

2025:PHHC:089590



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

246

CRM-M-22285-2025 (O&amp;M)

Date of decision: 23.07.2025

**Ritik Malhotra****...Petitioner****Versus****State of Punjab****...Respondent****CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA**

Present:- Mr. Vaibhav Narang, 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 bearing FIR No. 298 dated 31.12.2023, registered under Sections 21 and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (*for short 'NDPS Act'*) and Section 25 of the Arms Act, 1959 (Section 21-C, 23, 25, 27-A and 29 of the NDPS Act and Sections 6, 7 and 8 of Arms Act were added later on) at Police Station Islamabad, District Police Commissionerate Amritsar.

2. Brief facts of the case relevant for the purpose of disposal of this petition are that on 31.12.2023, on receiving a secret information that Sandeep Singh @ Laddi, Roshan Singh, Manpreet Singh @ Monu are indulged in smuggling of narcotic substance and illegal weapons with the Pakistani smugglers and that on the said date, aforesaid Sandeep Singh @ Laddi and Roshan Singh were waiting for someone while riding in car bearing registration number PB-06-BB-4064, they were apprehended by a police party

2025:PHHC:089590



headed by SI Paramjit Singh. On conducting their personal search as well as search of the car, 19 kgs. of heroin, one pistol of 9 MM with 06 live cartridges, one country made pistol of .32 bore with 06 live cartridges and one computerized weighing scale were recovered. Both of them were formally arrested at the spot. During the course of investigation, on the disclosure of accused Sandeep Singh @ Laddi, recovery of some more illegal arms and ammunition along with drug money of Rs. 15 Lakhs was effected. On the basis of the disclosure statement suffered by Sandeep Singh @ Laddi, the present petitioner and several other persons were nominated in this case as accused. The petitioner, who was already in custody in connection with some other case, was formally arrested in this case on 13.11.2024. After completion of necessary investigation and usual formalities, *challan* was presented in the Court and presently, the petitioner along with co-accused is facing trial for commission of aforementioned offences. He had moved an application for grant of regular bail before the learned trial Court but the same had been dismissed, vide order dated 29.03.2025.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has argued that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in this case. The petitioner was not found at the spot and has been involved in this case on the basis of the disclosure statements suffered by co-accused, which is not admissible in evidence against him. Investigation has since been completed and *challan* has been presented. Trial is likely to take time. The petitioner is in custody since 13.11.2024. No useful purpose would be served by keeping him in custody anymore. Co-accused Satpal Singh @ Satta, Rajpal Singh, Mandeep Singh,

2025:PHHC:089590



Sawinder Singh @ Nony, Sahib Singh @ Sabu @ Harpreet Singh and Krishan Singh have already been granted concession of regular bail by this Court, vide orders dated 29.11.2024, 20.01.2025, 10.03.2025, 15.05.2025 and 21.05.2025 passed in *CRM-M-42604-2024*, *CRM-M-63466-2024*, *CRM-M-54488-2024*, *CRM-M-3105-2025* and *CRM-M-6688-2025*, respectively. On the grounds of parity, the petitioner too deserves to be granted the same benefit. It is, therefore, urged that the petition deserves to be allowed.

4. Status report has been filed by the respondent-State. It is submitted therein and learned Assistant Advocate General, Punjab has argued that the petitioner is not entitled to get benefit of bail as there are serious allegations against him. The petitioner is involved in one more case of similar nature. Trial is going on at proper pace. 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 statement suffered by co-accused with the allegations that he was also involved in selling heroin with him. However, a perusal of the contents of the FIR shows that the petitioner was neither named in the secret information nor any subsequent recovery is shown to have been effected from him. The petitioner was already in custody when he was nominated in this case and there is nothing on record to show that he was indulged in subject crime by making phone calls. Investigation has since been completed and *challan* has been presented before the Court concerned. The trial is likely to take time.

2025:PHHC:089590



The petitioner is in custody since 13.11.2024. Above named co-accused, who were also nominated on the basis of the disclosure statements, have already been granted concession of regular bail by this Court, as mentioned above. Therefore, keeping in view the discussion as made above, I am of the considered opinion that no useful purpose would be served by keeping 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.

**23.07.2025***Waseem Ansari***(MANISHA BATRA)  
JUDGE***Whether speaking/reasoned**Yes/No**Whether reportable**Yes/No*