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

CRM-M-33876-2025

Date of Decision:-29.08.2025

Lovepreet Singh

...Petitioner

Vs.

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM:-HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE AMARJOT BHATTI

Present:- Mr. Hitesh Verma, Advocate
for petitioner.

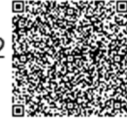
Ms. Amrit Kaur Mahir, AAG, Punjab.

Ms. Amarinder Kaur, Advocate for prosecutrix.

AMARJOT BHATTI, J.

1. Petitioner – Lovepreet Singh has filed petition under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for grant of regular bail in FIR No.9 dated 15.01.2024, under Section 363, 366-A of IPC (Section 376 of IPC and Section 4 of POCSO Act were added later on), registered at Police Station Civil Lines, District Patiala.

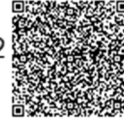
2. As per facts of case, complainant 'AK' gave her statement that she is mother of two daughters. Her younger daughter i.e. victim aged about 17 years 11 months was doing B.A. Ist year from Women College, Patiala and she was residing in the hostel. She used to visit home twice in a month. They used to talk to each other everyday on mobile phone bearing No.8699422635. On 10.01.2024, she had a talk with the victim and thereafter, when she called her daughter in the evening she did not take the



call. After some time, her mobile phone was switched off. She informed her family members and on the next day i.e. 11.01.2024, they came to the college and met the principal. On inquiry they came to know that the victim did not come to the college nor she was in the hostel. She could not locate her whereabouts. She suspected that Lovepreet Singh had allured her daughter on the pretext of marriage and was taken along with him. With these allegations, present FIR has been registered.

3. Learned counsel for petitioner argued that Lovepreet Singh was arrested on 24.01.2024 and his regular bail application was allowed under Sections 363, 366-A of IPC by learned Sessions Judge, Patiala vide order dated 21.03.2024 (Annexure P-4). Subsequently offence under Section 376 of IPC and Section 4 of POCSO Act were added and on this, his regular bail application was declined by learned Additional Sessions Judge, Fast Track Special Court, Patiala vide order dated 10.06.2025 (Annexure P-5). Now petitioner is facing trial. Statement of victim has been recorded as PW-2 where she has not supported the prosecution case. In fact, they had performed marriage. Photographs of their marriage are Annexure P-3. At present the alleged victim is on family way and she is living in the matrimonial home.

4. Bail petition is not opposed by learned counsel representing the victim. Detailed status report has been filed. It is pointed out that accused was apprehended on 24.01.2024 along with the victim. On 25.01.2024 statement of the victim under Section 164 Cr.P.C. was recorded by learned Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Patiala. She was medically examined. The report of Central Forensic Science Laboratory is Annexure R-1 and the



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opinion of the doctor is Annexure R-2. On competition of investigation, challan was presented on 05.04.2024. Charges were framed on 19.07.2024 and now the prosecution witnesses are being examined. There are specific allegations against the petitioner. At the time of alleged occurrence, the victim was minor. Therefore, petitioner is not entitled to be released on regular bail.

5. I have considered the aforesaid factual position. Admittedly, petitioner is behind the bars since 24.01.2024. Statement of victim has been recorded as PW-2 where she has not levelled allegations of kidnapping against the petitioner rather she claimed that she had accompanied Lovepreet Singh out of her free will. She further confirmed in her cross-examination that she has got married with the accused. Now she has attained majority. She further stated that now she is on family way. The charges framed against the petitioner will be decided after recording of prosecution evidence. The trial is at initial stage. Petitioner is behind the bars for the last more than 1 ½ year. Trial in this case may take long time. Therefore, without expressing my mind on merits of the case, regular bail petition filed by petitioner – Lovepreet Singh is allowed. He is ordered to be released on bail on furnishing bail bonds and surety bonds to the satisfaction of trial Court/Duty Judge concerned.

6. Pending miscellaneous application(s), if any, stand disposed of accordingly as well.

29.08.2025

*Sunil Devi***(AMARJOT BHATTI)
JUDGE**