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

CRM-M-21418-2024

Date of decision: 30.04.2024

Akashdeep Singh

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARPREET SINGH BRAR

Present: Mr. Jagdish Singh Mahal, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Subhash Godara, Addl.A.G., Punjab.

HARPREET SINGH BRAR, J. (ORAL)

The present petition has been filed under Section 438 Cr.P.C. seeking anticipatory bail in case bearing FIR No.0048 dated 10.02.2024 under Sections 363/366-A of IPC (Section 376-D of IPC and Sections 17, 4/6 of POCSO Act, 2012 added later on) registered at Police Station Civil Lines, Batala, Police District Batala, District Gurdaspur (Annexure P-1).

Learned counsel for the petitioner *inter alia* contends that the complainant is in the habit of levelling false allegations. Earlier also, one FIR was registered against Gagandeep Singh on similar allegations and now the FIR (*supra*) is lodged against the petitioner on the similar allegation that he has enticed away the grand daughter of the complainant. He further submits that there is delay in the registration of the FIR.

Per contra, the learned State counsel opposes the prayer for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner on the ground that the alleged occurrence

has taken place on 09.02.2024 and the FIR (*supra*) was registered on 10.02.2024 and the prosecutrix in her statement made under Section 164 Cr.P.C. levelled allegations with regard to committing rape and on the basis of material available on record, the petitioner is accused of gang rape and Section 376-D of IPC and Section 17 of POCSO Act were added during the investigation.

Having heard learned counsel for the parties and after perusal of the record, this Court finds no ground to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner in view of the serious allegations against him. Moreover, the investigation is at the nascent stage and custodial interrogation of the petitioner is imperative and thus, the present petition is hereby dismissed.

Nothing observed hereinabove shall be construed as expression of opinion of this Court on merits of the case and the trial Court shall proceed without being prejudiced by observations of this Court.

(HARPREET SINGH BRAR)
JUDGE

30.04.2024
Neha

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