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

CRM-M-34102-2021

Date of Decision: 10.01.2022

Robin @ Robanpreet Singh

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIVEK PURI

Present: Mr. B.S. Bhalla, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Ms. Ruchika Sabherwal, AAG, Punjab.

VIVEK PURI J. (ORAL)

The matter has been taken up through Video Conferencing due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The petitioner has prayed for grant of regular bail in case FIR No.103, dated 20.04.2021, under Sections 354-A & 354-B of IPC, Section 67 of the I.T. Act and Section 8 of the POCSO Act, registered at Police Station Jandiala, District Amritsar.

Custody certificate of the petitioner filed through e-mail on behalf of the State is taken on record.

Briefly, allegations in the FIR are to the effect that the victim came in contact with the petitioner through one Sukhmanpreet Singh. It has been alleged that the petitioner tried to outrage her modesty when she had gone to the washroom in a restaurant. Furthermore the petitioner has been

indulging in obscene activities during the course of video calls.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner is aged about 18 years, he is in custody for the last 6 months and 24 days and is not involved in any other case. The investigation of the case is complete, challan has already been presented and the statement of victim has also been recorded during the course of trial.

On the instructions of ASI Jagdeep Singh, learned State counsel has not disputed the aforesaid aspects of the case, but has opposed the bail application on the score that the victim is a 16 years old girl and serious allegations have been levelled against the petitioner.

It is significant to note that the petitioner is in custody for the last about 7 months, not involved in any other case, investigation of the case is complete, the challan has already been presented, the statement of the victim has been recorded and 4 out of the total 10 witnesses have been examined.

Considering the above and the fact that the trial is likely to consume some more time on account of restricted hearing due to recent resurge in covid cases, further detention of the petitioner may not be justified. Therefore, without making any expression of opinion on the merits of the case, it is ordered that the petitioner be released on regular bail subject to his furnishing requisite bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the concerned trial Court/Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate.

The petition is allowed.

10.01.2022

Apurva

**(VIVEK PURI)
JUDGE**

1. Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No

2. Whether reportable: Yes/No