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CNR No. DLCT01-000127-2014
SC No. 98/2021
FIR No. 303/2014
PS Subzi Mandi
U/s 302/307/149/174-A IPC & 27 Arms Act
State Vs. Sunil @ Kalu & Ors.

20/09/2021

File taken up today on bail application u/s. 439 Cr.P.C. of accused Sunil @ Maya for grant of regular bail.

(Proceeding of the matter has been conducted physically in terms of circular No. 569/RG/DHC/2021 dated 19/08/2021 of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and circular No.1150/46951-47141/DJ/(HQ)/Covid Lockdown/Physical Courts Roster/2021 dated 20/08/2021 of Ld. District & Sessions Judge (HQ), Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi)

(Physical Hearing)

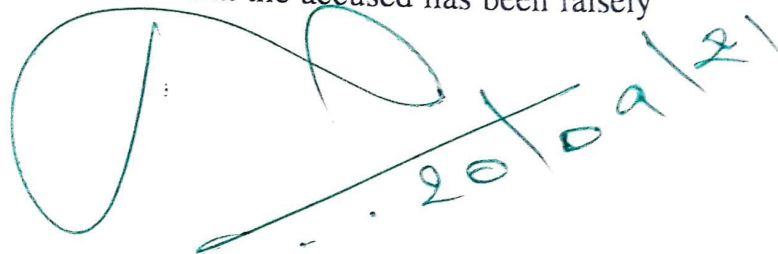
Present: Sh. Virender Singh, Ld. Substitute Addl. P.P. for the State
None appeared on behalf of the accused Sunil @ Maya.

Ahlmad and Assistant Ahlmad are on leave today.

By way of present order, this Court shall disposed of bail application u/s. 439 Cr.P.C. of the accused Sunil @ Maya for grant of regular bail.

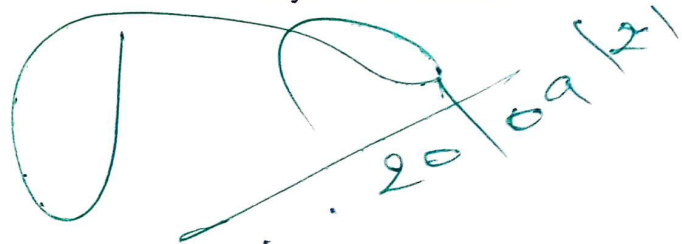
Arguments have already been heard on the aforesaid bail application of the accused Sunil @ Maya. Perused the material available on record.

During the course of arguments on the aforesaid bail application, it was submitted by counsel for the accused Sunil @ Maya that the first regular bail application of the accused Sunil @ Maya was dismissed vide order dated 14/03/2018 passed by Ld. Predecessor of this Court and the present bail application is the second regular bail application of the accused Sunil @ Maya and no other regular bail application of the accused Sunil @ Maya is pending/decided by the Hon'ble Superior Courts. It was further submitted that the accused has been falsely


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implicated in the present case and there is no incriminating evidence against the accused and investigation in the present case has already been completed and the accused is no more required for the purpose of further investigation as charge-sheet has already been filed in the present case. It was further submitted that co-accused Varun Bhardwaj has already been granted regular bail vide order dated 19/05/2021 passed by the Ld. Vacation Judge/ASJ-04, Central, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi and bail be granted to the accused Sunil @ Maya on the ground of parity. It was further submitted that the present matter is at the stage of prosecution evidence and in view of the present Covid-19 pandemic situation, the trial will take considerable time. It was further submitted that whenever interim bail was granted to the accused, he never misused the same. It was further submitted that in the present case, all the material witnesses have already been examined. It was further submitted that accused has not threatened any witness at any point of time. It was further submitted that the accused is in J/C since 13/07/2014. It was further submitted that bail be granted to the accused and accused shall be abide by all terms and conditions imposed by the Court.

During the course of arguments, it was submitted by Addl. P.P. for the State that the allegations against the accused are serious in nature and accused can abscond, if the bail is granted to the accused. It was further submitted that the regular bail applications of the accused Sunil @ Maya were dismissed vide orders dated 14/03/2018 and 02/03/2020 passed by Ld. Predecessor of this Court and in the present bail application, no fresh ground has been mentioned by the accused. It was further submitted that regular bail was granted to the co-accused Varun Bhardwaj mainly on the medical grounds of the accused and in view of the same, the accused Sunil @ Maya cannot claim the regular bail on the ground of parity. It was further submitted that in the present case, threats have been extended to the witnesses time to time. It was further submitted that the accused Sunil @ Maya is a habitual


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offender and he has been previously involved in 5 other criminal cases. It was further submitted that there is sufficient incriminating material against the accused and bail application of accused Sunil @ Maya be dismissed.

It was held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in case titled as "**Virupakshappa Gouda and Anr. Vs. State of Karnataka and Anr.**" {(2017) 5 SCC 406} that :

*"15. The court has to keep in mind what has been stated in **Chaman Lal v. State of U.P.** The requisite factors are: (i) the nature of accusation and the severity of punishment in case of conviction and the nature of supporting evidence; (ii) reasonable apprehension of tampering with the witness or apprehension of threat to the complainant; and (iii) prima facie satisfaction of the court in support of the charge. In **Prasanta Kumar Sarkar v. Ashis Chatterjee**, it has been opined that while exercising the power for grant of bail, the court has to keep in mind certain circumstances and factors. We may usefully reproduce the said passage:*

"9....among other circumstances, the factors which are to be borne in mind while considering an application for bail are:

(i) whether there is any prima facie or reasonable ground to be believe that the accused had committed the offence.

(ii) nature and gravity of the accusation;

(iii) severity of the punishment in the event of conviction;

(iv) danger of the accused absconding or fleeing, if released on bail;

(v) character, behaviour, means, position and standing of the accused;

(vi) likelihood of the offence being repeated;

(vii) reasonable apprehension of the witnesses being influenced;
and

(viii) danger, of course, of justice being thwarted by grant of bail."

*16. In **CBI v. V. Vijay Sai Reddy**, the Court had reiterated the principle by observing thus:- " 34. While granting bail, the court has to keep in mind the nature of accusation, the nature of evidence in support thereof, the severity of the punishment*

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which conviction will entail, the character of the accused, circumstances which are peculiar to the accused, reasonable possibility of securing the presence of the accused at the trial, reasonable apprehension of the witnesses being tampered with, the larger interests of the public/State and other similar considerations. It has also to be kept in mind that for the purpose of granting bail, the legislature has used the words "reasonable grounds for believing" instead of "the evidence" which means the court dealing with the grant of bail can only satisfy itself as to whether there is a genuine case against the accused and that the prosecution will be able to produce prima facie evidence in support of the charge. It is not expected, at this stage, to have the evidence establishing the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt."

*17. From the aforesaid principles, it is quite clear that an order of bail cannot be granted in an arbitrary or fanciful manner. In this context, we may, with profit, reproduce a passage from **Neeru Yadav v. State of U.P.**, wherein the Court setting aside an order granting bail observed:*

"16. The issue that is presented before us is whether this Court can annul the order passed by the High Court and curtail the liberty of the second respondent? We are not oblivious of the fact that the liberty is a priceless treasure for a human being. It is founded on the bedrock of constitutional right and accentuated further on human rights principle. It is basically a natural right. In fact, some regard it as the grammar of life. No one would like to lose his liberty or barter it for all the wealth of the world. People from centuries have fought for liberty, for absence of liberty causes sense of emptiness. The sanctity of liberty is the fulcrum of any civilized society. It is a cardinal value on which the civilisation rests. It cannot be allowed to be paralysed and immobilized. Deprivation of liberty of a person has enormous impact on his mind as well as body. A democratic body polity which is wedded to rule of law, anxiously guards liberty. But, a pregnant and significant one, the liberty of an individual is not absolute. The society by its collective wisdom through process of law can withdraw the liberty that it has sanctioned to an individual when an individual becomes a danger to the collective and to the societal order. Accent on individual liberty cannot be pyramided to that extent which would bring chaos and

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anarchy to a society. A society expects responsibility and accountability from its members, and it desires that the citizens should obey the law, respecting it as a cherished social norm. No individual can make an attempt to create a concavity in the stem of social stream. It is impermissible. Therefore, when an individual behaves in a disharmonious manner ushering in disorderly things which the society disapproves, the legal consequences are bound to follow. At that stage, the Court has a duty. It cannot abandon its sacrosanct obligation and pass an order at its own whim or caprice. It has to be guided by the established parameters of law."

It was held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in case titled as **"Kalyan Chandra Sarkar Vs. Rajesh Ranjan @ Pappu Yadav and Anr."** {2004 Cri. L.J. 1796 (1)} that :

- "11. The law in regard to grant or refusal of bail is very well settled. The Court granting bail should exercise its discretion in a judicious manner and not as a matter of course. Though at the stage of granting bail a detailed examination of evidence and elaborate documentation of the merit of the case need not be undertaken, there is a need to indicate in such orders reasons for prima facie concluding why bail was being granted particularly where the accused is charged of having committed a serious offence. Any order devoid of such reasons would suffer from non-application of mind. It is also necessary for the Court granting bail to consider among other circumstances, the following factors also before granting bail; they are,*
- (a) The nature of accusation and the severity of punishment in case of conviction and the nature of supporting evidence;*
 - (b) Reasonable apprehension of tampering of the witness or apprehension of threat to the complainant;*
 - (c) Prima facie satisfaction of the Court in support of the charge.*
- 12. In regard to cases where earlier bail applications have been rejected there is a further onus on the Court to consider the subsequent application for grant of bail by noticing the grounds on which earlier bail applications have been rejected*

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and after such consideration if the Court is of the opinion that bail has to be granted then the said Court will have to give specific reasons why in spite of such earlier rejection the subsequent application for bail should be granted.

14. In such cases, in our opinion, the mere fact that the accused has undergone certain period of incarceration (three years in this case) by itself would not entitle the accused to being enlarged on bail, nor the fact that the trial is not likely to be concluded in the near future either by itself or coupled with the period of incarceration would be sufficient for enlarging the appellant on bail when the gravity of the offence alleged is severe and there are allegations of tampering with the witnesses by the accused during the period he was on bail.

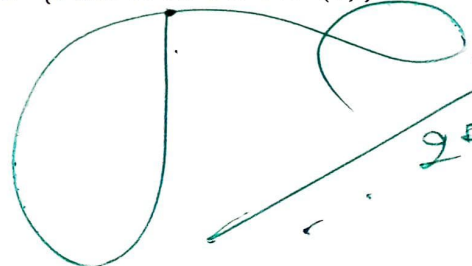
20. Before concluding, we must note though an accused has a right to make successive applications for grant of bail the Court entertaining such subsequent bail applications has a duty to consider the reasons and grounds on which the earlier bail applications were rejected. In such cases, the Court also has a duty to record what are the fresh grounds which persuade it to take a view different from the one taken in the earlier applications.....”

It was held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in case titled as **“Satish Jaggi Vs. State of Chhatisgarh and Ors.”** {AIR 2007 SC (Supp) 256} that :

“5. It is well settled law that in granting or non-granting of bail in non-bailable offence, the primary consideration is the nature and gravity of the offence.....

12.At the stage of granting of bail, the court can only go into the question of the prima-facie case established for granting bail. It cannot go into the question of credibility and reliability of the witnesses put up by the prosecution. The question of credibility and reliability of prosecution witnesses can only be tested during the trial.”

It was held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in case titled as **“Gurucharan Singh & Others Vs. State”** {AIR 1978 SC 179 (1)} that :

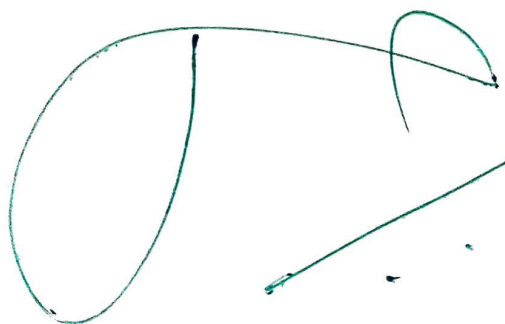

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"29. We may repeat the two paramount considerations, viz likelihood of the accused fleeing from justice and his tampering with prosecution evidence relate to ensuring a fair trial of the case in a court of justice. It is essential that due and proper weight should be bestowed on these two factors apart from others. There cannot be an inexorable formula in the matter of granting bail. The facts and circumstances of each case will govern the exercise of judicial discretion in granting or cancelling bail."

In the present case, charge for the offences u/s. 302/307/149/174-A IPC & 27 Arms Act was framed against the accused persons.

It is pertinent to mention here that first regular bail application of the accused Sunil @ Maya was dismissed vide order dated 14/03/2018. Relevant portion of the aforesaid bail order is reproduced as under:-

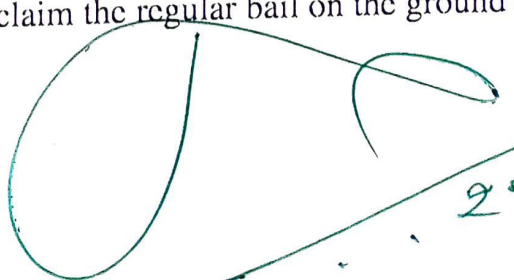
" It is reflected that there are various supplementary statements of PW-1, PW-2 and PW-3. It is needless to say that no observation on merits can be given while dealing with the bail application of the accused persons, however, as it has been argued upon, therefore, it is reflected from the perusal of the record that in the supplementary statements of PW-1, PW-2 and PW-3, they have categorically alleged specific allegations against the accused persons. It is a matter of record that various threats have been extended to the witnesses on earlier occasions and one of such application has been filed a fresh on behalf of the witnesses who are under examination. Considering all these facts and circumstances, I am not inclined to grant bail to the applicant/accused Sunil @ Maya. Hence, the application in hand stands dismissed and disposed off accordingly."


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It is a matter of record that various threats have been extended to the witnesses time to time.

It is pertinent to mention here that second regular bail application of the accused Sunil @ Maya was dismissed vide order dated 02/03/2020 passed by Ld. Predecessor of this Court. Factum regarding dismissal of the second bail application of the accused Sunil @ Maya has not been mentioned in the present bail application. No reasonable explanation has been given by counsel for the accused for the same. At the time of dismissal of last/second regular bail application of the accused, the present matter was at the stage of prosecution evidence and at present, the case is also at the stage of prosecution evidence. There is no material change of facts and circumstances after the dismissal of the last/second regular bail application vide order 02/03/2020. Grounds as mentioned in the present bail application of the accused Sunil@Maya were already available with the accused at the time of deciding the previous/ last regular bail application of the accused. It is well settled law that successive bail applications can be filed on change of facts or circumstances of the case. Where the grounds taken in successive bail applications already agitated and rejected by the Court, the same cannot be ordinarily allowed to be re-agitated. If the subsequent bail application is filed on the same grounds as taken in the previous bail application, the subsequent bail application would be deemed to be seeking review of earlier order, which is not permissible under the criminal law.

Accused Sunil @ Maya is claiming the regular bail on the ground of the parity also. On perusal of the bail order dated 19/05/2021 of the co-accused Varun Bhardwaj, it is clear that regular bail was granted to the co-accused Varun Bhardwaj mainly on the medical grounds of the accused. It is not the case of the accused Sunil @ Maya that he is suffering from any ailment. In view of the same, the accused Sunil @ Maya cannot claim the regular bail on the ground of parity.


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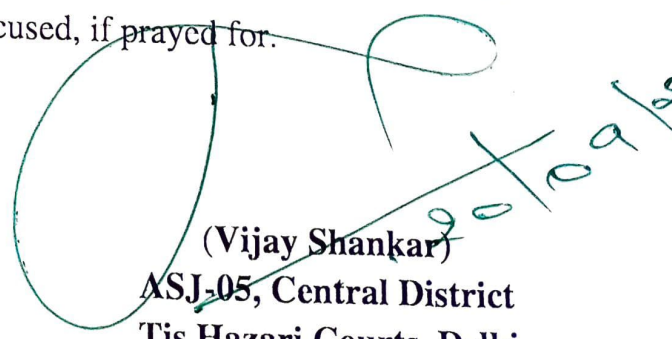
It is well settled law that at the stage of considering bail, it would not be proper for the Court to express any opinion on the merits or demerits of the prosecution case as well as defence. The present application being an application for bail, details of evidence on record are not discussed.

The contentions of counsel for the accused Sunil @ Maya that the accused has been falsely implicated in the present case and there is no incriminating evidence against him is not tenable at this stage as it is well settled law that at the stage of considering bail, it would not be proper for the Court to express any opinion on the merits or demerits of the prosecution case as well as defence. Accused is stated to be habitual offender and stated to be involved in other criminal cases also.

Keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the case, gravity of offence and nature of serious allegations levelled against the accused, this Court is of the considered opinion that no ground for regular bail of the accused Sunil @ Maya is made out. Accordingly, the present application for regular bail of the accused Sunil @ Maya is dismissed.

Nothing stated herein shall tantamount to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the present case and the observations made in the present order are only for the purpose of deciding the present bail application.

A copy of this order be sent to the concerned Jail Superintendent for information. Order be uploaded on the website of the Delhi District Court. Copy of this order be given dasti to counsel for the accused, if prayed for.


(Vijay Shankar)
ASJ-05, Central District
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
20/09/2021(A)