

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

Crl. Misc. No. M-7440 of 2024
Date of Decision: February 13, 2024

Simranjit @ Shampy
.....Petitioner
versus

State of Punjab
.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE HARPREET SINGH BRAR

Present: Mr. Subhash Kumar, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. H.S. Deol, Sr. DAG Punjab.

HARPREET SINGH BRAR, J. (ORAL)

1. The prayer in the present petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. is for grant of anticipatory bail in case FIR No. 147 dated 28.08.2019 registered under Sections 21, 29, 61, 85 of the NDPS Act, 1985 at Police Station Bhogpur, District Jalandhar.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner *inter alia* contends that the petitioner was on regular bail and was regularly appearing before the learned trial Court and only on 06.12.2023, he could not appear before the learned trial Court as he noted down a wrong date. On 06.12.2023, due to non-appearance of the accused/petitioner, his bail bonds/surety bonds were cancelled and forfeited to the State and non-bailable warrants of arrest were issued. He further submits that non-appearance of the petitioner was not deliberate and intentional and thus, aggrieved by the said order, he has approached this Court by way of instant petition. It is contended that the order dated 06.12.2023 is also liable to be set aside on the ground of unintentional non-appearance of the petitioner due to his act of noting down the date wrongly.

3. It is also submitted that the petitioner undertakes to appear before the trial Court on each and every date of hearing.

4. Notice of motion.

5. Mr. H.S. Deol, Sr. DAG Punjab who is present in Court, accepts notice for the respondent and submits that order dated 06.12.2023 has been passed on the sole ground of the absence of the petitioner, however, it is not disputed by him that petitioner was already on bail and had been appearing before the trial Court.

6. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the record of the case with their able assistance and with the consent of parties, the matter is taken up for final disposal.

7. A perusal of the order dated 06.12.2023 (Annexure P-3) reflects that the trial Court proceeded to pass the extreme order of cancellation of bail for the solitary absence of petitioner. Many a times, the accused can be prevented by sufficient reasons to put an appearance before the Court on a given date and, therefore, it necessarily cannot be construed as a deliberate and wilful absence. The explanation offered for non appearance before the trial Court is justified and, therefore, the same is accepted.

8. While the scheme of criminal justice system necessitates curtailment of personal liberty to some extent, it is of the utmost importance that the same is done in line with the procedure established by law to maintain a healthy balance between personal liberty of the individual-accused and interests of the society in promoting law and order. Such procedure must be compatible with Article 21 of the Constitution of India i.e. it must be fair, just and not suffer from the vice of arbitrariness or unreasonableness.

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9. The sole purpose of issuance of non-bailable warrants is to secure presence of the accused before the trial Court. The petitioner in the present case has himself come forward and has undertaken to appear before the trial Court on each and every date.

10. In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, the present petition is allowed. Order dated 06.12.2023 (Annexure P-3), vide which the bail order of the petitioner was cancelled and his bail bonds and surety bonds were forfeited to the State and non-bailable warrants were issued, is hereby set aside.

11. The petitioner is directed to appear before the trial Court within a period of 15 days from today and on his doing so, he shall be admitted to bail on his furnishing bail bonds and surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court, along with costs of Rs.10,000/- to be deposited with the District Legal Services Authority, Jalandhar, for wasting precious time of the Court.

(HARPREET SINGH BRAR)
JUDGE

February 13, 2024
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Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether Reportable : Yes/No