

CRM-M-37353-2024

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-37353-2024
Decided on: 05.08.2024

Madan Pal Singh @ Madan Lal

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANOOP CHITKARA

Present: Mr. Sumeet Singh Brar, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Swati Batra, DAG, Punjab (Through VC).

ANOOP CHITKARA, J.

FIR No.	Dated	Police Station	Sections
202	12.08.2017	Lambi, District Sri Muksar Sahib	61 of Punjab Excise Act 1914

1. Aggrieved by the order dated 19.10.2022, vide which the petitioner was declared proclaimed offender by SDJM, Malout, in the FIR captioned above, due to the default in appearances before the trial court, the petitioner has come up before this court under section 482 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC).
2. Notice served upon the official respondent through State counsel. The nature of order this court proposes to pass, no response is required from the respondent.
3. Counsel for the petitioner contends that the non-appearance was because of lockdown in the country due to Covid 19 and petitioner could not contact his lawyer. He further submits that non-appearance was unintentional, without any endeavor to delay the trial, and due to factors beyond the petitioner’s control.
4. The primary object of service is to secure the accused's presence in trial. The petitioner has approached this court on its own, establishing the bonafide at this stage. Without commenting on the case's merits, and in the facts and circumstances peculiar to this case, and also for the reasons mentioned above, the ends of justice would meet. Furthermore, without adjudicating the maintainability of this petition under section 482 CrPC and leaving that question open; given the explanation offered by the accused coupled with the facts and circumstances peculiar to this case, a balanced approach

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would work as an incentive, a catalyst, speeding up the process, and bringing the guilty to Justice and Justice to the guilty. Thus, exercising the inherent powers under section 482 CrPC, this court deems it appropriate to grant the following limited relief to the petitioner, subject to compliance with the conditions mentioned in this order.

5. **The petitioner is directed to surrender before the concerned court on or before 25.08.2024 and file a bail petition. Since the petitioner was earlier granted bail, as such on appearance, the concerned court shall release the petitioner on bail on the same day, subject to furnishing bail bonds to its satisfaction and imposing reasonable conditions as it may deem appropriate in the background of the accused’s conduct.**

6. The petitioner shall not be arrested till 25.08.2024, 10 PM and it is clarified that if the petitioner appears before the concerned court by this date, then this order shall stand recalled automatically under section 403, read with 528 BNSS, without any further reference to this court on 26.08.2024 at 10 AM.

7. Any observation made hereinabove is neither an expression of opinion on the merits of the case nor shall the trial Court advert to these comments.

8. *There would be no need for a certified copy of this order, and any Advocate for the Petitioner can download this order along with case status from the official web page of this Court and attest it to be a true copy. In case the attesting officer wants to verify the authenticity, such an officer can also verify its authenticity and may download and use the downloaded copy for attesting bonds.*

Petition allowed to the extent and subject to the conditions mentioned above. All pending applications, if any, stand disposed.

(ANOOP CHITKARA)
JUDGE

05.08.2024
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Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes
Whether reportable: No.