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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH.****CRM-M-4915-2025****Date of Decision:-03.02.2025**

HARVINDER SINGH

.....Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA

.....Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASJIT SINGH BEDIPresent:- Mr. Satnam Singh Gill, Advocate
for the Petitioner.

Mr. Vinay Phogat, DAG, Haryana.

JASJIT SINGH BEDI, J.(ORAL)

The prayer in this 2nd petition under Section 483 BNSS, 2023 is for the grant of regular bail in case FIR No.480 dated 29.07.2023 registered under Section 18 NDPS Act, 1985 (Sections 27-A and 29 NDPS Act, 1985 added later on) at Police Station Shahabad, District Kurukshetra.

2. The brief facts of the case are that Parvinder Singh alias Dolu son of Baljit Singh and Harvinder Singh (petitioner) son of Sohan Singh were found travelling in a truck from which the recovery of 17 Kgs of opium was effected.

During the course of the interrogation, the arrested accused disclosed that the recovered contraband was being carried by them at the instance of the owner of the truck namely, Jugraj Singh (granted bail vide order dated 25.01.2024 passed in CRM-M-57749-2023) who was was

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During interrogation, Jugraj Singh disclosed that he had procured the contraband from Umesh Paswan (granted bail vide order dated 12.02.2024 passed in CRM-M-6424-2024) 5 Kgs of which had been supplied to Sahil Vig (granted bail vide order dated 25.01.2024 passed in CRM-M-51005-2023) for an amount of Rs.5,00,000/- and some of which was to be supplied to Lakhwinder Singh (granted bail vide order dated 06.02.2024 passed in CRM-M-4021-2024). Lakhwinder Singh was nominated as an accused and arrested on 30.07.2023.

During the course of investigation, it transpired that Sahil Vig had transferred an amount of Rs.15000/- on 13.07.2023 and Rs.2000/- on 06.03.2021 into the account of the main supplier of the opium namely, Sandeep Kumar (granted bail vide order dated 04.10.2024 passed in CRM-M-48640-2024) by banking transactions. Further, a sum of Rs.15000/- had been transferred on 05.07.2023 into the account of a co-accused Vikas.

During the course of investigation, it was also revealed that Sahil Vig had spoken to the main supplier Sandeep Kumar on his mobile phone multiple times between 01.01.2023 to 29.07.2023.

Further, it also came out during the course of investigation that Jugraj Singh had spoken to the accused Parvinder Singh alias Dolu on the mobile phone between 01.07.2023 to 29.07.2023 on multiple occasions.

During investigation, it transpired that Umesh Paswan had spoken to Lakhwinder Singh on phone multiple occasions.

There were 9 accused who were found to have committed the offence in question, 6 of whom stand arrested whereas Budh Ram Munda

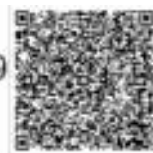
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son of Sanwant Munda, Vikas son of Shiv Shankar Dangi and Sandeep son of Sukhdev Singh Dangi are yet to be arrested.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case. The mandatory provisions of Sections 42 and 50 of the NDPS Act have not been complied with in their proper perspective. No independent witness was joined at the time of search and seizure. As he was a first-time offender, in custody for the last 01 year, 06 months and 01 day and only 02 out of the 21 prosecution witnesses had been examined so far, the trial of the present case was not likely to be concluded anytime soon and therefore, he was entitled to the concession of bail in view of the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of **Nitish Adhikary @ Bapan Versus The State of West Bengal, SLP (Crl.) Nos.5769/2022 arising out of judgment and order dated 04.05.2022 in CRM(NDPS) No.442/2022, decided on 01.08.2022** and **Hasanujjaman & others Versus The State of West Bengal, SLP (Crl.) No. (s).3221/2023 arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 29.11.2022 in CRM(NDPS) No.1323/2022, decided on 04.05.2023.**

4. On the other hand, the learned State counsel contends that commercial quantity of contraband has been recovered from the petitioner. Therefore, in view of the bar contained under Section 37 of the NDPS Act, the petitioner was not entitled to the grant of bail. He, however, concedes that the petitioner is a first time offender, in custody for the last 01 year, 06 months and 01 day and only 02 out of the 21 prosecution witnesses had been examined so far.



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5. I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.
6. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Nitish Adhikary @ Bapan Vs. The State of West Bengal SLP (Crl.) Nos.5769/2022 Decided on 01.08.2022 held as under:-

“As per the office report dated 29.07.2022, copy of the show cause notice along with Special Leave Petition was supplied to the Standing Counsel for the State of West Bengal and separate notice has been served on the State also. However, no one has entered appearance on their behalf.

The petitioner seeks enlargement on bail in F.I.R. No. 612 of 2020 dated 17.10.2020 filed under Section 21(c) and 37 of the NDPS 2 Act, registered at Police Station Bongaon, West Bengal.

During the course of the hearing, we are informed that the petitioner has undergone custody for a period of 01 year and 07 months as on 09.06.2022. The trial is at a preliminary stage, as only one witness has been examined. The petitioner does not have any criminal antecedents.

Taking into consideration the period of sentence undergone by the petitioner and all the attending circumstances but without expressing any views in the merits of the case, we are inclined to grant bail to the petitioner.

The petitioner is accordingly, directed to be released on bail subject to him furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the Trial Court.

The Special Leave Petition is disposed of on the aforesaid terms.

Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.”

7. In Hasanujjaman & others Versus The State of West Bengal,



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SLP (Crl.) No.(s).3221/2023, decided on 04.05.2023, held as under:-

“1. There are three petitioners in this Special Leave Petition, who were accused of committing an offence under Sections 21(c)/29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (for short, ‘NDPS Act’) in FIR No.18/2022, dated 09.01.2022, registered at Police Station Islampur, District Murshidabad, West Bengal.

2. The allegations are that when the police party intercepted the petitioners along with another person riding on two motorcycles, they were found in possession of codeine phosphate in a consignment of phensedyl bottles loaded in two nylon bags. During the search, 115 bottles (100 ml. each) of phensedyl were recovered from the joint possession of the petitioners. **They were arrested on the spot and have been in custody for more than one year and four months.**

3. We have heard learned counsel for the parties and carefully perused the record.

4. **The investigation is complete; chargesheet has been filed, though the charges are yet to be framed. The conclusion of trial will, thus, take some reasonable time, regardless of the direction issued by the High Court to conclude the same within one year from the date of framing of charges. The petitioners do not have any criminal antecedents. There is, thus, substantial compliance of Section 37 of the NDPS Act.**

5. In such circumstances, but without expressing any views on the merits of the case, we deem it appropriate to release the petitioners on bail subject to the terms and conditions as may be imposed by the Trial Court.

6. Additionally, it is clarified that in case the petitioners are found involved in any other case under the NDPS Act or other penal law, it shall amount to misuse of the concession

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of bail granted to them today, and in such a case, necessary consequences shall follow.

7. The petitioners are further directed to appear before the Trial Court regularly. In the event of they being absent, it shall again be taken as a misuse of concession of bail.

8. The Special Leave Petition stands disposed of in the above terms.

9. As a result, pending interlocutory application also stands disposed of.

(emphasis supplied)

8. In the instant case, the petitioner is stated to be in custody for the last 01 year, 06 months and 01 day and only 02 out of the 21 prosecution witnesses have been examined so far. He is also a first-time offender with no other case registered against him. In this situation, the rigors of Section 37 of the NDPS Act can be diluted to an extent in view of the salutary provisions of Article 21 of the Constitution of India which provides for the right to a speedy trial and the case of the petitioner can be considered for the grant of bail.

9. Thus without commenting on the merits of the case, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner-Harviinder Singh S/o Sohan Singh is ordered to be released on bail subject to his furnishing bail bonds and surety bonds to the satisfaction of learned CJM/Duty Magistrate, concerned.

10. The petitioner shall appear before the police station concerned on the first Monday of every month till the conclusion of the trial and inform in writing each time that he is not involved in any other crime other than the present case.

11. In addition, the petitioner (or anyone on his behalf) shall



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prepare an FDR in the sum of Rs.1,00,000/- and deposit the same with the Trial Court. The same would be liable to be forfeited as per law in case of the absence of the petitioner from trial without sufficient cause.

12. The petition stands disposed of.

(JASJIT SINGH BEDI)
JUDGE

03.02.2025
JITESH

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No