



[243] **IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CRM-M-54384-2025
Date of Decision : 30.09.2025

Navpreet Pal Singh ...Petitioner
versus
State of Punjab ...Respondent

Coram : **HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH**

Present: Mr. Satnam Singh Gill, Advocate for the petitioner.
Mr. Manjinder Singh Bhullar, DAG, Punjab.

SANJAY VASHISTH, J. (ORAL)

1. The instant petition has been filed under Section 483 of BNSS, 2023 (earlier Section 439 Cr.P.C.), for grant of regular bail to the petitioner, during the pendency of trial, who has been booked in a criminal case arising out of First Information Report, as detailed here-under:-

| Name of Petitioner(s) | FIR No. | Date | Section(s) | Police Station | District |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|--|----------------|----------|
| Navpreet Pal Singh | 203 | 25.09.2023 | 18 of the NDPS Act, 1985 (Section 29 of NDPS Act added later on) | Sadar Nabha | Patiala |

2. In the present case, there is a recovery of 3.500 kg of opium from the car which was being driven by the petitioner, who had purchased the vehicle on the basis of an affidavit.

3. Learned Counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is 50 years of age and is a respectable person of the society. Petitioner is not

alleged to be involved in any other case of similar nature under the NDPS Act. It is further submitted that he has already undergone incarceration of more than 2 years, whereas the trial is not likely to conclude in the near future, as only 4 out of 14 prosecution witnesses have been examined so far. Therefore, prayer has been made for grant of regular bail.

4. Per contra, learned State counsel, while opposing the prayer, submits that the recovery effected from the petitioner and co-accused falls within the category of 'commercial quantity'. It is also submitted that the offence is serious in nature and the menace of drugs has already ruined the lives of the youth and their families in the State of Punjab. Persons involved in supply of narcotics are a major danger to society, and releasing such accused on bail may adversely affect the social fabric. Thus, the petitioner does not deserve concession of bail.

5. Heard.

6. The fact remains that the petitioner is about 50 years of age, has no past involvement in similar offences, investigation already stands concluded, and he has suffered incarceration for about 2 years. The trial is not progressing at the required pace, as only 4 out of 14 prosecution witnesses have been examined. The quantity recovered is admittedly 3.500 kg of opium, which is slightly above the threshold of 'commercial quantity'.

Whether the petitioner was in conscious possession of the contraband, or whether the same was exclusively attributable to the petitioner, would be a moot question to be determined during trial. In the totality of circumstances, this Court is of the view that the prayer for bail deserves consideration, thereby affording the petitioner one more opportunity to reform and rehabilitate himself in society.

7. Therefore, considering the totality of circumstances, and the nature allegations leveled against the petitioner, and the factors noted hereabove, I deem it appropriate to grant the concession of bail to the petitioner

8. Consequently, prayer made in the present petition is **allowed**. Petitioner is ordered to be released on bail, subject to his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court/ Chief Judicial Magistrate/ Illaqa Magistrate/ Duty Magistrate concerned, if not required in any other case.

9. Needless to observe that the petitioner shall not extend any threat and shall not influence any prosecution witness in any manner directly or indirectly.

10. The observation made here-in-above shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the facts of the case and the Trial Court is expected to decide the case on the basis of complete evidence available on record.

11. It is further made clear that if, in future, petitioner is directly found indulged in similar kind of activities, this order shall be deemed to be cancelled.

12. Petition stands disposed of.

Misc. application(s), if any, also stand disposed of.

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

30.09.2025
'R. Sharma'

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