretion of the court unfettered. According to the High Court, the variety of cases that may arise from time to time cannot be safely classified and it is dangerous to make an attempt to classify the cases and to say that in particular classes a bail may be granted but not in other classes. It was observed that the principle to be deduced from the various sections in the Criminal Procedure Code was that grant of bail is the rule and refusal is the exception. An accused person who enjoys freedom is in a much better position to look after his case and to properly defend himself than if he were in custody. As a presumably innocent person he is therefore entitled to freedom and every opportunity to look after his own

case. A presumably innocent person must have his freedom to enable him to establish his innocence.

28. *Coming nearer home, it was observed by Krishna Iyer, J., in Gudikanti Narasimhulu v. Public Prosecutor [(1978) 1 SCC 240 : 1978 SCC (Cri) 115] that: (SCC p. 242, para 1)*

“... the issue of bail is one of liberty, justice, public safety and burden of the public treasury, all of which insist that a developed jurisprudence of bail is integral to a socially sensitized judicial process. . . . After all, personal liberty of an accused or convict is fundamental, suffering lawful eclipse only in terms of procedure established by law. The last four words of Article 21 are the life of that human right.”

29. *In Gurcharan Singh v. State (Delhi Administration) [(1978) 1 SCC 118 : 1978 SCC (Cri) 41] it was observed by Goswami, J., who spoke for the court, that: (SCC p. 129, para 29)*

“There cannot be an inexorable formula in the matter of granting bail. The facts and circumstances of each case will govern the exercise of judicial discretion in granting or cancelling bail.”

30. *In AMERICAN JURISPRUDENCE (2d, Volume 8, p. 806, para 39), it is stated:*

“Where the granting of bail lies within the discretion of the court, the granting or denial is regulated, to a large extent, by the facts and circumstances of each particular case. Since the object of the detention or imprisonment of the accused is to secure his appearance and submission to the jurisdiction and the judgment of the court, the primary inquiry is whether a recognizance or bond would effect that end.”

It is thus clear that the question whether to grant bail or not depends for its answer upon a variety of circumstances, the cumulative effect of which must enter into the judicial verdict. Any one single circumstance cannot be treated as of universal validity or as necessarily justifying the grant or refusal of bail.”

8. Also, in ***Siddharam Satlingappa Mhetre v. State of Maharashtra, Criminal Appeal No.2271 of 2010***, the Hon’ble Supreme Court has insisted upon striking a perfect balance of sanctity of an individual’s liberty as well as the interest of the society, in grant or refusing bail. The relevant extract of the judgment (supra) is reproduced hereinafter:-

3. The society has a vital interest in grant or refusal of bail because every criminal offence is the offence against the State. The order granting or refusing bail must reflect perfect balance between the conflicting interests, namely, sanctity of individual liberty and the interest of the society. The law of bails dovetails two conflicting interests namely, on the one hand, the requirements of shielding the society from the hazards of those committing crimes and potentiality of repeating the same crime while on bail and on the other hand absolute adherence of the fundamental principle of criminal jurisprudence regarding presumption of innocence of an accused until he is found guilty and the sanctity of individual liberty.

9. This Court has examined the instant petition on the touchstone of the hereinabove extracted settled legal principle(s) of law and is of the considered opinion that the instant petition is amenable for

being allowed.

FINAL ORDER

10. Considering that the trial is at its initial stage and the incarceration suffered by the present petitioner is of about 5 months as on date and he being on bail in all other cases, this Court deems it appropriate to grant the concession of regular bail to the petitioner. Therefore, without commenting upon the merits and circumstances of the present case, the present petition is **allowed**. The petitioner is ordered to be released on bail, on furnishing of bail bond and surety bond to the satisfaction of concerned Chief Judicial Magistrate/trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

11. However, it is clarified that if in future, the petitioner is found indulging in commission of similar offences, as are involved herein, the respondent-State shall be at liberty to make an appropriate application seeking cancellation of regular bail, as granted by this Court. Moreover, anything observed here-in-above shall have no effect on the merits of the trial and is meant for deciding the present petition only.

December 06, 2023
dharamvir

(KULDEEP TIWARI)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned.	:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable.	:	Yes/No