

CRM-M-3820-2021

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

CRM-M-3820-2021

Date of decision: 29.01.2021

Lachhman Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARNARESH SINGH GILL

Present:- Mr. Navjinder Singh Sidhu, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

HARNARESH SINGH GILL, J.

Case is taken up for hearing through video conferencing.

Challenge in the present petition is to the order dated 28.02.2020 (Annexure P-6) passed by the learned Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ludhiana, whereby complainant-Supreet Singh Gulati, IAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner(Vikas), Ludhiana, was ordered to be examined through Video Conferencing, in case bearing FIR No76 dated 21.03.2015, under Sections 420, 465 and 471 IPC, registered at Police Station Division No.5, Ludhiana.

I have heard the learned counsel for the petitioner.

The main thrust of the learned counsel for the petitioner is on the mode of Video Conferencing while directing the appearance of the complainant. However, I do not find any merit in the said contention.

After the Covid-19 Pandemic widespread, the Court proceedings are being held through Video Conferencing. In this regard, the

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Hon'ble Apex Court as also this Court, have issued guidelines/instructions for holding and/or recording the Court proceedings through Video Conferencing. Within this Court also, the Court proceedings are being conducted through Video Conferencing for the last about 9 months. The recent restricted physical hearing of the case in the Subordinate Courts, can also not be made a ground to grant the petitioner's prayer, particularly, when during Covid-19 period, the conduct of the business, including the Court proceedings, through Video Conferencing, has become a new normal. The petitioner could not point out any prejudice being caused to his rights, in case the complainant appears through Video Conferencing and is examined as such by the trial Court.

The judgment in Central Bureau of Investigation, Special Crime-I, New Delhi Vs. Sohan Lal Bishnoi s/o late Kishna Ram and others, 2019(2) CrI. L.R. (Raj),1067, relied upon by the learned counsel for the petitioner, is not applicable to the facts of the present case, as the law laid down therein does not deal with the procedure adopted for the court proceedings during a pandemic period.

Therefore, finding no merit in the present petition, the same is dismissed.

29.01.2021

parveen kumar

(HARNARESH SINGH GILL)
JUDGE

Whether reasoned/speaking?
Whether reportable?

Yes/No
Yes/No