

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

CRM-M-29624-2020 (O&M)

Date of decision: 14.10.2020

GURMUKH SINGH @ GURI

.....Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

.....Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE GURVINDER SINGH GILL

Present: Mr. Hitesh Chopra, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Rana Harjasdeep Singh, DAG, Punjab.

(Proceedings conducted through video conferencing).

GURVINDER SINGH GILL, J. (ORAL)

1. The petitioner seeks grant of regular bail in a case registered against him vide FIR No.248 dated 21.11.2018 under Sections 21/22 of NDPS Act & Section 52-A of Prisons Act, at Police Station City Gurdaspur, District Gurdaspur wherein the prosecution claims that it is a case of recovery of commercial quantity of contraband.
2. The Learned State counsel has informed that all the prosecution witnesses have already been examined and that the trial is virtually at its fag end.
3. In view of the aforesaid position, this Court does not find any ground for grant of regular bail at this stage. However, the trial Court is directed to take necessary steps as may be possible during the present times on account of spread of pandemic for expediting the trial provided that

counsel for the accused extends full cooperation for the same. In case the statement of the accused is to be recorded in terms of Section 313 Cr.P.C. or any defence witness is to be examined, the trial Court may record such statement either by physical process, if found safe and convenient subject to adherence of all the safeguards as prescribed by the Health Authorities or may explore the possibility of recording the same through video conferencing subject to the condition that defence counsel extends utmost cooperation for the same. The petition is thus disposed off with the aforesaid directions.

4. It is clarified that in case the trial is not concluded within reasonable time, it shall be open for the petitioner to approach this Court again.

14.10.2020
Gaurav Sorot

(GURVINDER SINGH GILL)
JUDGE

Whether reasoned / speaking? **Yes / No**

Whether reportable? **Yes / No**