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

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CRM-M-25061-2025 (O&M)

Date of decision: 05.08.2025

Manpreet Singh @ Sonu**...Petitioner****Versus****State of Punjab****...Respondent****CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA**

Present:- Mr. Aditya Anand, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Sakshi Bakshi, AAG, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J. (Oral)

1. This petition has been filed by the petitioner under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 seeking regular bail in case arising out of FIR No. 184 dated 09.10.2024, registered under Sections 21(c), 27(A) and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (*for short 'NDPS Act'*) at Police Station Chheharta, District Amritsar (Rural).

2. Brief facts of the case relevant for the purpose of disposal of this petition are that on receiving a secret information that co-accused Akashdeep Singh @ Akash and Satinderpal Singh @ Satti, who are real brothers, were involved in smuggling with Pakistani smugglers, a raid was conducted at their house and on the demarcation of co-accused Akashdeep Singh @ Akash, 2 kgs. and 500 grams of heroin along with drug money of Rs.2.32 Lakhs was recovered, whereas 2 kgs. of heroin and drug money of Rs. 2 Lakhs was recovered on the demarcation of co-accused Satinderpal Singh @ Satti. They were formally arrested at the spot. During the course of investigation, the disclosure statements of above named co-accused were recorded and on the

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basis of the same, some other persons were also nominated in this case and certain recoveries of contraband were effected. Co-accused Akashdeep Singh @ Akash made further disclosure, wherein he disclosed that co-accused Gurmej Singh, who was deputed in jail being an official, used to contact him by making Whatsapp calls from his mobile number in order to get heroin to supply the same to jail inmates. On 14.10.2024, co-accused Akashdeep Singh @ Akash further disclosed that Darshan Singh @ Guchi, Vijaypal Singh @ Tidu, petitioner Manpreet Singh and Ramandeep Siingh, who were confined in Central Jail, Fatahpur, were also having links with Pakistani smugglers and used to get him delivered heroin by smuggling the same from Pakistan. On the basis of the same, the present petitioner was nominated in this case as an accused and was arrested on 28.10.2024. After completion of necessary investigation and usual formalities, *challan* was present in the Court and presently, the petitioner along with co-accused is facing trial for commission of aforementioned offences.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has argued that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in this case. He was neither named in the FIR nor was found at the spot. He has been involved in this case on the basis of the disclosure statement made by the co-accused, which is not admissible in evidence. In fact, said co-accused had named him in his fourth disclosure statement recorded on 14.10.2024. No subsequent recovery has been effected from him. Even otherwise, investigation stands completed and *challan* has been filed. Conclusion of trial is likely to take time. The petitioner is in custody since 28.10.2024. No useful purpose would be served by keeping him in custody anymore. Co-accused Gurmej Singh has already been granted

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concession of regular bail by this Court, vide order dated 13.05.2025 passed in **CRM-M-3560-2025**. On the grounds of parity, the petitioner too deserves the same benefit. Therefore, it is urged that the petition deserves to be allowed and the petitioner deserves to be released on regular bail.

4. Status report has been filed by the respondent-State. Learned State counsel has argued that keeping in view the gravity of the allegations levelled against the petitioner as well as his criminal antecedents, he is not entitled to get benefit of bail. It is, thus, argued that the petition is liable to be dismissed.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties at considerable length and have also perused the material placed on record.

6. The petitioner has been nominated in this case on the basis of the disclosure made by co-accused Akashdeep Singh @ Akash, who was apprehended by the police party along with co-accused Satinderpal Singh @ Satti and aforesaid recovery of heroin and drug money was effected from them. The name of the petitioner has surfaced in the fourth disclosure statement of the said co-accused, which was recorded on 14.10.2024. No subsequent recovery is shown to have been effected from him. Investigation has since been completed and *challan* has been presented. Conclusion of trial is likely to take time. The petitioner is in judicial custody since 28.10.2024. At this stage, there is nothing on record to connect the petitioner with the subject crime, except the aforesaid disclosure statement of the co-accused. Co-accused Gurmej Singh has already been granted concession of regular bail by this Court, as mentioned above. The involvement of the petitioner in some other cases cannot be a sole ground for denying him the concession of bail in

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the given circumstances. Keeping in view the discussion as made above, I am of the considered opinion that no useful purpose would be served by detaining the petitioner in custody anymore. Accordingly, the present petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail, subject to his furnishing personal/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned. However, it will be open for the prosecution to apply for cancellation of bail in case the petitioner is found involved in any other subsequent case.

7. It is made clear that any observation made herein above is only for the purpose of deciding the present petition and the same shall have no bearing on the merits of the case.

05.08.2025

Waseem Ansari

**(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No