

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

**CRM-M-31147-2025
Reserved on: 03.07.2025
Pronounced on: 31.07.2025**

BOOTA SINGH

...PETITIONER

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB

...RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANOOP CHITKARA

Present: Mr. J.S.Sandhu, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Pooja Nayar Sharma, DAG, Punjab.

ANOOP CHITKARA, J.

| FIR No. | Dated | Police Station | Sections |
|---------|------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 37 | 24.02.2025 | Canal Colony Bathinda, District Bathinda | 21(B)/29 of NDPS Act, 1985 |

1. The petitioner incarcerated for violating the above-mentioned provisions of Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act) per the FIR captioned above has come up before this Court under Section 483 BNSS, 2023 seeking regular bail.

2. In paragraph 14 of the bail application and the custody certificate, the petitioner has the following criminal antecedents:

| Sr. No. | FIR No. | Date/Year | Offences | Police Station |
|---------|---------|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | 303 | 26.04.2010 | 356/379/34 IPC | Kotwali, Bathinda |
| 2. | 97 | 05.07.2016 | 21 NDPS Act | — |
| 3. | 133 | 29.08.2016 | 61 Excise Act | — |
| 4. | 160 | 03.10.2016 | 420/465/467/468/471/1 20B IPC | — |
| 5. | 21 | 01.05.2017 | 110/151 | — |
| 6. | 246 | 23.11.2017 | 21/22/61/85 NDPS Act | Kotwali, Bathinda |
| 7. | 21 | 13.12.2018 | 110/115 Cr.P.C | Canal Colony |

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|------------|---|-------------------|
| 8. | 25 | 18.04.2023 | 21/27/29/61/85 NDPS Act | Mehna |
| 9. | 378 | 08.12.2023 | 21-B NDPS Act | STF-4 |
| 10. | 170 | 06.09.2018 | 21/61/85 NDPS Act | Canal Colony |
| 11. | 431 | 28.11.2014 | 420/465/467/471/472/473/474/468/120-B/489-C/489 E IPC | Kotwali, Bathinda |
| 12. | 08 | 19.01.2019 | 21/25/61/85 NDPS Act | Canal Colony |
| 13. | 180 | 08.08.2019 | 458/379B/354B/354C/511/323/34 IPC | Canal Colony |
| 14. | 45 | 20.04.2020 | 21/25/61/85 NDPS Act | Nandgarh |
| 15. | 28 | 10.03.2021 | 380/454/411 IPC | Zira |
| 16. | 181 | 26.08.2021 | 304 IPC and 29 NDPS Act | Canal Colony |
| 17. | 172 | 16.08.2021 | 354A/354B/354/323/506/34 IPC | Canal Colony |
| 18. | 229 | 12.10.2021 | 304 IPC and 29/61/85 NDPS Act | Canal Colony |
| 19. | 193 | 12.08.2022 | 304 IPC and 27/29/61/85 NDPS Act | Canal Colony |
| 20. | 124 | 25.06.2023 | 304/34 IPC | Canal Colony |
| 21. | 95 | 19.06.2024 | 304 IPC and 29/61/85 NDPS Act | Canal Colony |
| 22. | 180 | 25.10.2024 | 21B/61/85 NDPS Act | Canal Colony |
| 23. | 59 | 07.04.2023 | 149/324/427 IPC | Canal Colony |
| 24. | 151 | 13.07.2021 | 34/354(A)/506 IPC | Canal Colony |

3. The facts and allegations are taken from the translated copy of FIR (Annexure P-1). On 24.02.2025, based on chance recovery, a police party seized 10 grams of heroin from the possession of the co-accused, namely, Manav. The Investigator claims to have complied with all the statutory requirements of the NDPS Act, 1985, and BNSS, 2023.

4. During custodial interrogation, the main accused, confessed before the Police officer that the petitioner was involved in the business of supplying drugs. Based on such

confession before the police, the petitioner was arraigned as an accused.

5. Counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case on the basis of disclosure statement of the co-accused Manav. Nothing has been recovered from the petitioner and petitioner was not present at the spot. The petitioner's counsel prays for bail by imposing any stringent conditions and contends that further pre-trial incarceration would cause an irreversible injustice to the petitioner and their family.

6. The petitioner's counsel submits that the petitioner would have no objection whatsoever to any stringent conditions that this Court may impose, including that if the petitioner repeats the offense or commits any non-bailable offense which provides for a sentence of imprisonment for more than seven years, or commits any offence under the NDPS Act, where the quantity involved is more than half of the intermediate, or commercial quantity, or violates S. 19, or 24, or 27-A of the NDPS Act, the State may file an application to revoke this bail before the concerned Special Judge or Sessions Court having jurisdiction over this FIR, which shall have the authority to cancel this bail, and may do so at their discretion, to which the petitioner shall have no objection.

7. The State's counsel opposes bail on instructions.

8. In *Maulana Mohd Amir Rashadi v. State of U.P.*, (2012) 3 SCC 382, Hon'ble Supreme Court holds,

[10] It is not in dispute and highlighted that the second respondent is a sitting Member of Parliament facing several criminal cases. It is also not in dispute that most of the cases ended in acquittal for want of proper witnesses or pending trial. As observed by the High Court, merely on the basis of criminal antecedents, the claim of the second respondent cannot be rejected. In other words, it is the duty of the Court to find out the role of the accused in the case in which he has been charged and other circumstances such as possibility of fleeing away from the jurisdiction of the Court etc.

9. In *Paramjeet Singh v. State of Punjab*, **2022:PHHC:003983 [Para 8]**, CRM-M 50243 of 2021, this court observed,

While considering each bail petition of the accused with a criminal history, it throws an onerous responsibility upon the Courts to act judiciously with reasonableness because arbitrariness is the antithesis of law. The criminal history must be of cases where the accused was convicted, including the suspended sentences and all pending First Information Reports, wherein the bail petitioner stands arraigned as an accused. In reckoning the number of cases as criminal history, the prosecutions resulting in acquittal or discharge, or when Courts quashed the FIR; the prosecution stands withdrawn, or prosecution filed a closure report; cannot be included. Although crime is to be despised and not the criminal, yet for a recidivist, the contours of a playing field are marshy, and graver the criminal history, slushier the puddles.

10. Petitioner's name surfaced in the disclosure statement of co-accused and nothing has been effected from him and the quantity allegedly involved in this case is not commercial. Given this, the rigours of S. 37 of the NDPS Act do not apply in the present case.

11. Section 2 (vii-a) of the NDPS Act defines commercial quantity as the quantity greater than the quantity specified in the schedule. Section 2 (xxiii-a) defines small quantity as a quantity less than the quantity specified in the table of the NDPS Act. The remaining quantity falls in an undefined category, generally called an intermediate quantity. All Sections in the NDPS Act, which specify an offence, also mention the minimum and maximum sentence, depending upon the quantity of the substance. The commercial quantity mandates a minimum sentence of ten years of imprisonment and a minimum fine of Rupees One hundred thousand, and bail is subject to the riders mandated in S. 37 of NDPS Act. When the quantity is less than commercial, the restrictions of Section 37 of the NDPS Act will not attract, and the factors for bail become similar to the offence regular statutes.

12. Per the custody certificate dated 02.07.2025, the petitioner's total custody in this FIR is 04 months and 06 days. Given the penal provisions invoked viz-a-viz pre-trial custody, coupled with the prima facie analysis of the nature of allegations, and the other factors peculiar to this case, there would be no justifiability for further pre-trial incarceration at this stage.

13. Given the penal provisions invoked, coupled with the prima facie analysis of the nature of allegations, and the other factors peculiar to this case, there would be no justifiability for further pre-trial incarceration at this stage.

14. Without commenting on the case's merits, in the facts and circumstances unique and peculiar to this case, and for the reasons mentioned above, the petitioner makes a case for bail.

CONDITIONS:

15. Given above, provided the petitioner is not required in any other case, the petitioner shall be released on bail in the FIR captioned above subject to furnishing bonds to the satisfaction of the concerned Court and due to unavailability before any nearest Ilaqa Magistrate/duty Magistrate. Before accepting the surety, the concerned Court must be satisfied that if the accused fails to appear, such surety can produce the accused.

16. While furnishing a personal bond, the petitioner shall mention the following personal identification details:

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | AADHAR number | |
| 2. | Passport number (If available) and when the attesting officer/court considers it appropriate or considers the accused a flight risk. | |
| 3. | Mobile number (If available) | |
| 4. | E-Mail id (If available) | |

17. This order is subject to the petitioner's complying with the following terms.

18. The petitioner shall abide by all statutory bond conditions and appear before the concerned Court(s) on all dates. The petitioner shall not tamper with the evidence,

influence, browbeat, pressurize, induce, threaten, or promise, directly or indirectly, any witnesses, Police officials, or any other person acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case or dissuade them from disclosing such facts to the Police or the Court.

19. Given the background of allegations against the petitioner, it becomes paramount to protect the members of society, detention squad and incapacitating the accused would be one of the primary options until the filing of the closure report or discharge, or acquittal. Consequently, it would be appropriate to restrict the possession of firearms. [This restriction is being imposed based on the preponderance of the evidence of probability and not of evidence of certainty, i.e., beyond a reasonable doubt; and as such, it is not to be construed as an intermediate sanction]. Given the nature of the allegations and the other circumstances peculiar to this case, the petitioner shall surrender all weapons, firearms, and ammunition, if any, along with the arms license to the concerned authority within fifteen days of release from prison and inform the Investigator of the compliance. However, subject to the Indian Arms Act, 1959, the petitioner shall be entitled to renew and reclaim them in case of acquittal in this case, provided otherwise permissible under the concerned rules. Restricting firearms would instill confidence in the victim(s), their families, and society; it would also restrain the accused from influencing the witnesses and repeating the offense.

20. The conditions mentioned above imposed by this court are to endeavor to reform and ensure the accused does not repeat the offense and also to block the menace of drug abuse. In *Mohammed Zubair v. State of NCT of Delhi*, 2022:INSC:735 [Para 28], Writ Petition (Criminal) No 279 of 2022, Para 29, decided on July 20, 2022, A Three-Judge bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court holds that "The bail conditions imposed by the Court must not only have a nexus to the purpose that they seek to serve but must also be proportional to the purpose of imposing them. The courts, while imposing bail conditions must balance the liberty of the accused and the necessity of a fair trial. While doing so, conditions that would result in the deprivation of rights and liberties must be eschewed."

21. In *Md. Tajiur Rahaman v. The State of West Bengal*, decided on 08-Nov-2024, SLP (Crl) 12225-2024, Hon'ble Supreme Court holds in Para 7, "It goes without saying that if the petitioner is found involved in such like offence in future, the concession of bail granted to him today will liable to be withdrawn and the petitioner is bound to face the necessary consequences."

22. This bail is conditional, with the foundational condition being that if the petitioner repeats the offense where the quantity involved is more than half of the intermediate, or commercial, or violates S. 19, 24, or 27-A of the NDPS Act, or commits any non-bailable offense which provides for a sentence of imprisonment for more than seven years, the State shall file an application to revoke this bail before the Special Judge/ Sessions Court having jurisdiction over this FIR, which shall have the authority to cancel this bail, and as per their discretion, they may cancel this bail.

23. Any observation made hereinabove is neither an expression of opinion on the

case's merits nor shall the trial Court advert to these comments.

24. A certified copy of this order would not be needed for furnishing bonds, 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. If the attesting officer wants to verify its authenticity, such an officer can also verify its authenticity and may download and use the downloaded copy for attesting bonds.

25. **Petition allowed** in terms mentioned above. All pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

(ANOOP CHITKARA)
JUDGE

31.07.2025
renubala

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Whether speaking/reasoned: | Yes |
| Whether reportable: | No. |