



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT  
CHANDIGARH

103

CRM-M-25819-2025  
DATE OF DECISION: 13.05.2025

HARDEV SINGH

...PETITIONER

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

... RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP MOUDGIL

Present: Mr. Sukhveer S. Killianwali, Advocate  
for the petitioner(s).

Mr. Jastej Singh, Addl. A.G, Punjab.

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SANDEEP MOUDGIL, J (ORAL)1. Prayer

This petition has been filed under Section 482 of B.N.S.S, 2023 seeking anticipatory bail in FIR No. 44 dated 13.02.2025 registered under sections 420 of IPC registered at P.S. Civil Lines, Batala, District Gurdaspur.

2. Prosecution story, set up in the present case as per the version in the FIR reads as under :-

*‘Complaint No. 1767- PGD Dated 10.05.2024 Dear Senior Police officers, Copy to Honorable Chief Minister of Punjab My name is Harpreet Singh S/o Manjeet Singh, Residence of Village Marhianwala, Teh Batala Dist Gurdaspur 143505, and I am writing to you today to bring to your attention a distressing incident that along with several others have recently experienced. Approximately two months ago, my family and I entrusted a travel agent named Mr. Hardev Singh, so Gurjeet Singh, residing in Village Maur, Lopoke Chogawan, Dist. Amritsar (contact 6284919625), and Mrs. Pardeep Kaur, wife of Mr Hardev Singh,*



*residing in Village Maur, Lopoke Chogawan, Dist. Amritsar (contact 9781969726), with the arrangement of our travel to a European country, Romania, with the promise of securing employment opportunities. Regrettably, the outcome of this arrangement has been nothing short of a nightmare, Mr. Hardev Singh assured us of legitimate job prospects and facilitated our travel to what we believed would be Romania. However, upon reaching our destination, we discovered that we had been misled and were in fact in Armenia. Moreover the promised job opportunities turned out to be nonexistent, leaving us stranded and vulnerabl in a foreign land. The magnitude of deceit and betrayal we have experienced at the hands of Mr. Hardev Singh and Mrs. Pardeep Kaur is deeply distressing, and we are not alone in our plight. Several others from our community have fallen victim to similar fraudulent schemes orchestrated by these individuals. In addition to myself, the victims of this fraud include. 1. Sukhkarandeep Singh, S/o Charanjeet Singh 2. Oankar Singh, S/o Kulwinder Singh As law-abiding citizens of Punjab, we seek justice and accountability for these reprehensible actions. Therefore. I kindly request your urgent intervention and assistance in investigating this matter thoroughly. It is imperative that Mr. Hardev Singh and Mrs. Pardeep Kaur are held accountable for their fraudulent activities and that measures are taken to prevent further exploitation of innocent individuals. Furthermore, I wish to bring to your attention the fact that previous complaints regarding Hardev Singh and Mrs Pardeep Kaur were filed on April 20, 2024 During this time, they were confronted in the presence of a Punjab Police Officer from Batala. Despite this, the resolution proposed by the agents, to return only a portion of the amount defrauded specifically 50,000 rupees, is wholly unsatisfactory and fails to address the severity of the situation. Furthermore, I intend to escalate this issue to the attention of the Honorable Chief Minister of Panjab, and I would greatly appreciate any assistance of guidance you can offer to facilitating this communication. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I eagerly await your prompt response and assistance in seeking Justice attaching*



*another letter with my regional language Punjabi Please find the attached document with signatures of me and two others. Yours sincerely, Harpreet Singh S/o Manjeet Singh, Village Marhianwala, Teh Batala, Dist. Gurdaspur 143505 Mobile 959270745.'*

### 3. Contentions

#### On behalf of the petitioner

Learned counsel for the petitioner has argued that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case. He submits that there is no iota of truth in the story put forth in the FIR as the complainant voluntarily travelled to Armenia after being duly informed about their destination and the nature of work available there and returned back to India after working there for three months. He further submits that Sukhandeep Singh and Onkar Singh got their visa on 06.02.2024 and after getting the same, both of them told the petitioner to book their airline tickets for 23.02.2024. It is his further contention that both of them returned back to India as they were unable to understand the language spoken by the people of Armenia and due to the environment of that country, hence, the petitioner has not committed any fraud with them.

Learned counsel for the petitioner undertakes that the petitioner is ready and willing to join the investigation and cooperate with the investigating officer.

Notice of motion.

#### On behalf of the State

Learned State Counsel appearing on advance notice on instructions from Investigating officer vehemently opposes the prayer for grant of concession of anticipatory bail stating that the petitioner



committed cheating as he promised the complainants for employment in Romania but intentionally sent them to Armenia and thus, committed a fraud of Rs. 6,38,000/- with three victims.

4. **Analysis**

Be that as it may, after given a thoughtful consideration to the submissions as made, by the counsel for both the parties that the complainant travelled Armenia and got the job as promised by the petitioner as a travel agent for which consideration was paid to him. Prima facie it seems that after facing certain difficulties in adapting the lifestyle in Armenia, complainant came back to India and got this FIR registered for an ulterior motive wherein ingredients of Section 420 of IPC is found to be missing as far as the case for anticipatory bail of the petitioner is concerned at this stage. Hence, this Court finds no reason to deny the petitioner the concession of anticipatory bail, wherein the petitioner has bona fide intentions and is willing to join the investigation and cooperate for furtherance of the same so that the final report can be submitted by the Investigating Agency within the stipulated time period.

5. **Relief**

Hence, in view of the admitted set of circumstances before this Court, the petitioner is hereby directed to be released on anticipatory bail subject to him joining investigation and reporting to the Investigating Officer concerned within a period of one week from today, on furnishing of personal/surety bonds to the satisfaction of Arresting/Investigating Officer. The petitioner shall also abide by the terms and conditions as envisaged under Section 482(2) of BNS of which are reproduced below :-



*'When the High Court or the Court of Session makes a direction under sub-section (1), it may include such conditions in such directions in the light of the facts of the particular case, as it may think fit, including-*

*(i) a condition that the person shall make himself available for interrogation by a police officer as and when required;*

*(ii) a condition that the person shall not, directly or indirectly, make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer;*

*(iii) a condition that the person shall not leave India without the previous permission of the Court;*

*(iv) such other condition as may be imposed under sub-section (3) of section 480, as if the bail were granted under that section.'*

However, it is made clear that in case the petitioner does not comply with the aforesaid direction of joining the investigation within one week, the order passed by this Court today shall automatically stand cancelled.

The petition in the aforesaid terms stand allowed.

**(SANDEEP MOUDGIL)**  
**JUDGE**

**13.05.2025**  
*anuradha*

*Whether speaking/reasoned*  
*Whether reportable*

*Yes/No*  
*Yes/No*