



CRM-M-14649-2024

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

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CRM-M-14649-2024

Date of decision: 8th January, 2025

Ranjodh Singh @ Jodh @ Yodh Singh @ Yodha

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present: Mr. Suresh Kumar Dhiman, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Ruchika Sabherwal, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J (ORAL):-

The present petition has been filed by the petitioner seeking grant of regular bail in case bearing FIR No. 86 dated 24.12.2017 registered under Sections 399, 402 and 201 of IPC, 1860 and Sections 25 and 27 of Arms Act, 1959 and Sections 21 and 29 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (For short 'NDPS Act') at Police Station Sarai Amanat Khan, District Tarn Taran.

2. Brief facts of the case relevant for the purpose of disposal of this petition are that the aforementioned FIR was registered on the allegations that on 24.12.2017, a secret information was received that the present petitioner along with the co-accused had formed a gang which was indulged in committing dacoities/robberies while being armed with deadly weapons and also used to smuggle narcotics and further that all of them



were making preparation to commit offence of dacoity and could be apprehended with deadly weapons, narcotics or stolen vehicles, if raid is conducted at Rakh Bhusa. Different police teams had been formed which conducted raid after reaching at the place of occurrence. Five persons were found present there. Two of them, one of which was present petitioner managed to flee, whereas the co-accused Avtar Singh, Malkit Singh @ Ajay Kumar and Jaspreet Singh @ Laddu were apprehended. 285 grams of *heroin* and one .12 bore double barrel rifle with two live cartridges were recovered on conducting search of accused Avtar Singh. Two motor cycles and two iron *datars* were also recovered from the spot which were taken into custody. The petitioner could not be arrested. Proceedings under Section 82 of Cr.P.C. were initiated against him. He was arrested on 06.05.2021 after obtaining his production warrants as he was in custody in connection with some other case. On interrogation, he suffered disclosure statement to the effect that he had formed a gang with the co-accused and was making preparation to break open an ATM on the fateful day in connivance with the co-accused. The investigation has since been completed and the petitioner along with the co-accused is facing trial for commission of the aforementioned offences.

3. The present petition has been filed by the petitioner on the grounds and it is argued by his counsel that he has been falsely implicated in this case. He is in custody since long. The trial is likely to take time. Recovery of narcotic substance has been effected from the co-accused. His further detention would not serve any useful purpose. The co-accused Malkit Singh has been extended benefit of bail. On parity, he too deserves to be



extended the same benefit. No case for commission of subject offences has been made out against him even as per the allegations in the FIR. Therefore, it is urged that he deserves to be released on bail.

4. Status report has been filed by respondent-State. It is argued by learned learned DAG, Punjab that there are specific and serious allegations against the petitioner who had formed a gang with the co-accused and was indulged in committing offences of dacoity and smuggling narcotics. The petitioner has criminal antecedents and eleven other cases of similar nature had been registered against him. He has been convicted in five of such cases. There are chances of his committing similar offences, if extended benefit of bail. Therefore, it is urged that the petition does not deserve to be allowed.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties at considerable length and have gone through the record carefully.

6. The petitioner is in custody since 06.05.2021 i.e. for a period of three years and eight months. No recovery of narcotic substance had been effected from him but from the co-accused. No specific overt act has been attributed to him. Trial is likely to take time. As per the version of the State itself, out of eight prosecution witnesses none has been examined so far. Co-accused Malkit Singh whose case was on similar footing has since been extended benefit of bail. Keeping in view the above discussed facts and circumstances but without meaning to make any comment on the merits of the case lest the same prejudices the case of the prosecution, I am of the considered opinion that the petitioner deserves to be released on bail. Hence, the petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail subject to his furnishing personal/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial



Court/Chief Judicial Magistrate/ Duty Magistrate concerned.

7. Since the main petition has been allowed, pending application, if any, is rendered infructuous.

[MANISHA BATRA]
JUDGE

8th January, 2025
Parveen Sharma

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