

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

274 (2)

CRM-M-16959-2022

Date of decision: 13.02.2024

Appan Pahwa and others

....Petitioners

V/s

State of Punjab and another

....Respondents

CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE SUMEET GOEL

Present: Mr. Manuj Nagrath, Advocate for the petitioners.
Mr. Yuvraj Singh Tiwana, AAG Punjab.
Mr. Deep Singh, Advocate for respondent No.2.

SUMEET GOEL, J. (Oral)

1. By way of present petition, the petitioners are seeking quashing of FIR No.112 dated 04.07.2015 under Sections 420, 406, 448, 120-B, 201 of IPC and Sections 65, 66-B, 72 of Information Technology Act, registered at Police Station, Dehlon, District Ludhiana, and all consequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise/affidavit dated 04.04.2022 (Annexure P-2), which is stated to have been effected between the parties.

2 On 09.05.2023, the following order was passed:

“This is a petition for quashing of the FIR No.112 dated 4.7.2015 under Sections 420, 406, 448, 120-B and 201 IPC and Sections 65, 66-B and 72 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, registered at Police Station Dehlon, District Ludhiana (Annexure P-1) on the basis of compromise said to have been entered into between the parties dated 4.4.2022 (Annexure P-2).

Learned counsel for the petitioners contends that the present FIR was lodged on the complaint of Satpinder Kaur wife of Darshan Singh (accused in FIR No.163 dated 27.6.2020 for which a quashing petition, CRM-M No.33613 of 2022, has been filed based on the compromise dated 4.4.2022 (Annexure P-2) Instant petition has also been filed based on the same compromise. Petitioner no.3 in this case/Mani Nayyar @ Mani Pahwa is the complainant in the connected petition. Therefore, the aforementioned two FIRs have been compromised by one compromise dated 4.4.2022.

In view thereof, the parties are directed to appear before the trial Court/Duty Magistrate on 29.5.2023 or any other date convenient to the Court, for recording their statements with regard to compromise.

The trial Court/Duty Magistrate is directed to submit a report on or before the next date of hearing as regards authenticity and genuineness of compromise after recording statements of all the parties. The trial Court/Duty Magistrate shall also furnish the following information:

- 1. Whether there is any other accused, apart from the petitioners arrayed in this petition.*
- 2. Whether there is any other complainant or affected/aggrieved party, apart from the respondents arrayed in the petition.*
- 3. Whether the parties are involved in any other criminal case.*
- 4. Whether any of the parties has been declared a proclaimed offender.*

The trial Court/Duty Magistrate shall send his/her report through the Sessions Judge concerned on or before the date fixed, i.e., 5.10.2023.”

3. Pursuant to the aforesaid order, report dated 05.10.2023 from Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Ludhiana has been received in the connected case i.e. CRM-M-33613-2022. As per the report, the Trial Court has recorded as follows:-

“VI After going through the statements of the parties, I have the honour to submit the serial-wise report as under:

(1 to 4) It is humbly submitted that the present case has been got registered by complainant Satpinder Kaur against three accused persons i.e. Mani Nayyar, Vikramjit Nayyar and Apan Pahwa and accused Vikramjit Nayyar has since died and now only Mani Nayyar and Apan Pahwa are appearing in this case and except them there is no other accused and apart from Satpinder Kaur and her husband Darshan Singh there is no other complainant/aggrieved person nor the parties are involved in any other criminal case and none of the parties has been declared as Proclaimed Offender in the present case.

VII. It is humbly submitted that after going through the statements of parties so recorded, I am of the considered view that the compromise between the parties is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence.”

4. Learned counsel for respondent No.2 admits the fact of parties having compromised and states that he has no objection in case the FIR and all proceedings subsequent thereto against the petitioners are quashed.

5. Similarly, learned State counsel has stated no objection in case the FIR is quashed based upon the compromise (Annexure P-2).

6 I have heard learned Counsel for the parties and have carefully gone through the records of the case.

7. This Court and Apex Court has repeatedly dealt with the issue of exercise of jurisdiction under Section 482 of the Code to quash proceeding in non-compoundable offences in the cases of ***Gian Singh vs. State of Punjab and another, 2012(10) SCC 303, Kulwinder Singh & others vs. State of Punjab & another, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052 and Ram Gopal and another vs. State of Madhya Pradesh, 2021(4) R.C.R. (Criminal) 322 (Criminal Appeal No.1489 of 2012 decided on 29th of September, 2021).*** The proposition of law that emerges from the aforesaid decisions rendered by Apex Court and this Court is:

(a) Power u/s 482 Cr.P.C. vested with this Court is much wider and is unaffected by Section 320 of the Code.

(b) However, wider the power greater the caution.

(c) The underlining principle while exercising such power is that it can be invoked to quash the proceedings recognizing compromise between the parties in the matters which are overwhelmingly and predominantly of civil character like commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes.

(d) The said power is not to be exercised in the prosecutions involving heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity etc. as such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society.

(e) Section 482 Cr.P.C. casts duty upon the High Court to advance interest of justice as well. It is in recognition of this duty casted upon the High Court, that Apex Court held that the High Court would not refuse to quash FIR under Section 307 merely because FIR finds mention thereof. High Court can assess nature of injuries sustained, whether such injuries inflicted on vital/delicate parts of the body/nature of weapons used etc.

- (f) Such exercise at the hands of High Court would be permissible only after the evidence is collected after investigation and chargesheet is filed/charges framed during the trial. Such exercise cannot be carried out while the matter is still under investigation.
- (g) While quashing FIR in non-compoundable offences even which are private in nature, High Court is required to consider antecedents of the accused, conduct of the accused and whether he was absconding or whether he has managed the complainant to enter into a compromise.

8 Thus, keeping in view the aforesaid facts and circumstances, this Court is of the considered opinion that it is a fit case to exercise jurisdiction vested u/s 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the FIR as :-

- (i) Putting a quietus to the proceedings will bring peace and tranquility amongst parties & will accordingly further the cause of substantial justice.
- (ii) The offences alleged are primarily of private nature.
- (iii) The parties have compromised.
- (iv) As per the report received the compromise is said to be voluntary in its nature.
- (v) Complainant/victim is reported to have entered into compromise on his own volition.

9 Consequently, the petition is allowed. FIR No.112 dated 04.07.2015 under Sections 420, 406, 448, 120-B, 201 of IPC and Sections 65, 66-B, 72 of Information Technology Act, registered at Police Station, Dehlon, District Ludhiana and all consequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise/affidavit dated 27.09.2023 (Annexure P-2), is, hereby, quashed qua the petitioners.

(SUMEET GOEL)
JUDGE

February 13, 2024
Ajay

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