

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH
(through video conferencing)**

CRM-M-29865-2020
Decided on : 25.03.2021

Ranveer Singh @ Babbu

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and anr.

..... Respondents

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present : Mr. Amit Kumar Walia, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. R.S.Thind, DAG, Punjab.

Mr. G.S.Sandhu, Advocate
for the complainant.

Manjari Nehru Kaul, J.

Instant petition has been filed under Section 439 Cr.PC for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.291 dated 04.10.2019 registered under Sections 363, 366-A, 376, 376(n) IPC, 1860 and Sections 4 and 6 of POCSO Act, 2012 at Police Station Bhawanigarh District Sangrur.

Learned counsel for the petitioner inter alia contends that the petitioner, who is none other than the cousin of the victim, was named in the FIR in question on the basis of some misguided suspicion by the complainant mother. He further submits that the victim was not minor as had been stated by the complainant at the time of registration of FIR but was in fact about 18 years of age. It has also been submitted that the false implication of the petitioner finds credence from the fact that all the three witnesses i.e. victim, complainant and the brother of the victim did not support the case of the prosecution and were declared hostile. The

petitioner has been in custody since 11.02.2020 and there is no likelihood of the trial concluding in the near future as 16 prosecution witnesses remains to be examined.

Per contra, learned State counsel while opposing the prayer of learned counsel for the petitioner on instructions from ASI Pritpal Singh has conceded that all the three material witnesses did not support the case of the prosecution and were declared hostile.

Heard.

In view of the submissions made by learned counsel and the fact that the petitioner has been in custody since 11.02.2020, the trial is unlikely to conclude in the near future more so in the wake of outbreak of pandemic Covid-19. Hence, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is admitted to bail to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate. However, it is made clear that anything observed hereinabove shall not be construed to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

25.03.2021

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Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether reportable :	Yes/No