

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M No.34187 of 2023  
Date of decision: 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023

Satnam Singh

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

... Respondent

**CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL**

Present: Mr. Amit Arora, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Amit Rana, Sr. Deputy Advocate General, Punjab  
for the respondent/State.

**MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J. (ORAL)**

1. The petitioner is seeking the concession of bail under Section 439 Cr.P.C. in case FIR No124 dated 14.10.2020 under Sections 363, 366-A IPC and Section 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (Section 376 IPC and Section 4, 6 of the POCSO added later on) registered at Police Station Harike, District Tarn Taran. This is the third petition filed by the petitioner.

2. At the outset, learned State counsel, on instructions from ASI Major Singh, has opposed the prayer made by the counsel opposite for extending the concession of bail to the petitioner, who allegedly violated the person of a 14 year old girl. He submits that the victim, aged 14 years, while stepping into the witness box had deposed as per her statement given under Section 164 Cr.P.C. and furthermore, the deposition of the victim found due corroboration with her medico-legal report, which has been annexed as Annexure P-3. It has still further been

submitted that as many as 9 prosecution witnesses have been examined and the remaining 7 witnesses are just official witnesses and hence, the trial would not take much time to conclude.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has, however, urged that as the petitioner has been in custody since 26.10.2020 in a case of false implication, he be extended the concession of bail, as there is no likelihood of the trial concluding in the near future.

4. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the relevant material on record.

5. In the facts and circumstances as enumerated hereinabove and the nature of allegations levelled, this Court is not inclined to extend the concession of bail to the petitioner. The petition as such stands dismissed. 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.

6. At this stage, a prayer has been made by learned counsel for the petitioner that in view of the long incarceration of the petitioner, the trial Court may be directed to expedite the trial and conclude it at the earliest.

7. The trial Court shall make earnest efforts to conclude the trial expeditiously, preferably within a period of next six months from today.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)  
JUDGE

September 21, 2023  
*rps*

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|---------------------------|--------|
| Whether speaking/reasoned | Yes/No |
| Whether reportable        | Yes/No |