

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

203

CRM-M-14189-2020

Date of decision: 19.06.2020

Gaurav

....Petitioner

versus

State of Punjab

....Respondent

CORAM: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Girish Agnihotri

Present: Mr. Rishu Mahajan, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Rashmi Attri, AAG, Punjab.

GIRISH AGNIHOTRI, J. (Oral)

The matter has been taken up through video-conferencing on account of lockdown due to outbreak of pandemic COVID-19.

Petitioner-Gaurav, stated to be aged 19 years, has filed the present petition *inter alia* with a prayer for grant of regular bail in case FIR No.18 dated 05.02.2020 under Sections 363, 366 & 376 of Indian Penal Code and Sections 3/4/7/8 of POCSO Act, registered at Police Station Mohkampura, District Amritsar.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that he was arrested on 16.03.2020. Challan in this case has been presented on 24.04.2020. There are total of 16 witnesses and the charges are yet to be framed. He further submits that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case. Now, the complainant is not interested in pursuing the case as it was about

the suspicion and she has not supported the version in a statement recorded under Section 164 Cr.P.C. It is also submitted that due to the present COVID-19 situation, detention of the petitioner in jail would be dangerous to his life and also the fact that trial is likely to take some time, the petitioner is entitled for regular bail.

In view of the peculiar facts noticed above and the present situation due to COVID-19, this Court deems it appropriate to direct release of the petitioner on regular bail to the satisfaction of Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate concerned, subject to his furnishing bail bonds/surety bonds. However, it is made clear that anything observed herein shall not be construed as an expression on merits of the case.

The petition stands disposed of accordingly.

(GIRISH AGNIHOTRI)
JUDGE

19.06.2020
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Whether speaking/ reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable:	Yes/No