

2025:PHHC:101960



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

CRM-M-23146-2025
Date of Decision: 07.08.2025

Paramjit Singh @ Pamma

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH BHARDWAJ**Present:** Mr. Rishu Mahajan, Advocate, for the petitioner(s).

Ms. Simran Gorla, AAG, Punjab.

RAJESH BHARDWAJ, J. (ORAL)

1. Petitioner has approached this Court by way of present petition praying for granting regular bail in case FIR No.38 dated 28.02.2024 under Sections 21(c)/29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, registered at Police Station STF Mohali, District SAS Nagar.

2. Succinctly, facts of the case are that on 28.02.2024, while the police party was on patrolling, received a secret information to the effect that Paramjit Singh alias Pamma and Thanedar Singh, both are engaged in smuggling of the narcotic substance and today they are standing near the cremation ground at village Boparai Road, Khassa waiting for their customer. If a raid is conducted, they can be apprehended along with the contraband. On receiving the secret information, notice under Section 42 of the NDPS Act was prepared and the raiding team raided the place as disclosed. On reaching at the place disclosed, two persons were found standing there. On seeing the police, they got perplexed and tried to escape, however, they were overpowered by the

police party. On asking, one Sikh person disclosed his name as Paramjit Singh alias Pamma (petitioner) and the second person, who was clean shaven, disclosed his name as Thanedar Singh. Paramjit Singh alias Pamma (petitioner) was carrying a black colour heavy plastic bag in his right hand. He was suspected to be carrying some contraband. After giving offer for the personal search, the same was conducted and from their plastic bag One Kg. heroin was recovered. They failed to produce any licence regarding possession of the same. Hence, they were arrested on the spot and on registration of the FIR, the investigation commenced and recovered substance was sent to the FSL lab and the challan was presented. On framing of charges, the trial commenced. The petitioner approached the Court of Ld. Judge, Special Court, Amritsar praying for grant of regular bail. However, after hearing both the sides, the learned Court finding no merit in the same, dismissed the bail application filed by the petitioner vide order dated 07.03.2025. Hence, the petitioner has approached this Court praying for grant of bail by way of filing the present petition.

3. It has been contended by learned counsel for the petitioner that the petitioner has been falsely and frivolously roped in the present case. He submits that FIR in the present case has been lodged on the basis of the secret information. He submits that there is violation of Sections 42 and 50 of the NDPS Act. He further submits that the alleged recovery has been effected from a public place, but independent witness has not been joined. He submits that recovery as alleged to have been effected is totally a planted recovery. To buttress his arguments, he submits that the petitioner has no criminal antecedents, as he has never been involved in any other case. It is submitted that the petitioner has completed incarceration of more than one year, but there is no progress in the trial. He, thus, submits that in view of the facts and

circumstances of the case, the petitioner deserves to be granted bail.

4. Per contra, learned State counsel has opposed the submissions made by counsel for the petitioner. She has submitted that on due compliance of Sections 42 and 50 of the NDPS Act, recovery of One Kg. of heroin was effected from the petitioner, which falls under the commercial quantity and hence, provisions of Section 37 of the NDPS Act are attracted. On instructions, she submits that out of total 14 prosecution witnesses, 04 witnesses have been examined so far. She has placed on record the custody certificate of the petitioner.

5. After hearing counsel for the parties and perusing the record, it is deciphered that the present FIR has been lodged on the basis of the secret information. Recovery allegedly effected from the petitioner is commercial one. Out of total 14 prosecution witnesses, 04 witnesses have been examined till date. The custody certificate would reflect that the petitioner has suffered incarceration of 01 year, 05 months & 04 days as on 06.08.2025. It further reflects that the petitioner is involved in another case of matrimonial nature although the sentence has already been completed by him in that case.

6. As held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Mohd Muslim @ Hussain Vs. State (NCT of Delhi), 2023 LiveLaw(SC)260***, this Court is of the opinion that the case of the petitioner is covered by the ratio of law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. In the abovesaid case, Hon'ble Supreme Court expressed its views as under:-

19. A plain and literal interpretation of the conditions under Section 37 (i.e., that Court should be satisfied that the accused is not guilty and would not commit any offence) would effectively exclude grant of bail altogether, resulting in punitive detention and unsanctioned preventive detention as well. Therefore, the only manner in which such special conditions as enacted under Section 37 can be

considered within constitutional parameters is where the court is reasonably satisfied on a prima facie look at the material on record (whenever the bail application is made) that the accused is not guilty. Any other interpretation, would result in complete denial of the bail to a person accused of offences such as those enacted under Section 37 of the NDPS Act.

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21it would be important to reflect that laws which impose stringent conditions for grant of bail, may be necessary in public interest; yet, if trials are not concluded in time, the injustice wrecked on the individual is immeasurable.

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23. *There is a further danger of the prisoner turning to crime, “as crime not only turns admirable, but the more professional the crime, more honour is paid to the criminal”²² (also see Donald Clemmer’s ‘The Prison Community’ published in 1940²³). Incarceration has further deleterious effects—where the accused belongs to the weakest economic strata: immediate loss of livelihood, and in several cases, scattering of families as well as loss of family bonds and alienation from society. The courts therefore, have to be sensitive to these aspects (because in the event of an acquittal, the loss to the accused is irreparable), and ensure that trials—especially in cases, where special laws enact stringent provisions, are taken up and concluded speedily.’*

7. The veracity of the allegations would be assessed only after the conclusion of the trial and on the appreciation of evidence to be led by both the parties before the trial Court. This Court would refrain itself from commenting anything on the merits of the case. The trial of the case will take sufficient long time. Thus, keeping in view the arguments raised by both the sides, this Court is of the opinion that learned counsel for the petitioner succeeds in making out a case for grant of regular bail to the petitioner.

8. Accordingly, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the

satisfaction of the concerned trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

9. Nothing said herein shall be treated as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

07.08.2025
Parveen kumar

(RAJESH BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

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