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

112

2026:PHHC:038481

**CRM-M-65438-2025 (O&M)
Date of decision: 09.03.2026.**

NIRANJAN RAJ

...Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF HARYANA

...Respondent(s)

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ

Present :- Mr. Ramdeep Partap Singh, Advocate, and
Mr. Sahil Koul, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Ms. Chhavi Sharma, AAG, Haryana with
PSI Rajat, P.S. Sadar, Hisar.

Mr. B.S. Beniwal, Advocate, with
Ms. Suman Beniwal, Advocate,
for the complainant.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)

This is the first petition filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, for grant of pre-arrest bail to the petitioner in case bearing FIR No.840 dated 10.10.2024, under Section(s) 406, 420, 467, 468 and 471 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Sections 201 and 120-B of the IPC added later on), registered at Police Station Hisar Sadar, District Hisar, Haryana.

2 The FIR in the present case has been registered on the complaint submitted by one Satish Kumar, which reads thus: -

> *"To, The. SSP Sahib, Hisar | Subject: Request regarding legal action taken against 1. Subhash son of Indra Singh resident of Lalauda Tehsil Tohana District Fatehabad Mob. 9315898111, 7503522227 2. Ravindra alias Rinku son of Hansraj resident of village Jamalpur Shekhan District Fatehabad Mob. 798476300, 9034055673,9306326961,8810357179/8168386157/740457 1622/9034055673 3. Mukesh resident of Lalauda Tehsil Tohana District Fatehabad Mob. 9992499102 4. Mohit resident of Jhansi 5. Sumit resident of Jhansi 6. Satyawan alias Rajbir resident of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh Mob. 7348686676, 8318012488,9451423200 7. Vinendra Shukla resident of Gorakhpur Uttar Pradesh Mob. 6393641715 8. Dr. Lalit Mishra resident of Gorakhpur Uttar Pradesh 9. Amarjeet Shukla resident of Gorakhpur Uttar Pradesh Mob. 9919978821 10. Tiwari peon Mob. 8853446146 11. Others involved in this conspiracy/fraud have formed an illegal gang, under a well-planned conspiracy, by misleading innocent and unemployed persons, by preparing fake joining/documents in the name of providing them jobs, please register a case against the fraudulent and forgery gang and take strictest legal action and do justice to the applicant: Sir, it is requested that I Satish Kumar son of Shri Balbir Singh resident of village Ludas tehsil and district Hisar am a peace loving and law abiding citizen and the applicant is 12th class pass and is married and father of two children and is unemployed and I make the following application that 1. That the applicant is married in his aunt's village Nagla tehsil Tohana district Fatehabad and the applicant has been visiting his aunt since childhood. In February 2023, when the applicant went to*

his aunt's house in village Nangla along with Jagbir son of Deshraj, Subhash son of Inder Singh, resident of Lalauda, Tehsil Tohana, District Fatehabad was also present there and he told the applicant that he works in getting people jobs because he is acquainted with big ministers and officers in the state and central government and by colluding with the ministers and officers, he, along with his friend Ravindra alias Rinku, resident of village Jamalpur Shekhan, had got jobs for many people. The applicant fell for his sweet talk because he was unemployed and was looking for a job. 2. That the applicant came home and told everything to his family members. After 4-5 days, the applicant, Jagbir, Deshraj, the applicant's maternal uncle's son Suber Singh, and the applicant's father Balbir Singh went to Subhash's house in Lalauda. Subhash also called his friend Ravindra alias Rinku and both of them showed him the photographs of the people employed by them on their mobile phones and also showed them the documents related to getting the job. Both of them cleverly lured and misled the applicant and the family members who had accompanied him and assured the applicant of getting a job in the Railways for Rs. 7,50,000/-. Subhash said that to start your work, you should deposit Rs. 50,000/- once and submit your documents and ID. When asked to give the photo, the applicant said that today we have come only to talk, then the accused said that you arrange the money, we will have to go to Hisar in 5-6 days, then we will take the money and documents from your house. 3. That after 5-6 days, Subhash and Ravindra alias Rinku and Mukesh resident of Lalauda, all three came to the applicant's house in village Ludas, then the accused said that we have talked to the Railways to start your work, so you give us Rs 2,50,000/- and documents, after that we will get you a job in the Railways in 3-4 months, then the applicant, trusting them, gave Rs 2,50,000/- in cash, documents and photos etc. to Subhash and Ravindra alias Rinku. All three assured him that your work will be completed soon by the end of February 2023. 4. That even *after this, when the applicant was not given a job till March, the applicant called the accused repeatedly and when he met them, they kept giving assurances and kept promising that they were busy preparing for the job and that government work takes time, so he should be patient and he would get a job in the Railways soon. 5. That after this, on 25 July 2023, the applicant received an email from the Railways for document verification from DRM Jansi. When the applicant contacted Ravindra and Subhash, they said that he should take a clear photo of himself and send it to him and they would also meet him in Jhansi and he should consider his job confirmed. 6. That after this, on 09.08.2023, the applicant went to Jhansi with his father Balbir Singh, Jagveer, Deshraj and Suber Singh. Ravindra alias Rinku said on the phone that tomorrow morning, i.e. the next day, 10.08.2023, you should reach the railway station, stand near the flag, take your photo and send it. A boy named Mohit will come and pick you up.*

After some time, Mohit came and checked my documents, offered me tea and water, and said that our boss's wife is delivering a baby today, so there won't be any work today, so your joining will be arranged tomorrow. 7. That the next day, on 11.08.2023, there is an ATM near the DRM Office, you meet there. Upon reaching the ATM, he said, "Wait there, a boy named Sumit will come and your work will be done." Seeing this, a boy named Sumit took me and me to the DRM Office. There, he made me fill out a form, signed a register, and said that your work will be done. He also said that you will receive an email, and you should take a printout of that email and come back to us. 8. That after this, on 16.09.2023, I received an email about joining in Gorakhpur. We all left on September 19, 2023, and accused Ravindra and Subhash were with us. The next day, they took us to the DRM Office and introduced us to Satyawan, alias Rajbir, who claimed to be the ADRM's nephew. He spoke to us, and Satyawan met another person, Virendra Shukla, and took us to *the Railway Hospital. We all went together, and Satyawan gave Virendra Shukla some money. My medical examination was not completed there. We waited for two hours, then we were taken to a small hospital where Dr. Lalit Mishra conducted my medical examination. My blood sample was taken there, and they said, "Your medical report will be delivered to the office." 9. The next day, the accused took us to the DRM Office. Virendra Shukla walked us around the office and, after a considerable amount of time, had me sign a register. My photo was already there. 10. That the next day, Lalit Mishra gave me a joining letter. He always wore a mask and had two thumbs on his right hand, so I could recognize him if I met him. That after giving me the joining letter, he asked us to pay the balance, so we said we had paid Rs. 2,50,000 in cash to Subhash and Ravindra alias Rinku. 12. That on 25.09.2023, Virendra Shukla took me to the DRM office and took me around there. After that, he introduced me to Amarjeet Shukla, who took me to the railway tracks and made me sign a register in which there were already 8-10 names. He gave me his number and left. He told me to call him at 12 o'clock and I would mark your attendance. He used to sign our names every day. One day, he gave me his ID card from the register. 13. After this, we spoke to Ravindra and he said that we needed to get your final letter issued, for which the remaining amount was required. Give me Rs. 1,50,000/- more. Ravindra took me to a conference on the same day and made me talk to the DRM's Assistant, who was claiming to be the DRM Assistant of Delhi, and he spoke to me and said that if I give Rs. 1,50,000 more, I will be given my final station. That Rs. 1,50,000 was given to Ravindra alias Rink. 14. That after this, on 10.12.2023, an email came that the transfer has been done to Patna and it was said that I have to join on 10.01.2024. Rinku said that the area of Patna is very bad and said that I will get my son transferred from here to Delhi, for which he took Rs. 80,000/- which the applicant's father Balbir Singh gave in Delhi. 15. That on 27.11.2023, an email came that* *your process is on hold, regarding which we talked to Ravindra, on which Ravindra said that the DRM Delhi with whom we had talked for all the work has been transferred from Delhi to Jammu, the new DRM who has come is refusing to do the work of hold transfer and he said that after some time I will settle this also and he said that separate money will have to be paid for this also. Due to this, the applicant had no other option, so he was forced to agree to pay another Rs. 75,000. For this work, he was introduced to an assistant of the DRM at Western Court in Connaught Place. He had taken a guarantee for the entire work. When the applicant tried to find out the assistant's name and mobile number, Ravindra said, "What do you need to do with his name and mobile number? I will get the work done by him myself." At that very moment, Ravindra took another Rs. 75,000, which he deposited through HDFC's CDM machine on the same day. 16. That after this, on 12.12.2023, he received an email regarding the transfer. After this, the applicant returned home. After this, after coming home, Ravinder took him to a conference and made him talk to his assistant, who demanded Rs. 15,000/- separately, which the applicant deposited online in Ravinder's phone on 14.12.2023. 17. That after 10-15 days, Ravinder called the applicant's father Balveer Singh and said that I have made a deal with an officer for a job in Haryana. I will get your son a job in D Group here in Haryana. You will have to work in the Railways at a faroff place and he trapped him by talking very sweetly and said that only one lakh more has to be given, which the applicant deposited one lakh from Shahpur in Ravinder's account. After this, when the list of D Group came out in Haryana, the name of the applicant did not appear in it. 118. That all the above accused persons have hatched a conspiracy and cheated me and my family by giving false promises of getting a job and have extorted money from us. They have formed a gang 'to extort money in the name of getting a job. It has been created and is connected to them as well. You should get my money back* *by registering FIR against them and please do justice to me so that injustice does not happen to anyone in future. Therefore, I request you sir that by registering a case against the above accused, strictest legal action should be taken and the life and property of me and my family should be protected. If in future any untoward incident happens to me or I suffer any loss of life and property, then the above accused and their associates will be responsible for it. My life and property of me and my family should be protected. My money should be returned to me. It will be your great kindness. SD/-Satish Kumar Applicant - Satish Kumar son of Shri Balbir Singh resident of village Ludas tehsil and district Hisar Mo. 9812260057 dated 27.08.2024 Action Police Station: Asab Arrival Complaint SP OFFICE HISAR DIARY No 6644-PU DT 27.08.24 After investigation by the Economic Offences Branch, Hisar, it was found that complainant Satish Kumar son of Balbir Singh resident of Ludal district Hisar, along with respondents Ravindra alias Rinku son of Hansraj resident of Jamalpur Shekha district Fatehabad and Subhash son of Inder Singh resident of Lalauda tehsil Tohana district Fatehabad, together had confessed to taking Rs 9 lakh 20 thousand from complainant Satish in the name of getting him a job in D group in the Railways. After investigation, it was found that the crime was under sections 420,406,467,468,471 IPC. After registering the case, ASI took the case into his custody. Computer copies of the FIR will be sent to the Bajaria Post Office. The SHO was notified by telephone at Bajaria."*

3 Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner(s) has raised the following arguments: -

(i) That the petitioner is not named as an accused in the instant FIR;

(ii) That this Court has granted the concession of anticipatory bail to co-accused Mukesh; that the case of the petitioner is on a better footing as compared to the said accused and that on the principle of parity, the petitioner is entitled to the relief of pre-arrest bail;

(iii) That the petitioner has no connection with any of the other accused persons and he has been nominated as an accused based on a disclosure statement made by co-accused Ravinder and that the said disclosure, having been made in custody, is inadmissible in evidence.

(iv) That no element of any financial benefit has been availed by the petitioner in the present case and that he is only a manpower supply contractor with the Railways; and

(v) That the transaction, at best, is a financial transaction and the dispute being monetary, the petitioner is ready and willing to deposit the entire money in an event the concession of anticipatory bail is extended to the petitioner;

4 Referring to the above, counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner deserves the concession of anticipatory bail.

5 State counsel as well as counsel for the complainant contend that even though the petitioner has been nominated as an accused based on the disclosure statement made by the co-accused, the petitioner was complicit in the commission of the offence. They contend that the nature of the crime shows that it is a well-orchestrated crime wherein different persons are involved at different stages. They contend that the petitioner, being a railway contractor, in fact, claims himself to the gullible victim(s) as related to the ADRM situated at North Eastern Railway Zone, Gorakhpur. The forgery of the requisite appointment and

joining letters, etc., was all done with the active connivance of the petitioner. The co-accused specifically suffered a disclosure statement to the effect that the entire conspiracy of cheating people and alluring them into getting them appointed in the Railways was done with the active connivance of the petitioner herein. They further submit that regular bail of co-accused Subhash has already been dismissed by this Court vide order dated 28.05.2025 passed in CRM-M-29977-2025. They submit that the case of the petitioner, as an active participant in orchestrating the entire crime and being a conspirator, is more in line with Subhash and not with Mukesh, as there was no other specific attribution against Mukesh other than that he happened to be the person who was present along with the other co-accused when the payment in question was received. Thus, the case of the petitioner is not on par with the co-accused Mukesh.

6 I have heard the learned counsel appearing for the respective parties and have gone through the documents appended along with the present petition.

Dealing with the arguments advanced by the petitioner in seriatim:

(i) So far as the argument that the petitioner has been nominated as an accused in the FIR based on the disclosure statement made by the co-accused is concerned, the offence is in the nature of alluring people to the government jobs. In such nature of offences, there are a lot of players who do not come to the forefront, however, conceptualization and execution of such offences actually takes place with their back-stage support. They orchestrate the entire crime. The respondent-accused Ravinder, Subhash and others won the confidence of the persons seeking govt. jobs by portraying that the petitioner is nephew of the ADRM of the North-Eastern Railway Zone. The assurance given to the victims to pay the money was for securing a govt. job with the Railways itself. Hence, the petitioner cannot claim that he was not involved in the commission of the crime. The petitioner ostensibly represented himself as a person who would secure the job for the complainant and other victims on the strength of his association with the North Eastern Railways and his proclaimed reach to the high officials. The fact that the petitioner is already a contractor would have been an additional factor to convince the victims to part with their money for securing the job.

(ii) So far as the argument of the petitioner that his case is at par with co-accused Mukesh to whom the concession of anticipatory bail has been granted, I do not find it to be a case of parity. The said co-accused Mukesh nowhere allured any person for a govt job or received any money. Besides, he has also not been accused of forging any documents or being portrayed as related to DRM or in issuing of joining letters with the North Eastern Railways. The only allegation that came up against him during the course of the investigation, was that he was present along with the other accused at the time when the money was paid. To the contrary, the intent of the petitioner is prima facie reflected from the circumstances on record. The case of the petitioner would rather be similar to Subhash, whose petition for the grant of anticipatory bail had been dismissed by this Court vide order dated 28.05.2025.

(iii) Adverting to the argument raised that the petitioner has been nominated as an accused based on the disclosure made by the co-accused while in custody. The question of admissibility of disclosure shall come into play at the time of trial. At this stage, the petitioner is seeking anticipatory bail. The investigating agency is still in the process of unearthing the entire racket. Grant of interim protection, at this stage, is likely to hamper the investigation. Investigations of this nature have to be carried out pervasively so as to make them meaningful and impactful. Armed with the protection of anticipatory bail, the purpose of the investigation is not fully served.

(iv) Petitioner has also raised an argument that he was not known to the accused Ravinder as well as Subhash and that he has no concern with them.

A specific question was put to the counsel for the petitioner that how in the absence of any relationship or personal knowledge or ever having met the aforesaid accused and under what circumstances, the said co-accused would name the petitioner specifically. Counsel for the petitioner has failed to offer any reply to the same.

He has further been asked as to whether the police or the investigating agency had any specific grudge against the petitioner to falsely implicate him? Counsel for the petitioner is not in a situation to respond to the same.

Under the said circumstances, I find that counsel for the petitioner has not been able to clarify his position and to prima facie give any satisfactory and reasonable explanation.

(v) Adverting to the argument of the petitioner that there are oth,mer non-existent persons, and that their whereabouts are untraceable, is concerned, the said aspect would only render the entire conspiracy grave and would not act to the advantage of the petitioner herein.

(vi) Referring to the offer given by the counsel for the petitioner for depositing the payment and the monies as claimed, the said argument is rejected. The Supreme Court in ***Gajanan Dattatray Gore v. State of Maharashtra, reported as 2025 SCC OnLine SC 1571*****,** has specifically held that in matters where financial frauds have been committed, an offer to make the payment would not obliterate the offence already committed.

(vii) As a parting argument, counsel has contended that some part of the money can be deposited. I find that such an argument is contradictory to his own stands taken earlier and placed before this Court and

(viii) It was also specifically put to the counsel for the petitioner as to what was the business relationship or its nature as would give rise to a financial dispute between two transacting parties. The fact that the petitioner has feigned ignorance and has denied any relationship means there was no question of any financial transaction or business relationship between the petitioner and the other co-accused. In the absence of any special circumstances of any financial transactions/relationship inter se the parties, it cannot be said that it is a monetary dispute. It thus prima facie falls within the domain of fraudulent financial transactions that had been undertaken with the active participation of the petitioner.

Very often, a maze is created by those involved in financial fraud. They operate at different layers and in different fields. The entire racket can only be busted once each layer is peeled off. The back-stage artists work under covered layers and in the protection. They need to be brought to light. The nature and extent of such frauds can only be assessed thereafter. The protection of an anticipatory bail would severely impede a deep pervasive investigation necessary in such cases where poor persons, who vie for opportunities, are being robbed of their hard-earned money and are being driven to bankruptcy, given their sparse financial resources.

Consequently, the present petition is dismissed.

March 09, 2026. **(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)**
raj arora **JUDGE**

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