

2025:PHHC:070717



102.

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

CRM-M-28564-2025

Date of decision: 23.05.2025

Raman Kumar

.... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present: Mr. Mitul Singh Rana, Advocate, for the petitioner.

MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J. (ORAL)

1. Prayer in this petition filed under Section 482 of BNSS, 2023, is for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.66, dated 19.03.2025, under Sections 318(4), 143 of BNS, 2023, registered at Police Station Phillaur, District Jalandhar Rural.

2. As per allegations levelled in the FIR (Annexure P-1), the petitioner after conspiring with co-accused, Bhupinder Singh, induced the complainant to part with a huge sum of Rs.41.5 lakhs under the pretext of facilitating his son's travel to the USA. After taking money from the complainant, instead of fulfilling the promised travel arrangements, the accused allegedly routed the son of the complainant through unsafe and illegal channels, resulting in his arrest and incarceration in Poland for seven months. During this period, further extortionate demands were made, accompanied by criminal intimidation and threats to life, including threats to kill the son of the complainant.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has vehemently contended that it is a matter of record that the son of the complainant was indeed sent abroad. The transaction between the petitioner and the complainant was contractual in nature and the petitioner had fulfilled his part of the contract. However, after the son of the complainant reached his destination, the complainant started brow beating and pressurizing the petitioner to return at least 50% of the amount which had been taken by him to facilitate the travel of the son of the complainant to the USA. Since the petitioner did not succumb to the pressure tactics, the complainant in retaliation has planted a false case upon him. It has also been submitted that the petitioner has no criminal antecedents.

4. I have heard learned counsel and perused the material placed on record, including the FIR in question (Annexure P-1).

5. A bear perusal of the FIR reveals not only deeply incriminating material against the petitioner but also reflects a prima facie deliberate and organized plan to dupe vulnerable persons aspiring for better opportunities abroad.

6. This Court also cannot lose sight of the larger societal implications of such acts. Unscrupulous agents masquerading as travel agents have, in recent years, become a menace. In multiple instances, Indian nationals have been deported or detained in foreign countries after being routed through illegal channels by such unscrupulous elements, resulting in irreparable harm, both to the individuals and to the reputation of the country.

7. This case is yet another grim reflection of that unfortunate trend. The allegations, if proved, constitute a case of human exploitation and aggravated fraud, carried out under the garb of immigration. The custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not only warranted but necessary to unearth the wider network of such criminal syndicates.

8. Given the nature of the accusations, this Court does not deem it fit to extend the extraordinary concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioner.

9. Accordingly, the present petition is dismissed.

10. 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.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

May 23, 2025

sanjeev

Whether speaking/reasoned:

Yes/No

Whether reportable:

Yes/No