

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-58737-2025

Reserved on: 10th November, 2025

Pronounced on: 20th November, 2025

Meenakshi and another

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Haryana

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

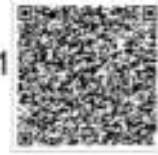
Present: Mr. Randeep Singh Dhakla, Advocate for the petitioners.

Ms. Himani Arora, Deputy Advocate General, Haryana.

MANISHA BATRA, J :-

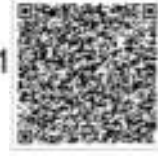
The present petition has been filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') by the petitioners seeking grant of anticipatory bail in case bearing FIR No. 459 dated 26.07.2024 registered under Sections 406 and 420 of IPC at Police Station Industrial Sector 29, Panipat.

2. The aforementioned FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint submitted by the complainant Rani alleging that petitioner No.1 Meenakshi had represented to her that the petitioner No.2- Raj Kumar, who is her husband and her brother in-law Jayant Raj, were involved in the business of sending people abroad and they had sent several youths to America, Canada and Australia where those youths were earning well. She also told the complainant that her own brother was settled in Canada and was involved in the same work. The petitioners and the co-accused induced



the complainant to part with a sum of ₹32,50,000/- for the purpose of sending her son Aman abroad. They took all the original educational certificates, Aadhar Card etc. from the son of the complainant by assuring that he would be issued a visa soon. Sometime, thereafter, they sent a ticket for USA on the *WhatsApp* of the husband of the complainant and told the complainant and her family members to make arrangements for sending her son abroad. On the appointed day, the complainant along with her family members went to Delhi and to board a flight for his son for USA but the petitioners and co-accused did not come. They also did not pick up the phone calls made by the complainant and thereafter, they started making excuses. *Panchayats* were convened and the petitioners assured to return the money of the complainant but in vain. After registration of FIR, investigation proceedings have been initiated and are underway. Apprehending their arrest, both the petitioners jointly moved an application for grant of anticipatory bail which has been dismissed by the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Panipat vide order dated 01.10.2025.

3. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioners that they have been falsely implicated in this case. Previously a complaint had been filed by the husband of the complainant against the petitioner No.2 levelling similar allegations. Due to intervention of panchayat, a compromise had been arrived at between the parties on 01.08.2023 and it was settled that no action would be initiated by either of them against each other but thereafter, this FIR has been lodged. In fact, the complainant wants to extort money from the petitioners. Jaspal Verma, father of petitioner No.2 and father-in-law of petitioner No.1 had got registered an FIR against the members of the



complainant party which was got cancelled on his statement in view of the *panchayati* compromise but the complainant party backed out from the terms of said compromise. No money has been received by the petitioners from the complainant. There is no bank transaction or call detail record to support the allegations of inducement or payment of money. The complainant has been making inconsistent claims as in the previous petition filed by her husband, an amount of ₹65,00,000/- was alleged to have been given, whereas in the FIR, an amount of ₹32,00,000 has been alleged to have been given to the petitioner. The petitioners are ready to join the investigation. Their custodial interrogation is not required. No recovery is to be effected from them. The subject offences are triable by the Magistrate. The dispute between the parties is of a civil nature. The ingredients for the commission of the alleged offences are not attracted at all. With these broad submissions, it is urged that the petition deserves to be allowed.

4. Status report has been filed. It is argued by learned State counsel that keeping in view the gravity of the allegations, the petitioners do not deserve to be released on bail. Accordingly, it is urged that the petition does not deserve to be allowed.

5. This Court has heard learned counsel for the parties at considerable length.

6. The petitioners, in connivance with the co-accused, are alleged to have induced the complainant and her family members to part with a sum of ₹32,50,000 on the premise that they would send the son of the complainant abroad but after receipt of money did not send him anywhere. The allegations *prima facie* reveal the dishonest intention of the petitioners



from the very beginning, thereby showing that a case of cheating is made out. The case is at its nascent stage. For the purpose of conducting thorough and proper investigation in the matter, the custodial interrogation of the petitioners is must. It is well settled that Court must be circumspect while exercising power for grant of pre-arrest 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 instant case, however, no such exceptional circumstances warranting exercise of the powers for grant of anticipatory bail by this Court are existing. As such, this Court is 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

20th November, 2025
Parveen Sharma

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