



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CRM-M-60189-2024

Date of decision : 05.12.2024

Joel Osagie Omeleman @ Joel Smith

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE

Present: Mr. Sukhpal Singh, Advocate, for
Mr. Amit Sharma, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Gagneshwar Walia, Addl. Advocate General, Punjab.

SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE (Oral)

1. Shri Sukhpal Singh, Advocate, prays for an adjournment on the ground that arguing counsel is unwell. However, no reason is given as to why the counsel, who is stated to be unwell, cannot appear through virtual platform.

2. Petitions for grant of bail are matters, which ought to be decided expeditiously, since these relate to fundamental right to personal liberty and, therefore, any delay due to any reason, including absence of a lawyer, ought to be eschewed, especially when the platform of virtual hearing is available.

3. Therefore, this Court proceeds to decide the case on merits.

4. This is first regular bail application, filed by the petitioner, in FIR No. 341 dated 03.11.2023 under Sections 21 (b), 27 and 31 of NDPS Act and

Section 14 of Foreigners Act, registered at Police Station STF, Phase 4,



Mohali, arising out of an incident where 10 grams of heroin, 17 grams of cocaine and 30 grams of ICE were recovered.

5. The charge-sheet though was filed on 02.01.2024 and charges were framed on 04.07.2024, but considering the fact that earlier, the petitioner has suffered conviction in similar offence, this Court, for the time being, declines bail to the petitioner with liberty to re-visit the Court, if trial gets further delayed.
6. The petition stands dismissed.

(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

December 05, 2024
narotam

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No