



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M No. 9837 of 2024 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 23.05.2024

Puneet Kumar Dhanotra

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARKESH MANUJA

Present: Mr. L.M. Gulati, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Athar Ahmad, Deputy Advocate General, Punjab

HARKESH MANUJA, J. (ORAL)

The petitioner, by way of present petition filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C., seeks grant of regular bail pending trial in case bearing FIR No.249, dated 03.10.2021, under Section 420 of IPC and Section 13 of Punjab Travel Professionals Act, 2014, registered at Police Station Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar, wherein he has been implicated with the allegations of having cheated the complainant by forging US Visa in his name.

[2] Learned State counsel vehemently opposes the prayer made on behalf of the petitioner, while referring to the antecedents of the petitioner, who is stated to be involved in three more cases of similar nature

[3] I have heard learned counsel for the parties and gone through the paper-book. I find substance in the submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioner.

[4] In the present case, investigation stands concluded with the filing of challan, followed by framing of charges and the petitioner is behind the bars for the past more than six months, thus, the conclusion of trial may take some time. As regards other pending cases, it has been pointed out that in two cases (out of three), the petitioner has been granted the concession of bail upon payment of the entire amount in favour of the complainant party, wherein in the third one, though the payment stands made, however, final terms of settlement are yet to be finalized. A perusal of record shows that all the FIRs were got registered against the petitioners during the period of COVID-19. In view thereof, this Court does not find justification to extend the incarceration of the petitioner any further.

[5] In view of the above, but without commenting upon merits of the present petition, the same is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on bail subject to his furnishing adequate bail bonds / surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Trial Court/Illaq Magistrate/Duty Magistrate concerned.

[6] It is made clear that this order may not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

May 23, 2024
'dk kamra'

(HARKESH MANUJA)
JUDGE

Whether Speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	Yes/No