



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

212

CRM-M-9761-2025

Date of decision: 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

Karanvir Thapar

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

**CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA**

Present: Mr. Mohd Yousaf, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Sakshi Bakshi, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab.

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**MANISHA BATRA, J (ORAL):-**

The present petition has been filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') by the petitioner seeking grant of anticipatory bail in case bearing FIR No. 81 dated 02.09.2024 registered under Sections 406 and 420 of IPC and Section 13 of P.T.P. Regulations Act, 2014 at Police Station Bhargo Camp, Jalandhar, District Jalandhar.

2. The aforementioned FIR has been registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by the complainant Satnam Singh alleging therein that on 04.02.2023, he had approached the petitioner for the purpose of obtaining a work permit for England for his daughter. The petitioner who was a travel agent had assured to sent his daughter abroad and had demanded a sum of Rs. 20,00,000/-. The deal was settled at Rs. 18,00,000/-. On asking of the petitioner, the complainant had given an amount of Rs. 2,15,000/- to the



petitioner on different occasions. The petitioner had also taken the passport and relevant documents belonging to his daughter, however, he failed to take any steps for obtaining work permit for his daughter and when the complainant approached him to give his money back, he had refused to do so. After registration of FIR, investigation proceedings have been initiated. Apprehending his arrest, present petitioner had moved an application for grant of pre-arrest bail before the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Jalandhar which was dismissed vide order dated 09.01.2025.

3. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case. Infact, Inderpreet Singh, son of the complainant and he himself were working together in a finance company at Jalandhar. Inderpreet Singh had asked the petitioner to introduce him with the agent through whom his sister had gone abroad and then he had introduced the complainant party with travel agent Megha. It was on the request of Inderpreet Singh that some online transactions had been made by the petitioner from his bank account and the money so received from the complainant had been given to the above said Megha. He was not beneficiary of the transaction at all. He had no concern with the business of travel agency. The daughter of the complainant had herself withdrawn her file for issuance of VISA subsequently but pressure was exerted upon him to get the money recovered from the travel agent, which he could not do. He is ready to join the investigation. His custodial interrogation is not required. No recovery is to be effected from him. Accordingly, it is argued that he deserves to be extended benefit of pre-arrest bail.

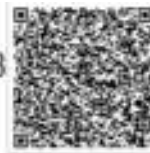
4. Status report has been filed by respondent-State. It is argued by



learned Assistant Advocate General, Punjab, that there are specific and serious allegations against the petitioner, who had induced the complainant to send his daughter abroad, on receipt of a sum of Rs. 18,00,000/-. He had taken an amount of Rs. 2,15,000/- from the complainant and had caused wrongful loss to him. His custodial interrogation is required for effecting recovery of money as well as for proper investigation of the matter. No extraordinary circumstance for grant of bail is made out. Therefore, it is urged that the petition does not deserve to be allowed.

5. Rival contentions raised by learned counsel for the parties have been considered.

6. The petitioner is alleged to have cheated the complainant by inducing him to part with a sum of Rs. 2,15,000/- on the pretext of getting work permit for sending his daughter abroad and then not returning the same, after he had failed to get any such work permit. It is claimed by the petitioner that he had simply introduced the complainant with travel agent Megha. He has tried to make a case that the money received in his account from the complainant party had been transferred to that Megha. However, the allegations *prima facie* make out a case of cheating as against the petitioner. The case is still at its nascent stage. For conducting proper investigation in the matter, his custodial interrogation is must. No extraordinary or sparing circumstance has even otherwise been made out for the purpose of extending benefit of bail to the petitioner. Even otherwise, it is well settled proposition of law that the Court must be circumspect while exercising power for grant of anticipatory bail and it should not be granted as a matter of rule and has to be granted only when the Court is convinced



that exceptional circumstances exist to resort to that extra ordinary remedy. In the present case, no such exceptional circumstances warranting exercise of the powers for grant of anticipatory bail by this Court are existing. As such, I am of the considered opinion that the petition does not deserve to be allowed. Accordingly, the same is dismissed.

7. It is, however, clarified that the observations made hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.
8. Since the main petition has been dismissed, pending application, if any, is rendered infructuous.

[MANISHA BATRA]  
JUDGE

15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025  
Parveen Sharma

1. Whether speaking/ reasoned : Yes / No
2. Whether reportable : Yes / No