

205 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

2023:PHHC:053227

CRM-M-50934-2022

Date of Decision: 18.04.2023

RIPULDEEP SINGH AND OTHERS ... PETITIONERS
V/S
STATE OF PUNJAB ... RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIVEK PURI

Present: Mr. Vipin Mahajan, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. Vinay Kumar Gupta, AAG Punjab.

* * * *

VIVEK PURI, J. (ORAL)

1. On 18.11.2022, the Co-ordinate Bench of this Court had passed the following order:

“Apprehending their arrest in FIR No.90 dated 29.09.2022, registered under Sections 295 & 298 IPC at Police Station Verka, District Amritsar, Punjab, petitioners seek pre-arrest bail.

Learned counsel for the petitioners *inter alia* contends that the only allegation against the petitioners is that they were among the people who were dancing on film songs while keeping liquor bottles in their hands while Ram Lila was being performed. He further submits that none of the petitioners is organizer or participant in the said function of Ram Lila. They were merely spectators and thus they cannot be alleged to have hurt religious feelings. He further contends that the organizers are already in custody.

Notice of motion returnable for 18.04.2023.

On the asking of the Court, Mr. Arun Gupta, AAG, Punjab, appears and accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State.

In the meantime, in the event of arrest, the petitioners shall be released on interim bail subject to their furnishing personal and surety bonds to the satisfaction of the arresting officer/Investigating Officer. As and when called, the petitioners shall join the investigation. They shall abide by the conditions enumerated under Section 438(2) of the Cr.P.C.”

2. Learned counsel for the petitioners contend that in pursuance of the interim directions, the petitioners have joined the investigation.

3. Learned State counsel, on instructions from ASI Narinder Singh, has not disputed the aforesaid factual aspect and further submitted that the custodial interrogation of the petitioners is not required.

4. Considering above, the petition is allowed and the interim bail granted by this Court vide order dated 18.11.2022 is made absolute.

18.04.2023

Janki

(VIVEK PURI)
JUDGE

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