

HARMEET SINGH SEHGAL V/S STATE OF PUNJAB

Present: Mr. S.K. Garg Narwana, Senior Advocate with
Mr. RPS Jammu, Advocate, for the petitioner

Apprehending his arrest in FIR No.17 dated 10.3.2025, under Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B of IPC and Section 7-A of Prevention of Corruption Act, registered at Police Station Vigilance Bureau, Patiala, District Patiala, the petitioner has preferred this petition under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 seeking pre-arrest bail.

Inter alia, contends that the complaint which has culminated into the FIR in question was given in 2019 but the Vigilance Bureau continued to sit over the same for about 5 years, the petitioner had duly appeared before the concerned official as and when he was called upon before registration of the FIR i.e. during the course of inquiry by the Vigilance Bureau, the petitioner is willing to join investigation and cooperate therein & his custodial interrogation in the factual milieu of *lis* in hand would only result in ignominy.

Notice of motion.

Mr. H.S. Deol, Senior DAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the respondent/State.

Adjourned to 8.5.2025.

The petitioner is directed to appear before the Investigating Officer on 21.4.2025 at 11:00 A.M. in concerned Police Station and join investigation. In the event of arrest, the petitioner shall be released on

interim bail subject to his furnishing personal/surety bond(s) to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer/Investigating Officer. As and when further called by Investigating Officer, the petitioner shall join the investigation. He shall abide by the condition(s) enumerated under Section 482(2) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

Before parting with this order, a pertinent aspect of the matter is required to be delved into. The complaint which resulted into registration of the FIR in question is stated to have been given on 11.7.2019 but, for some cause, the Vigilance Bureau has chosen to sit over the complaint for about 5 years as the FIR on the basis thereof was registered only in March 2025. The situation appears to be inexplicable *nay* deplorable. *Ergo*; the Chief Director, State Vigilance Bureau, Punjab is directed to look into the matter and file an affidavit delineating therein the cause for and justification behind continuation of an inquiry for a period of about 5 years without registration of an FIR.

(SUMEET GOEL)
JUDGE

16.4.2025

Ashwani