

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

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CRM-M-27508-2025**Date of decision: 23.05.2025**

Satnam Singh

*.....Petitioner**Versus*

State of Punjab

*.....Respondent***CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL**

Present: Mr. Harpal Singh Sidhu, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Amit Rana, Senior Deputy Advocate General, Punjab.

MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J (ORAL)

1. The instant petition has been filed under Section 483 of BNSS, 2023 for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.5 dated 09.03.2017 under Sections 409,420,467,468,471,120-B IPC and Sections 13(1)(d), 13(2) of the Prevention and Corruption Act, 1988.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner has contended that the FIR in question came to be registered way back in the year 2017; the petitioner was neither named therein nor was any suspicion raised qua his involvement in the alleged offences. It has been submitted that the supplementary challan was presented and the petitioner came to be nominated much later as accused in this case and thereafter arrested on 05.02.2025. Learned counsel has further submitted that the investigation qua the petitioner is complete as supplementary challan has since been presented against him; further more the entire case of the prosecution against the petitioner is based on documentary evidence which is already part of the supplementary challan and hence there can be no apprehension of the petitioner tampering with evidence. It is also submitted that since the charges are likely to be framed only on 07.07.2025, the possibility of the trial concluding in



near future looks remote, more so when as many as 15 prosecution witnesses have been cited. Prayer has therefore been made for extending the concession of bail to the petitioner.

3. Per contra, learned State counsel, on instructions from SI Kewal Singh, while opposing the prayer and submissions made by the counsel opposite, has not disputed the custody period of the petitioner nor has he disputed that investigation qua the petitioner is complete; the entire case of the prosecution against the petitioner is based on documentary evidence, which is already part of the challan. However, learned State counsel has, on instructions, submitted that the petitioner fabricated the documents and on the basis of the same thereafter obtained loan from the Bank in connivance with the Bank officials and the same Revenue Officer, who all are accused in the present case. However, he has reiterated the allegations levelled in the FIR in question, which stands reproduced hereinunder: -

“To, Vigilance Bureau, PS Range Jalandhar Consequent upon enquiry of vigilance enquiry no 12 dated 25.07.2016, District Jalandhar against Salinder Singh Manager (Advances) State Bank of Patiala, Branch Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala and others, it has been found that by withdrawing amounts by way of limits/loans from the treasury of State Bank of Patiala, Branch Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, embezzlement has been committed Pursuant to the enquiry of 14 loan files pertaining to the period from 1.5.2013 to 30 04.2016, the embezzlement of Rs.3 Crore 71 Lacs has been unearthed. From the enquiry of all the agriculture loan/limits files from 1.5.2013 to 30.04.2016 could bring the embezzlement to the tune of about Rs. 15 Crores 83 Lacs to the light. While relying upon incomplete field reports and guarantor deeds, with the connivance of private persons and officers and officials of Revenue Department, bank loans have been sanctioned in the name of fictitious persons in respect of fictitious land holdings. On the basis of fake documents based on fake land; without getting conducted the index inspection got



issued 'Non Encumbrances Certificates and the fake title search reports were prepared in favour of the borrowers. The borrowers despite being not owner of the land; by showing private persons as owners of the land owned by the Punjab, Govt. in the Fard Hakikat and Fard Girdwari and having got issued the Non Encumbrance Certificate, the Mortgage Deeds and Sale Deeds were got registered. Fake Fards have been issued by Fard Kendar Sultanpur Lodhi and the online record of the Fard Kendar has been tampered with. State Bank of Patiala, Branch Sultanpu Lodhi, District Kapurthala's officers/officials namely Jasbir Singh, Chief Manager s/o Sh. Gurdey Singh, Ramgarhia by caste R/o H. No. 506, Ranjit Nagar, Kharar, Tehsil Mohali, District S.A.S. Nagar, Salinder Singh, Manager (Advances) s/o Puran Singh R/o H.No.60, Ekta Vihar, Jalandhar, Surinder Pal, Field Officer, State Bank of Patiala, s/o Sh. Ajit Raj, SC by caste R/o H.No.820, Urban Estate Kapurthala, Tara Chand Uppal, Paneled Advocate of the Bank, s/o Sh. Manohar Lal, R/o Mohalla Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, revenue department's officers/officials namely Mohan Lal Naib Tehsildar-cum-Sub Registrar, Sultanpur Lodhi now retired son of Chuni Lai Blo Mohalla Rada Ward No.2, Police Division No.1, Pathankot, Jaswinder Singh Palwari (since deceased) s/o Sucha Singh R/o village Haibatpur Tehsil Sultanpur Lodhi, Kuldeep Singh, Halqa Patwan, Tehsil Sultanpur Lodhi, s/o Harbhajan Singh, Jat Sikh R/o village Mandir, now resident of Rab Nagar, Moga City, Lakhwinder Singh, Assistant System Manager, Fard Kendar, Sultanpur Lodhi, s/o Sh. Karam Singh, Jat Sikh, R/o village Lakhwariya, PS. Kabirpur, Tehsil Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala and private persons/borrowers Hardhir Singh Dhira (Clerk to Paneled Advocate Tara Chand Uppal) s/o Sh. Bakshish Singh, Jat Sikh R/o village Mothawal, Tehsil Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Des Raj @ Desa s/o Makhan Singh Rio Village Faridput, PS. Talwandi Chaudhrian, Tehsil Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Vicky Kumar, MC. s/o Sh. Surinder Kumar R/o Mohalla Saidan, Ward no.11 Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Malkit Singh s/o Jagtar Singh Rio Fauji Colony. Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Subeg Singh s/o Mohinder Singh R/o Vilalge Alladat Chak Tehsil Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Smt. Bharti w/o Sh Harjit Singh s/o Sh Inder Singh



R/o Mohalla Arora Rasta Sultanpu Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Smt. Harjinder Kaur w/o SH. Inder Singh R/o Mohalla Arora Rasta Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Harjit Singh Gori s/o Sh Inder Singh R/o Mohalla Arora Rasta Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Smt Ambika Devi w/o Jagdish Chand R/O Mohalla Kardgara, Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Smt Anita w/o Tilak Raj Rio Mohalla Kardgara, Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Smt Gurbachan Kaur w/o Sh. Puran Singh R/o Mohalla Pandori, Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Naresh Kumar Sonu Son of Sh. Joginder Pal Arora by caste, r/o Mohalla Arora Rasta, Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala @ Harpal Singh s/o Sh. Sawarn Singh R/o Mohalla Taraf Behwal, Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Kirpal Singh s/o Swaranjit Singh R/o Mohalla Kardgara, Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Harjit Singh s/o Sh. Gian Singh R/o Khera Dona, Tehsil Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Mukesh Kumar s/o Sh. Jawala Parsad R/o Adalat Chak, Tehsil Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Tilak Raj s/o Sh. Jagdish Chand Rio Mohalla Kardgara, Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Kuldip Singh s/o Sh Sangara Singh r/o Village Sheikh Manga, PS. Giddarpindi, Tehsil Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala, Jashanpreet Singh s/o Sh. Sukhdev Singh Rio H No.40 village Gazipur Tehsil Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala with collusion having prepared fake documents, by using the same as genuine one have committed an embezzlement of about Rs 3 Crore 71 Lacs By committing such act, the aforesaid all the officers/officials and private persons have committed an offense punishable u/s 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B and Section 13 (1) (d) R. W 13 (2) PC Act 1988. The role of the other government officers/officials and private persons involved in this scam shall be considered at the time investigations of the case. Hence the writing is being sent through HC/PR Paramjit Singh No.1430/KPT to B.S. Vigilance Bureau, Range Jalandhar for favor of registration of case FIR under the aforesaid sections. After registration of the case FIR, the special reports be sent to the concerned Illaqa Magistrate and the senior officers. The original writing together with copy of the FIR be got sent to me. Today O/o V.B. Kapurthala, 9.00 a.m. Sd/-Karambir Singh DSP, Vigilance Bureau Unit, Kapurthala, 9.3.2017. AT the Police Station: On



receipt of the above writing at P.S. Vigilance Bureau, Range Jalandhar, the case FIR for the above said offences having been registered, the original writing together with copy of FIR have sent through HC/PR Paramjit Singh No.1430/KPT to deliver the same to the Investigating Officer and the Special reports to deliver to the Area Magistrate, Kapurthala and appropriate instruction has been given. ”

4. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the relevant material placed on record.
5. The petitioner has been in custody since 05.02.2025 in a case resting on documentary evidence. The possibility of the trial concluding in the near future seems unlikely. In the facts and circumstances as enumerated hereinabove, this Court, therefore, deems it fit to extend the concession of regular bail to the petitioner.
6. Accordingly, the instant petition is allowed, and the petitioner be admitted to bail on his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.
7. However, it is made clear that anything observed hereinabove shall not be construed to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.
8. Needless to add here, in case the petitioner is found misusing the concession of bail, the State would be at liberty to approach this Court to seek cancellation of bail to him.

May 23, 2025
manoj

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No
Whether Reportable: Yes/No